

Judicial Appointments Advisory Board



Annual Report
2004

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2004





CONTENTS

1	Introduction	5
2	Applications / Appointments	13
2.1	Supreme Court	13
2.2	High Court	14
2.3	Circuit Court	15
2.4	District Court	17
2.5	Summary	19
3	Conclusions and Recommendations	24
	Appendices	27
I	Rules / Procedures of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board	27
II	Numbers of valid applications considered at meetings of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board 1996-2004	31





1. Introduction



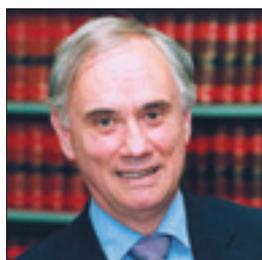
*The Hon. Mr. Justice
John L. Murray*

Chairman of the Board *



*The Hon. Mr. Justice
Joseph Finnegan*

President of the High
Court



*The Hon. Mr. Justice
Esmond Smyth*

President of the Circuit
Court



*His Honour Judge Peter
Smithwick*

President of the District
Court



Rory Brady SC

Attorney General



Hugh I. Mohan SC

Chairman of the Bar
Council *



*Mr. Laurence K. Shields
Solicitor*

Law Society Nominee



Ms. Olive Braiden

Nominee of the Minister
for Justice, Equality and
Law Reform



Mr. John Coyle

Nominee of the Minister
for Justice, Equality and
Law Reform



Mr. Tadhg O'Donoghue

Nominee of the Minister
for Justice, Equality and
Law Reform



Brendan Ryan BL

Secretary to the Board

* *The Hon. Mr. Justice John L. Murray, Chief Justice, became Chairman of the Board in July 2004*

* *Hugh I. Mohan SC, Chairman of the Bar Council, became a member of the Board in August 2004*



1 Introduction

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Board (hereafter “the Board”) was established pursuant to the **Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995** (hereafter “the Act”). The purpose of the Board is to identify persons and inform the Government of the suitability of those persons for appointment to judicial office.

The Board consists of (Section13):

- the Chief Justice; who is Chairperson of the Board;
- the President of the High Court;
- the President of the Circuit Court;
- the President of the District Court;
- the Attorney General;
- a practising barrister who is nominated by the Chairman for the time being of the Council of the Bar of Ireland;
- a practising solicitor who is nominated by the President for the time being of the Law Society of Ireland; and
- not more than three persons appointed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, (hereafter “the Minister”), which are persons engaged in or having knowledge or experience of commerce, finance, administration, or persons who have experience as consumers of the service provided by the courts that the Minister considers appropriate.

A person appointed to be a member of the Board by virtue of a nomination by the Chairman of the Bar Council or by the President of the Law Society and persons appointed by the Minister are members of the Board for a period not exceeding three years and any such persons so appointed shall be eligible for re-appointment to the Board.



The Act (**Section 14**) enables the Board to adopt such procedures as it thinks fit to carry out its functions and, in the exercise of that power, the Board has adopted rules and procedures which are contained in Appendix I to this report. They also have power to appoint sub-committees to assist them and may:

- advertise for applications for judicial appointment;
- require applicants to complete application forms;
- consult persons concerning the suitability of applicants to the Board;
- invite persons identified by the Board to submit their names for consideration by the Board;
- arrange for the interviewing of applicants who wish to be considered by the Board for appointment to judicial office; and
- do such other things as the Board considers necessary to enable it to discharge its functions under the Act.

The extent to which these powers have been availed of by the Board is considered in Section 3 of this report.

Section 16 of the Act deals with the submission of names to the Minister. A person who wishes to be considered for appointment to judicial office is required to so inform the Board in writing and to provide the Board with such information as it may require to enable it to consider the suitability of that person for judicial office, including information relating to education, professional qualifications, experience and character. To assist the Board in this regard the applicants are required to complete a detailed application form which includes questions on their practice, their professional qualifications, education, character, etc., and are also required to outline on their application form why they consider themselves suitable for judicial office.

