



THE JUDICIARY OF ENGLAND AND WALES



XIV SEMINARIO DE ESTUDIO COMPARADO
DE SISTEMAS JUDICIALES EUROPEOS A
TRAVÉS DEL LENGUAJE JURÍDICO



SAN PEDRO 2012

Lord Chancellor (Secretary of State for Justice) & Lord Chief Justice



The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP
Lord Chancellor and
Secretary of State for Justice



The Rt Hon Lord Judge
Lord Chief Justice of
England and Wales

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The Judiciary of England & Wales

“THE BENCH”:

judges & magistrates
sitting in court

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The Judiciary: Wigs

- Types of wigs: full-bottomed (ceremonial) and bench/tie wig.



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The lay magistracy: Justices of the Peace

- **Laymen** (no legal qualification BUT training before and during the time they hold office).
- They sit in Magistrates' Courts and Youth Courts.
- British nationality NOT a requirement (Oath of Allegiance).
- Appointed by Lord Chancellor on the advice of local committees.

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Recorders

- Barrister or solicitor of ten years' standing. A five-year appointment.
- Part-time Crown Court Judge (in County Courts too); normally they sit between 4 and 6 weeks a year; rest of the time → private practice.

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District judge

- Judges who sit in County Courts or Magistrates' Courts.
- Expected to sit for a minimum of 215 days .
- Full-time judges.
- Appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor.

Circuit judge

- Senior judges who sit in Crown Courts, County Courts and specialised divisions of HCJ. "Purple judges".
- Expected to sit for a minimum of 210 days, although the expectation is for between 215-220 per year.

High Court judge

- Barristers / solicitors / circuit judges with two years' service in County Court.

Court of Appeal judge

- Lords Justices of Appeal. They are Privy Councillors.

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Divisional Heads

- The **Lord Chief Justice** is the Head of the Judiciary for England and Wales and the President of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division.
- The **Master of the Rolls**, who heads the civil branch of the Court of Appeal and is the Head of Civil Justice.
- The **President of the Queen's Bench Division**.
- The **President of the Family Division**.
- The **Chancellor of the High Court**, who heads the Chancery Division.

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Supreme Court

- Justices of the Supreme Court: 11.
<http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/about/biographies.html>

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