

## Recorder competition launches on 1 February 2017

Applications for the JAC competition to recruit 100 Recorders will open on 1 February 2017.

Recorder roles are fee-paid, part-time judges, enabling lawyers to continue their legal careers while gaining judicial experience. There will be around 70 positions on the criminal bench and 30 on the family bench.

The roles are open to both barristers and solicitors with 7 years' post-qualification experience. No previous judicial experience is required. Successful candidates will receive training from Judicial College.

To attract candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, the process will be different from previous exercises. Candidates are not expected to have specialist experience as a family or criminal practitioner, nor knowledge of either of these jurisdictions.

There will be a 4 stage selection process. Only the most meritorious candidates will progress from one stage to the next. The 4 stages are:

- an online multiple-choice test to assess situational judgement and critical analysis
- an online scenario test that will be marked by judges
- a telephone assessment
- an interview and role-play

Only those selected for telephone assessment will be asked to complete the competency-based self-assessment and provide details of their independent assessors (referees).

The tests have been devised and 'road-tested' by judges and practitioners from different jurisdictions and backgrounds to make sure that they select fairly on merit.

Candidates without court experience are advised to prepare by shadowing a judge or visiting a court's public gallery. [Details of the selection process](#) are available on the JAC website. There is also guidance on what to consider before applying including a [test for candidates to assess whether they are ready for judicial work](#).

Lord Justice Ian Burnett, Vice Chairman of the Judicial Appointments Commission said:

"I started my judicial life as a criminal Recorder but was not a criminal practitioner. The pre-JAC appointment system involved filling out an application form and being interviewed. What happens now is more sophisticated but really only a development of what has long gone before. Being a part-time judge is stimulating, worthwhile and can be enormous fun. If you think you have what it takes, have a go."