This Section goes on to provide that where a judicial office stands vacant or before a vacancy in a judicial office arises, the Board, at the request of the Minister, is to submit to the Minister the names of all persons who have informed the Board of his or her wish to be considered for appointment to that judicial office and the Board shall submit the names of at least seven persons whom it recommends for appointment. The Board must also provide the Minister with particulars of education, professional qualification, experience and character of the persons whom it recommends under this Section.

Where fewer than seven persons inform the Board of their wish to be appointed to judicial office or where the Board is unable to recommend to the Minister at least seven persons, the Board may recommend to the Minister a lesser number of persons for appointment.

Where more than one judicial office in the same court stands vacant or in advance of more than one vacancy arising in the same court, the Board shall recommend at least seven persons in respect of each vacancy or such lesser number of names as the Minister specifies, following consultation with the Board.

Section 16 of the Act goes on to require the Government when advising the President in relation to the appointment of a person to a judicial office to first consider persons who have been recommended by the Board. When a person is appointed on a recommendation by the Board, notice of that fact shall be published in *Iris Oifigiúil*.

The Board shall not submit or recommend the name of a person unless that person meets the eligibility requirements laid down by statute. Furthermore, the Board shall not recommend the name of any person unless in the opinion of the Board the person concerned:

- has displayed in his/her practice as a barrister or solicitor, as the case may be, a degree of competence and a degree of probity appropriate to and consistent with the appointment concerned;
- is suitable on grounds of character and temperament;
- is otherwise suitable; and
- complies with the requirements of Section 19 of the Act.

Having received the advice of counsel, the Board interprets these requirements as a minimum standard. A person must have these qualities to be recommended, but having these qualities is in itself not sufficient for a person to be recommended.

Under **Section 17** of the Act (as amended), the procedures set out above do not apply where the Government proposes to advise the President to appoint to judicial office a person who is for the time being a Judge of the High Court, Circuit Court, District Court or who is eligible for appointment to the Supreme Court or the High Court under the provisions of Section 5 of the Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act, 1961, as amended.

Section 18 of the Act provides that the Board shall not recommend its own members for appointment, with the exception of the Attorney General who must withdraw from any deliberations of the Board concerning his or her suitability for judicial office.

Section 19 of the Act requires a person who wishes to be considered for appointment to judicial office to undertake in writing to the Board his or her agreement, if appointed to judicial office, to take such course or courses of training or education, or both, as may be required by the Chief Justice or the President of the Court to which the person concerned is appointed.

Under **Section 23** of the Act, where the Government proposes to advise the President of an appointment to the office of Chief Justice or President of the High Court, President of the Circuit Court or President of the District Court, it is required first to have regard to the qualifications and suitability of persons who are serving at that time as judges in courts established in pursuance of Article 34 of the Constitution.

There have been some amendments to the procedures followed by the Board since 1995:

- a) **The Standards in Public Office Act, 2001** requires applicants to certify that their tax affairs are in order. **Section 22 (1)** prohibits the Board from recommending a person for judicial office unless the person has furnished to the Board:
 - (I) a tax clearance certificate that was issued to the person not more than eighteen months before the date of the recommendation, and
 - (II) a statutory declaration made by the person not more than one month before that date to the effect that, at the time of the making of the declaration, the person is, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, in compliance with the obligations specified in *subsection (1) of section 25* and that nothing in *subsection (2)* of that section prevents the issue to him or her of a tax clearance certificate.

- b) The criteria for selection to the Supreme and High Courts have been amended by **Section 8 of the Courts and Court Officers Act 2002.**

The purpose of this amendment seems to be to ensure that solicitors appointed to the Supreme and High Courts (as they are now eligible to be under Section 5 of the 1961 Act, as amended by Section 4 of the 2002 Act) are sufficiently conversant with practice and procedure in the Superior Courts.

