

## TRIBUNALS, COURTS AND ENFORCEMENT ACT 2007

Sections 50-52:

### 50 Judicial appointments: “judicial-appointment eligibility condition”

(1) Subsection (2) applies for the purposes of any statutory provision that—

- (a) relates to an office or other position, and
- (b) refers to a person who satisfies the judicial-appointment eligibility condition on an N-year basis (where N is the number stated in the provision).

(2) A person satisfies that condition on an N-year basis if—

- (a) the person has a relevant qualification, and
- (b) the total length of the person's qualifying periods is at least N years.

(3) In subsection (2) “qualifying period”, in relation to a person, means a period during which the person—

- (a) has a relevant qualification, and
- (b) gains experience in law (see section 52).

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3), a person has a relevant qualification if the person—

- (a) is a solicitor or a barrister (but see section 51), or
- (b) holds a qualification that under section 51(1) is a relevant qualification in relation to the office, or other position, concerned.

(5) In this section—

“barrister” means barrister in England and Wales;

“solicitor” means solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales;

“statutory provision” means—

(a) a provision of an Act, or

(b) a provision of subordinate legislation (within the meaning given by section 21(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30)).

(6) Schedule 10, which makes amendments—

for the purpose of substituting references to satisfying the judicial-appointment eligibility condition in place of references to having a qualification mentioned in section 71 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 (c. 41),

for the purpose of reducing qualifying periods for eligibility for appointment to certain judicial offices from ten and seven years to seven and five years respectively, and for connected purposes, has effect.

(7) At any time before the coming into force of section 59(1) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4) (renaming of Supreme Court), the reference to the Senior Courts in subsection (5) is to be read as a reference to the Supreme Court.

#### **51 “Relevant qualification” in section 50: further provision**

(1) The Lord Chancellor may by order provide for a qualification specified in the order to be a relevant qualification for the purposes of section 50(2) and (3) in relation to an office or other position specified in the order.

(2) [F1 awarded by a body which, for the purposes of the Legal Services Act 2007, is an approved regulator in relation to the exercise of a right of audience or the conduct of litigation (within the meaning of that Act).]

(3) An order under subsection (1) may, in relation to a qualification specified in the order, include provision as to when a person who holds the qualification is, for the purposes of section 50, to be taken first to have held it.

(4) Where—

(a) a qualification is specified under subsection (1),

(b) the qualification is one awarded by a body such as is mentioned in subsection [F2(2)], and

(c) [F3, for the purposes of the Legal Services Act 2007, the body—

(i) is not an approved regulator in relation to the exercise of a right of audience (within the meaning of that Act), and

(ii) is not an approved regulator in relation to the conduct of litigation (within the meaning of that Act),]

the provision under subsection (1) specifying the qualification ceases to have effect, subject to any provision made under [F4](#)section 46 of the Legal Services Act 2007

(transitional etc. provision in consequence of cancellation of designation as approved regulator).].

(5) For the purposes of section 50 and this section, a person shall be taken first to become a solicitor when the person's name is entered on the roll kept under section 6 of the Solicitors Act 1974 (c. 47) (Law Society to keep list of all solicitors) for the first time after the person's admission as a solicitor.

(6) For the purposes of section 50 and this section, a person shall be taken first to become a barrister—

(a) when the person completes pupillage in connection with becoming a barrister, or

(b) in the case of a person not required to undertake pupillage in connection with becoming a barrister, when the person is called to the Bar of England and Wales.

(7) For the purposes of section 50—

(a) a barrister,

(b) a solicitor, or

(c) a person who holds a qualification specified under subsection (1),

shall be taken not to have a relevant qualification at times when, as a result of disciplinary proceedings, he is prevented from practising as a barrister or (as the case may be) as a solicitor or as a holder of the specified qualification.

(8) The Lord Chancellor may by order make provision supplementing or amending subsections (5) to (7).

(9) Before making an order under subsection (1) or (8), the Lord Chancellor must consult—

(a) the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, and

(b) the Judicial Appointments Commission.

(10) The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales may nominate a judicial office holder (as defined in

section 109(4) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4)) to exercise his function under subsection

(9)(a).

(11) In this section—

“barrister” means barrister in England and Wales;

“solicitor” means solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales.

(12) Power to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(13) An order under this section may make different provision for different purposes.

(14) No order may be made under this section unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing it (whether alone or with other provision) has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

(15) At any time before the coming into force of section 59(1) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (renaming of Supreme Court), the reference to the Senior Courts in subsection (11) is to be read as a reference to the Supreme Court.

## **52 Meaning of “gain experience in law” in section 50**

(1) This section applies for the purposes of section 50.

(2) A person gains experience in law during a period if the period is one during which the person is engaged in law-related activities.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), a person's engagement in law-related activities during a period is to be disregarded if the engagement is negligible in terms of the amount of time engaged.

(4) For the purposes of this section, each of the following is a “law-related activity”—

(a) the carrying-out of judicial functions of any court or tribunal;

(b) acting as an arbitrator;

(c) practice or employment as a lawyer;

- (d) advising (whether or not in the course of practice or employment as a lawyer) on the application of the law;
- (e) assisting (whether or not in the course of such practice) persons involved in proceedings for the resolution of issues arising under the law;
- (f) acting (whether or not in the course of such practice) as mediator in connection with attempts to resolve issues that are, or if not resolved could be, the subject of proceedings;
- (g) drafting (whether or not in the course of such practice) documents intended to affect persons' rights or obligations;
- (h) teaching or researching law;
- (i) any activity that, in the relevant decision-maker's opinion, is of a broadly similar nature to an activity within any of paragraphs (a) to (h).

(5) For the purposes of this section, an activity mentioned in subsection (4) is a “law-related activity” whether it—

- (a) is done on a full-time or part-time basis;
- (b) is or is not done for remuneration;
- (c) is done in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

(6) In subsection (4)(i) “the relevant decision-maker”, in relation to determining whether a person satisfies the judicial-appointment eligibility condition on an N-year basis in a particular case, means—

- (a) where the condition applies in respect of appointment by Her Majesty to an office or other position, the person whose function it is to recommend the exercise of Her Majesty's function of making appointments to that office or position;
- (b) where the condition applies in respect of appointment, by any person other than Her Majesty, to an office or other position, that person.

(7) In subsection (6) “appointment”, in relation to an office or position, includes any form of selection for that office or position (whether called appointment or selection, or not).