



# Companies Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 46

### PART 37

#### COMPANIES: SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

##### *Courts and legal proceedings*

#### **1156 Meaning of “the court”**

- (1) Except as otherwise provided, in the Companies Acts “the court” means—
  - (a) in England and Wales, the High Court or (subject to subsection (3)) a county court;
  - (b) in Scotland, the Court of Session or the sheriff court;
  - (c) in Northern Ireland, the High Court.
- (2) The provisions of the Companies Acts conferring jurisdiction on “the court” as defined above have effect subject to any enactment or rule of law relating to the allocation of jurisdiction or distribution of business between courts in any part of the United Kingdom.
- (3) The Lord Chancellor may, with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, by order—
  - (a) exclude a county court from having jurisdiction under the Companies Acts, and
  - (b) for the purposes of that jurisdiction attach that court’s district, or any part of it, to another county court.
- (4) The Lord Chief Justice may nominate a judicial office holder (as defined in section 109(4) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4)) to exercise his functions under subsection (3).

#### **1157 Power of court to grant relief in certain cases**

- (1) If in proceedings for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust against—

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (a) an officer of a company, or
- (b) a person employed by a company as auditor (whether he is or is not an officer of the company),

it appears to the court hearing the case that the officer or person is or may be liable but that he acted honestly and reasonably, and that having regard to all the circumstances of the case (including those connected with his appointment) he ought fairly to be excused, the court may relieve him, either wholly or in part, from his liability on such terms as it thinks fit.

- (2) If any such officer or person has reason to apprehend that a claim will or might be made against him in respect of negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust—
  - (a) he may apply to the court for relief, and
  - (b) the court has the same power to relieve him as it would have had if it had been a court before which proceedings against him for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust had been brought.
- (3) Where a case to which subsection (1) applies is being tried by a judge with a jury, the judge, after hearing the evidence, may, if he is satisfied that the defendant (in Scotland, the defender) ought in pursuance of that subsection to be relieved either in whole or in part from the liability sought to be enforced against him, withdraw the case from the jury and forthwith direct judgment to be entered for the defendant (in Scotland, grant decree of absolvitor) on such terms as to costs (in Scotland, expenses) or otherwise as the judge may think proper.