It is best to quote these directly:

Subsection (7)

- b) (i) "The Board shall recommend a person to the Minister under this section only if the Board is of the opinion that the person:
 - (I) has displayed in his or her practice as a barrister or a solicitor a degree of competence and a degree of probity appropriate to and consistent with the appointment concerned,
 - (II) in the case of an appointment to the office of ordinary judge of the Supreme Court or of ordinary judge of the High Court, has an appropriate knowledge of the decisions, and an appropriate knowledge and appropriate experience of the practice and procedure, of the Supreme Court and the High Court,
 - (III) is suitable on the grounds of character and temperament,
 - (IV) complies with the requirements of section 19 of this Act, and
 - (V) is otherwise suitable.

- b (ii) In determining whether the requirements of subparagraph (i)(II) of this paragraph are satisfied, the Board shall have regard, in particular, to the nature and extent of the practice of the person concerned insofar as it relates to his or her personal conduct of proceedings in the Supreme Court and the High Court whether as an advocate or as a solicitor instructing counsel in such proceedings or both”.

In the carrying out of its functions, the Board each year places advertisements calling on all those who wish to be considered for appointment to judicial office to apply to the Board. Additionally, all those who already have applications on file are requested to re-apply. Applications are valid for a calendar year.

There is a separate standard application form for each court level. Each completed application form must be accompanied by twelve original photographs. As previously stated, under Section 22 of the Standards in Public Office Act, 2001, the Board cannot recommend a person to the Minister unless that person has furnished to the Board the relevant tax clearance certificate (TC4) issued to that person not more than eighteen months before the date of recommendation and a statutory declaration that their tax affairs are in order, made by the person not more than one month before that date. In practice, the tax clearance certificate is submitted with the application form or on the expiration of a certificate previously provided. The Secretary to the Board writes to all applicants in advance of a meeting to request the statutory declaration.

The process of considering persons and submitting names to the Minister commences when the Minister communicates with the Chairman of the Board to request recommendations where a judicial vacancy exists or is due to arise. The Chairman then agrees a suitable date with the Secretary, who informs the members of the Board. The members are given an agenda for the meeting, including a copy of the Minister's request (which indicates the number and jurisdiction of the vacancy(ies)) and a copy of all applications on file for the relevant jurisdiction(s).

Following the Board meeting, the Secretary to the Board writes to the Bar Council and the Law Society, as appropriate, asking them to verify that those who are to be recommended are in good standing with those professional bodies and that they meet the statutory requirements under the Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act, 1961 (as amended). Once an affirmative reply has been received, the Chairman writes to the Minister, setting out the Board's recommendations.





2. Applications/Appointments

During the period that this report is concerned with, the Board made recommendations to the Minister in respect of nine judicial vacancies.

The composition of the Board changed in July 2004 when The Hon. Mr. Justice Ronan Keane retired and The Hon. Mr. Justice John L. Murray became Chief Justice. A further change took place in August 2004 when Mr. Hugh I. Mohan SC became the new Chairman of the Bar Council.

2.1 Meetings held to consider vacancies in the Supreme Court

The Board met to consider one appointment to the Supreme Court in 2004.

By letter dated 27th July 2004, the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform communicated with the Board concerning the filling of a vacancy in the Supreme Court created by the appointment of The Hon. Mr. Justice John L. Murray as Chief Justice.

The Minister, in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995, requested the Board to furnish him with nominations for this vacancy and the name of each person who had informed the Board of his/her wish to be considered for this appointment.

On the 29th September 2004 the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board considered two applications for one position of Ordinary Judge of the Supreme Court. The Board did not make any recommendations to the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform in relation to this vacancy.

Applications considered for the Supreme Court September 2004

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male			1
Female			
Barrister			
Male			
Female			
Solicitor			
Male			1
Female			

Where applicants have qualified as members of both professions, they have been included under the profession practised at the time the application was made for the purpose of the above statistics

The Hon. Mr. Justice Nicholas Kearns was elevated from the High Court to the Supreme Court by the Government on 17th November 2004.



