



Lady CHIEF JUSTICE's  
OFFICE



Northern Ireland  
Courts and  
Tribunals Service  
[www.courtsni.gov.uk](http://www.courtsni.gov.uk)



THE BAR  
COUNCIL

THE LAW SOCIETY  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND



Northern Ireland Judicial  
Appointments Commission

# JUDICIAL SHADOWING SCHEME

## Why do it?

### Benefits may include:

1. an experience that will contribute to your professional development.
2. gaining experience in a new or less familiar field.
3. the opportunity to gain a unique insight into the day to day reality of holding judicial office.
4. gaining a better understanding of the role and responsibilities e.g. the management of Court, Commission or Tribunal business.
5. the opportunity to see the work of a Court, Commission or Tribunal from a completely new perspective.
6. discussing potential career paths.
7. seeing how the contributions of judicial officers assist and influence the decision making process.
8. assisting in deciding if a judicial career is for you.

## CONTACT NIJAC

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This publication can be obtained  
in alternative formats on request.

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## What is Judicial Shadowing?

We hope that the scheme will provide you with a unique opportunity to gain insight and to demystify judicial office by shadowing a typical working day with a serving member of the judiciary.

It is supported by the Lady Chief Justice's Office, the Bar Council and Law Society, the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service and the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission.



## Who can apply?

### Lawyers

Solicitors and barristers with a **minimum of two years'** post qualification experience for all Courts, Commissions and participating Tribunals (except for the High Court and Lands Tribunal). **Five years'** experience is required to shadow in the High Court or Lands Tribunal.

### Doctors

General Medical Council registered doctors are also eligible to apply for the scheme as shadowing is available in the **Appeal Tribunals, the Mental Health Review Tribunal and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel.**

### Land Valuers

RICS and/or IAVI registered members with **at least two years' experience** can apply to shadow NIVT and those with **at least five years' experience** can apply to shadow in the Lands Tribunal.

## When and where can I shadow?

One placement in any one year in the Court, Commission or Tribunal of your choice.

A list of the participating Courts, Commissions and Tribunals can be found on the NIJAC website ([www.nijac.gov.uk](http://www.nijac.gov.uk)).

## How to apply?

Download an Application Form at [www.nijac.gov.uk](http://www.nijac.gov.uk) **or** email [judicialappointments@nijac.gov.uk](mailto:judicialappointments@nijac.gov.uk) **or** phone 028 90 569100.

Once NIJAC has received your Application Form you will receive an email confirming receipt.

NIJAC will then contact your professional body to verify your membership and to enquire as to whether there is any known reason why it would not be appropriate for you to participate in the scheme.

Once satisfactory checks are completed your application will be passed to the Court, Commission or Tribunal of your choice. They will contact you directly to arrange the date and location of the shadowing placement.

They will endeavour to accommodate your request (bearing in mind demand and, should there be any sensitive cases, the need to secure parties' permissions).

## Proof of Identity

You are required to take proof of identity and to adhere to all security and health and safety procedures at the Court, Commission or Tribunal.

## Evaluation

We would appreciate feedback on your experience so we can further promote and improve the Judicial Shadowing Scheme.

As such, we would ask that you complete an Evaluation Form and return it to us once you have completed your shadowing placement.

The Evaluation Form can be downloaded from [www.nijac.gov.uk](http://www.nijac.gov.uk).

## Disability

NIJAC and the participating Courts, Commissions and Tribunals encourage applications from individuals with a disability.

