



Senior Courts Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 54

PART I

CONSTITUTION OF [F¹SENIOR COURTS]

Other provisions

13 Precedence of judges of [F¹Senior Courts].

- (1) When sitting in the Court of Appeal—
 - (a) the Lord Chief Justice and the Master of the Rolls shall rank in that order; and
 - (b) [F²judges of the Supreme Court] and persons who have been Lord Chancellor shall rank next after the Master of the Rolls and, among themselves, according to the priority of the dates on which they respectively became [F²judges of the Supreme Court] or Lord Chancellor, as the case may be.
- [F³(2) Subject to subsection (1)(b), the President of the Queen's Bench Division shall rank next after the Master of the Rolls.
- (2A) The President of the Family Division shall rank next after the President of the Queen's Bench Division.
- (3) The Chancellor of the High Court shall rank next after the President of the Family Division.]
- (4) The vice-president or vice-presidents of the divisions of the Court of Appeal shall rank next after the [F⁴Chancellor of the High Court]; and if there are two vice-presidents of those divisions, they shall rank, among themselves, according to the priority of the dates on which they respectively became vice-presidents.
- (5) The Lords Justices of Appeal (other than the vice-president or vice-presidents of the divisions of the Court of Appeal) shall rank after the ex-officio judges of the Court of Appeal and, among themselves, according to the priority of the dates on which they respectively became judges of that court.

Changes to legislation: Senior Courts Act 1981, Section 13 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (6) The puisne judges of the High Court shall rank next after the judges of the Court of Appeal and, among themselves, according to the priority of the dates on which they respectively became judges of the High Court.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 13 substituted (1.10.2009) by virtue of [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 59, 148, [Sch. 11 para. 26\(1\)](#); S.I. 2009/1604, [art. 2\(d\)](#)
- F2** Words in s. 13(1)(b) substituted (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 145, 148, [Sch. 17 para. 22\(5\)](#); S.I. 2009/1604, [art. 2\(e\)](#)
- F3** S. 13(2)-(3) substituted (1.10.2005) for s. 13(2)(3) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 15, 148, [Sch. 4 para. 125\(2\)](#); S.I. 2005/2505, [art. 2\(c\)](#)
- F4** Words in s. 13(4) substituted (1.10.2005) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 15, 148, [Sch. 4 para. 125\(3\)](#); S.I. 2005/2505, [art. 2\(c\)](#)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)