2.2 Meetings held to consider vacancies in the High Court

The Board met to consider three appointments to the High Court in 2004.

By letter dated 27th July 2004, the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform requested the Board, in accordance with the provisions of Section 16(2) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995, to recommend to him a list of nominations for three vacancies in the Office of Ordinary Judge of the High Court, provided for by the enactment of the Civil Liability and Courts Act, 2004.

On the 29th September 2004 the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board considered 17 applications for three positions of Ordinary Judge of the High Court.

Applications considered for the High Court September 2004

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male		2	9
Female			1
Barrister			
Male			1
Female			
Solicitor			
Male			4
Female			

Where applicants have qualified as members of both professions, they have been included under the profession practised at the time the application was made for the purpose of the above statistics

Appointed: Michael Hanna, SC Date: 15th November 2004
 John MacMenamin, SC Date: 15th November 2004

Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Dunne was elevated from the Circuit Court to the High Court by the Government on the 18th November 2004.

* *The Hon. Mrs. Justice Fidelma Macken returned from the Court of Justice of the European Communities and was re-appointed as a High Court Judge by the Government on the 21st October, 2004. This vacancy was created as a result of the appointment of The Hon. Mr. Justice Aindrias O'Caomh to the Court of Justice of the European Communities on 13th October 2004.*

* *A fourth vacancy occurred in the High Court as a result of the elevation of The Hon. Mr. Justice Nicholas Kearns to the Supreme Court. The Hon. Mr. Justice Frank Clarke was appointed by the Government on the 18th November 2004.*

2.3 Meetings held to consider vacancies in the Circuit Court

The Board met to consider four appointments to the Circuit Court in 2004.

By letter dated 15th December 2003, the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform requested the Board, in accordance with the provisions of Section 16(2) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, to recommend to him nominations for one vacancy in the Office of Ordinary Judge of the Circuit Court, following the approved nomination of The Hon. Mr. Justice Seán O'Leary for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

On the 28th January 2004 the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board considered forty-six applications for one position of Ordinary Judge of the Circuit Court.

Applications considered for the Circuit Court January 2004

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male		1	4
Female			3
Barrister			
Male		3	6
Female		2	
Solicitor			
Male	2	2	20
Female		1	2

Where applicants have qualified as members of both professions, they have been included under the profession practised at the time the application was made for the purpose of the above statistics

Appointed: Alice Doyle, BL

Date: 26th April 2004

By letter dated 27th July 2004, the Minister, in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995, requested the Board to furnish him with nominations for three vacancies in the Office of Ordinary Judge of the Circuit Court provided for by the enactment of the Civil Liability and Courts Act, 2004.

On the 29th September 2004, the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board considered eighty-two applications for three positions of Ordinary Judge of the Circuit Court.



Applications considered for the Circuit Court September 2004

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male		1	9
Female			4
Barrister			
Male	1	6	10
Female	3	2	1
Solicitor			
Male	3	3	30
Female	4	1	4

Where applicants have qualified as members of both professions, they have been included under the profession practised at the time the application was made for the purpose of the above statistics

A fourth vacancy was created by the elevation of Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Dunne to the High Court.

Appointed:	Doirbhile Flanagan, SC	Date: 15th November 2004
	Donagh McDonagh, SC	Date: 15th November 2004
	Mr. Cornelius Murphy, Solicitor	Date: 15th November 2004
	Terence O'Sullivan, SC	Date: 15th November 2004

2.4 Meetings held to consider vacancies in the District Court

The Board met to consider four appointments to the District Court in 2004.

By letter dated 5th March 2004, the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform, requested the Board in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995, to furnish him with nominations for one vacancy in the Office of Ordinary Judge of the District Court. This vacancy arose as a result of the transfer of Judge Mary Fahy from District No. 4(Roscommon) to District No. 7(Galway) with effect from 1st January 2004.

On the 18th May 2004, the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board considered forty-three applications for one position of Ordinary Judge of the District Court.

