

SCHEDULE 2
TO THE ORDER

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
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PART V
THE JUDICATURE

The Supreme Court

Constitution of Supreme Court.

49.—(1) There shall be a Supreme Court for the Turks and Caicos Islands which shall have such jurisdiction and powers as may be conferred upon it by this Constitution and any other law.

(2) The judges of the Supreme Court shall be a Chief Justice and such number of other judges (if any) as may be prescribed by law:

Provided that the office of a judge shall not, without his consent, be abolished during his continuance in office.

(3) The judges of the Supreme Court shall be persons qualified for appointment under subsection (4) of this section and shall be appointed by the Governor, acting in his discretion, by instrument under the public seal.

(4) The qualifications for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court shall be such as may be prescribed by law:

Provided that a person who has been appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court may continue in office notwithstanding any subsequent variation in the qualifications so prescribed.

(5) It shall be lawful for a person qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court to be so appointed (regardless of his age) for such term as may be specified in the instrument of appointment, and section 50 of this Constitution shall have effect in relation to any person so appointed as if he would attain the retiring age applicable to that office on the day on which the specified term expires.

Tenure of office of judges of Supreme Court.

50.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a judge of the Supreme Court shall vacate his office when he attains the age of sixty-five years:

Provided that—

- (a) the Governor may permit a judge who attains the age of sixty-five years to continue in office until he has attained such later age, not exceeding the age of seventy years, as may have been agreed between the Governor and that judge; and
- (b) a judge who has attained the age at which he would otherwise vacate office under this subsection may continue in office for such period as may be necessary to enable him to deliver judgment or to do any other thing in relation to any proceeding commenced before him before he attained that age.

(2) A judge of the Supreme Court may be removed from office only for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehaviour, and shall not be so removed except in accordance with subsection (3) of this section.

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(3) A judge of the Supreme Court shall be removed from office by the Governor by instrument under the public seal if the question of the removal of that judge from office has, at the request of the Governor made in pursuance of subsection (4) of this section, been referred by Her Majesty to the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council under section 4 of the Judicial Committee Act 1833⁽¹⁾ or any other enactment enabling Her Majesty in that behalf, and the Judicial Committee has advised Her Majesty that the judge ought to be removed from office for inability as aforesaid or misbehaviour.

(4) If the Governor considers that the question of removing a judge of the Supreme Court from office for inability as aforesaid or misbehaviour ought to be investigated, then—

- (a) the Governor shall appoint a tribunal, which shall consist of a Chairman and not less than two other members selected by the Governor from among persons who hold or have held high judicial office;
- (b) the tribunal shall inquire into the matter and report on the facts thereof to the Governor and advise the Governor whether he should request that the question of the removal of that judge should be referred by Her Majesty to the Judicial Committee; and
- (c) if the tribunal so advises, the Governor shall request that the question should be referred accordingly.

(5) The provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance⁽²⁾ as in force on the date of commencement of this Constitution shall, subject to the provisions of this section, apply as nearly as may be in relation to tribunals appointed under subsection (4) of this section or, as the context may require, to the members thereof as they apply in relation to Commissions or Commissioners appointed under that Ordinance.

(6) If the question of removing a judge of the Supreme Court from office has been referred to a tribunal under subsection (4) of this section the Governor may suspend the judge from performing the functions of his office, and any such suspension may at any time be revoked by the Governor, and shall in any case cease to have effect—

- (a) if the tribunal advises the Governor that he should not request that the question of the removal of the judge from office should be referred by Her Majesty to the Judicial Committee; or
- (b) if the Judicial Committee advises Her Majesty that the judge ought not to be removed from office.

(7) The powers conferred upon the Governor by this section shall be exercised by him in his discretion.

Acting judges of Supreme Court.

51.—(1) If the office of Chief Justice is vacant, or if the holder thereof is for any reason unable to perform the functions of his office, then, until some other person has been appointed to, and has assumed the functions of, that office, or until the holder of that office has resumed those functions, as the case may be, such one of the other judges of the Supreme Court or such other person qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court as the Governor, acting in his discretion, may appoint for that purpose shall act in that office.

(2) If the office of a judge of the Supreme Court other than the Chief Justice is vacant, or if any such judge is acting as Chief Justice or is for any reason unable to perform the functions of his office, the Governor, acting in his discretion, may appoint a person qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court to act as such a judge.

(1) 1833 c. 41.

(2) Ordinance No. 7 of 1986.

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(3) A person may be appointed under subsection (1) or (2) of this section notwithstanding that he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

(4) Any person appointed under this section to act as a judge of the Supreme Court shall, unless he is removed from office under section 50 of this Constitution, continue to act for the period of his appointment or, if no such period is specified, until his appointment is revoked by the Governor, acting in his discretion:

Provided that a person whose appointment so to act has expired or been revoked may, with the permission of the Governor, acting in his discretion, continue so to act for such period as may be necessary to enable him to deliver judgment or to do any other thing in relation to any proceeding commenced before him previously thereto.

Oaths to be taken by judges of Supreme Court.

52. Before assuming the functions of his office, every judge of the Supreme Court shall make and subscribe before the Governor, or some other person authorised in that behalf by the Governor, acting in his discretion, oaths of allegiance and for the due execution of his office in the forms set out in Schedule 1 to this Constitution.