Applications considered for the District Court May 2004

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male			
Female			
Barrister			
Male		4	
Female			
Solicitor			
Male	2	2	26
Female	2	3	4

Where applicants have qualified as members of both professions, they have been included under the profession practised at the time the application was made for the purpose of the above statistics

By letter dated 27th July 2004 the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform, in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995 requested that the Board for Justice, Equality & Law Reform provide him with a list of nominations for two vacancies in the Office of Ordinary Judge of the District Court provided for by the enactment of the Civil Liability and Courts Act, 2004.

On the 29th of September 2004 the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board considered sixty-two applications for two positions of Ordinary Judge of the District Court.

Applications considered for the District Court September 2004

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male			
Female			
Barrister			
Male	2	4	1
Female	1	2	
Solicitor			
Male	1	2	38
Female	1	3	7

Where applicants have qualified as members of both professions, they have been included under the profession practised at the time the application was made for the purpose of the above statistics

Appointed: Mr. Hugh O'Donnell, Solicitor Date: 15th November 2004
Ann Ryan, BL Date: 15th November 2004

The Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform also wrote to the Board on the 30th September 2004 in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995, requesting the Board to recommend to him a list of nominations for one vacancy in the Office of Ordinary Judge of the District Court, which arose as a result of the retirement of Judge Humphrey Kelleher from District No. 17(Kerry), with effect from the 25th October, 2004. On the 17th December 2004 the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board considered seventy applications for one position of Ordinary Judge of the District Court.

Applications considered for the District Court December 2004

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male			
Female			
Barrister			
Male	2	4	1
Female	1	1	
Solicitor			
Male	4	2	41
Female	2	2	10

Where applicants have qualified as members of both professions, they have been included under the profession practised at the time the application was made for the purpose of the above statistics

As of 31st December 2004 there were two outstanding vacancies in the District Court.

2.5 Summary

The following persons were appointed in 2004 to Judicial office on foot of recommendations made by the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board.

High Court

Michael Hanna, SC
John MacMenamin, SC

Circuit Court

Alice Doyle, BL
Doirbhile Flanagan, SC
Donagh McDonagh, SC
Mr. Cornelius Murphy, Solicitor
Terence O'Sullivan, SC

District Court

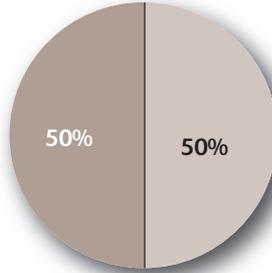
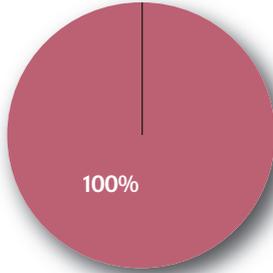
Mr. Hugh O'Donnell, Solicitor
Ann Ryan, BL

The following table is a statistical profile of the appointees

Experience in years	10-15	15-20	Over 20
Senior Counsel			
Male			4
Female			1
Barrister			
Male			
Female		2	
Solicitor			
Male			2
Female			

Total number of applications received for appointment to the Office of Ordinary Judge of the Supreme Court in 2004.

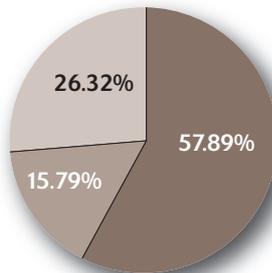
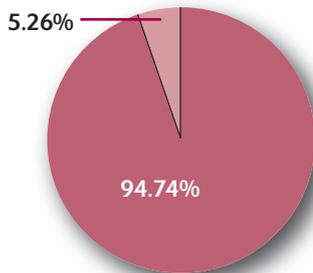
	Total	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor
Total	2	2			1	1
% of Total	100	100			50	50



Key	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor
	●	●	●	●	●

Total number of applications received for appointment to the Office of Ordinary Judge of the High Court in 2004.

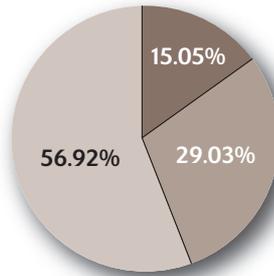
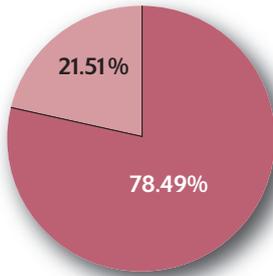
	Total	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor
Total	19	18	1	11	3	5
% of Total	100	94.74	5.26	57.89	15.79	26.32



Key	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor
	●	●	●	●	●

Total number of applications received for appointment to the Office of Ordinary Judge of the Circuit Court in 2004.

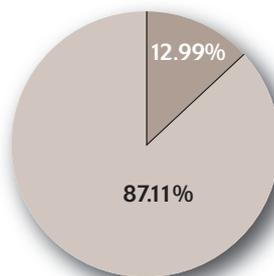
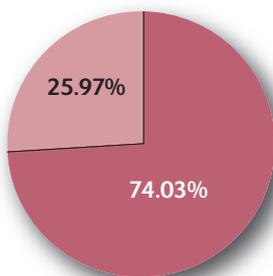
	Total	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor
Total	93	73	20	14	27	52
% of Total	100	78.49	21.51	15.05	29.03	56.92



Key	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor

Total number of applications received for appointment to the Office of Ordinary Judge of the District Court in 2004.

	Total	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor
Total	77	57	20		10	67
% of Total	100	74.03	25.97		12.99	87.01

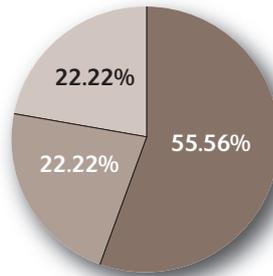
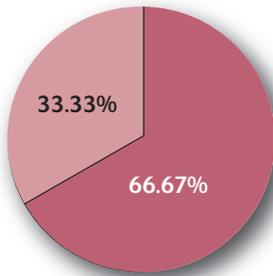


Key	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor



Total appointees

	Total	Male	Female	Senior Counsel	Barrister	Solicitor
Total	9	6	3	5	2	2
% of Total	100	66.67	33.33	55.56	22.22	22.22



Key



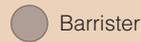
Male



Female



Senior Counsel



Barrister



Solicitor



3. Conclusions and Recommendations

Yearly advertisements are published inviting persons who wish to be considered for appointment to any judicial vacancies that may arise to submit their names to the Board. The Board also publishes advertisements from time to time inviting applicants in respect of specific vacancies which have arisen or are about to arise. Applicants are required to complete extensive application forms and the nature of the information sought by these forms is kept under regular review by the Board.

Having regard to the large number of applications which are received in respect of vacancies in the Circuit and District Courts, the Board has availed of its power to appoint a sub-committee when dealing with such applications. While the final decision as to whether to recommend a particular candidate must always remain with the Board, availing of the sub-committee procedure has greatly assisted the Board in the efficient conduct of its business.

In 2004 the Board issued an *'invitation to tender'* to assist and advise the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board in the areas of selection and identification of persons suitable for appointment to judicial office. This item was significantly progressed in 2004 and it is anticipated that a consultancy firm will be appointed early in 2005. This will enable the Board to restructure and refine the range of information which applicants should be required to provide and better identify those elements which assist the Board in coming to its decision. The Board has not to date availed of its power to arrange for the interviewing of applicants. There are serious practical obstacles to the Board conducting such a process routinely and generally the Board has sufficient information, in particular that provided by the applicants themselves to carry out its function in each instance. This is in the context that the Board does not have any function in deciding who should be appointed to judicial office. Moreover, the Board in submitting the names of persons whom it considers suitable for appointment does not make a decision or give an indication with regard to the relative merits of persons so submitted. The Board will continue to have regard to the option of interviewing applicants should this be considered necessary in particular circumstances.

The Board has also not availed of its power to invite persons identified by it to submit their names for consideration by the Board. There are clearly serious practical difficulties in exercising that power in the case of a body such as the Board whose role is to submit the names of persons who are suitable for appointment rather than decide who should be appointed.

The Board indicated in the 2002 and 2003 Annual Reports that it is concerned by the absence of any procedure for ensuring that a person who is recommended by them to the Minister as being suitable for appointment, and whom the Government subsequently decides to appoint, undergoes any form of medical examination. The Board recommended in the 2002 Annual Report that the Government should consider whether the existing legislation should be amended, so as to enable the Minister to require any person whom the Government proposed to advise the President to appoint to any judicial office, to undergo a medical examination before his/her appointment is finalised. Consideration could also be given to the introduction of an administrative requirement for such a medical examination. The 2002 Annual Report indicated that improved procedures had been implemented whereby applicants are now

asked to confirm that there is no reason connected with his/her health which would prevent the applicant from performing the functions connected with judicial office. The details supplied provide the Board with a more complete picture of the health of applicants whom they propose to recommend for appointment to the Minister. However, the Board is firmly of the view that it is not practical for the Board to arrange for the medical examination of all those whom it recommends. Furthermore, the Board is also of the view that the best practice in the case of both the public and private sectors is for a medical examination to be required of those whom it is proposed to **appoint** to positions of particular responsibility, rather than the candidates for the post. It should also be noted that the Board is strongly of the opinion that the anonymity of all the applicants who are recommended is best preserved if only the person whom the Government propose to advise the President to appoint to judicial office is subject to a medical examination.

Under Section 22 of the Standards in Public Office Act, 2001, the Board cannot recommend a person to the Minister unless that person has furnished to the Board a tax clearance certificate issued not more than eighteen months prior to the date of recommendation and a statutory declaration that their tax affairs are in order made by the applicant not more than one month before the date of recommendation. In practice, the tax clearance certificate is submitted with the application form and the Secretary to the Board writes to all applicants in advance of a Board meeting requesting them to furnish the statutory declaration. As indicated in previous Annual Reports the requirement of a statutory declaration causes particular administrative difficulties, as it must be submitted within a very short time frame before the meeting of the Board. It can also cause difficulties for the Board because not all of the applications which are considered can be recommended, as a fresh statutory declaration may not have been filed by a particular applicant in the time frame allowed. The Board suggested in previous Annual Reports that the relevant legislation be amended by extending the duration of the validity of the statutory declaration from one month to three months. This amendment to the Standards in Public Office Act, 2001, has yet to be introduced and the Board strongly recommends that the legislation be amended without further delay.



Appendix I

Rules of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board

Definitions

1. The following definitions apply for the purposes of these rules:

“The Act” means the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995 (No. 31 of 1995); as amended.

“The Board” means the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board, established under section 13 of the Act;

“The Minister” means the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Chairperson

2. The Chief Justice of Ireland, for so long as he or she holds office as such, shall be the Chairperson of the Board.

Meetings

3. (1) The Board shall meet on such dates and at such times and in such places as the Chairperson of the Board shall from time to time direct.
(2) The Chairperson of the Board shall, not less than ten days before the date of any meeting of the Board, cause written notice of such meeting to be given to each member of the Board.
(3) A meeting of the Board may be adjourned to any date, time and place that the Board may decide.

Quorum

4. At any meeting of the Board a majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a Quorum.

Presiding Member

5. The presiding member at any meeting of the Board shall be:
 - (a) the Chairperson of the Board;



- (b) in the absence of the Chairperson of the Board, the President of the High Court;
- (b) in the absence of both the Chairperson of the Board and the President of the High Court, such other person as may be agreed upon by a majority of the members of the Board present at the meeting.

Secretary

- 6. (1) The Chairperson of the Board shall appoint a person to act as Secretary.
- (2) The Secretary shall carry out such duties as may be conferred upon him or her by the Chairperson of the Board, and in particular shall be responsible for recording the minutes of the meetings of the Board.
- (3) In the absence of the Secretary at a meeting of the Board, the presiding member shall appoint one of the members of the Board there present to record the minutes of that meeting.

Voting

- 7. (1) Voting at meetings of the Board shall be by show of hands.
- (2) Subject to rule 8, any resolution of the Board shall be passed by a majority of the members present at the meeting at which the resolution is considered, and such resolution shall be minuted.
- (3) The presiding member at any meeting of the Board shall be entitled to vote and, in the event of a vote upon a resolution producing an equal division, the presiding member shall also have the casting vote.

Amendment of Rules

- 8. (1) Subject to sub-rule (2) of this rule, these rules may be amended by a majority vote of all the members of the Board on written notice being given to the Chairperson of the Board not less than ten days before the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.
- (2) On receiving the notice referred to in sub-rule (1) of this rule, the Chairperson of the Board shall immediately cause a copy of the notice to be sent to each member of the Board.

Sub-committees

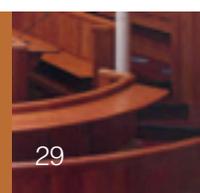
9. (1) The Board may from time to time establish sub-committees comprised of members of the Board to which it may delegate the performance of any of the functions assigned to it under Part IV of the 1995 Act, save that no sub-committee may recommend to the Minister any person for appointment to judicial office, such function belonging exclusively to the Board.
- (2) Each sub-committee shall have not fewer than three members.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-rule (1) of this rule, the Board may in particular establish sub-committees to perform any one or more of the following functions:
- (a) to advertise for applications for judicial appointments;
 - (b) to draw up application forms to be used by applicants for appointment to judicial office;
 - (c) to consult persons concerning the suitability of applicants for appointment to judicial office;
 - (d) to make arrangements for the interviewing of, and to interview, applicants who wish to be considered by the Board for appointment to judicial office and
 - (e) to do such other things as the Board considers necessary to enable it to discharge its duties under Part IV of the 1995 Act (as amended)
- (4) The Chairperson of each sub-committee shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board.
- (5) Resolutions of each sub-committee shall be passed by a majority of its members.
- (6) Each sub-committee shall meet on such dates and at such times and in such places, and shall give such notice of each meeting, as the sub- committee shall determine.

Interpretation

10. These rules are to be interpreted in conjunction with the provisions of Part IV of the 1995 Act (as amended).

Commencement

11. These rules shall come into force on such date as the Board shall determine.





Appendix II

Supreme Court		
Board Meetings	Number of Vacancies	Number of Applications
March 1996	3	5
June 1999	1	4
January 2000	3	6
June 2000	1	2
October 2002	1	2
September 2004	1	2

High Court		
Board Meetings	Number of Vacancies	Number of Applications
March 1996	2	16
May 1996	2	14
April 1997	1	13
April 1997	1	14
December 1997	1	13
November 1998	2	19
June 1999	1	18
October 1999	2	20
January 2000	1	18
March 2000	2	13
July 2000	1	9
January 2002	1	14
June 2002	4	27
December 2002	1	25
September 2004	3	17

Circuit Court		
Board Meetings	Number of Vacancies	Number of Applications
June 1996	9	194
December 1996	2	199
May 1997	2	204
February 1998	3	219
March 1999	1	221
December 1999	1	224
January 2001	1	100
July 2001	3	98
June 2002	1	91
September 2002	2	90
January 2004	1	46
September 2004	3	82

District Court		
Board Meetings	Number of Vacancies	Number of Applications
August 1996	3	233
February 1997	1	245
April 1997	1	256
June 1998	3	291
October 1998	1	292
August 1999	1	306
December 1999	1	301
March 2000	1	155
March 2001	2	110
July 2001	1	109
June 2002	4	98
July 2002	1	93
May 2003	1	78
May 2004	1	43
September 2004	2	62
December 2004	1	70

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