

PRESS NOTICE
5 September 2015



APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY COURT JUDGES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Her Majesty the Queen has appointed Mr Neil Rafferty Q.C. and Ms Elizabeth McCaffrey as County Court Judges in Northern Ireland. The judges were sworn into office before The Right Honourable Sir Declan Morgan, the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, on 5 September 2016.

Note to editors

The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission (NIJAC) has responsibility for the selection of persons for recommendation for appointments to the judicial offices listed in Schedule 1 to the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, as amended.

The office of County Court Judge falls within the list of statutory offices in the Schedule and therefore within the remit of NIJAC.

- Mr Rafferty was admitted to the Bar in 1990.
- Mr Rafferty practiced broadly in all areas of law, undertaking both County Court and High Court work in Civil Litigation and Family Law. In approximately 2000, he began to specialise more in Criminal Law.

- After being admitted to the Inner Bar in December 2014 he has undertaken a number of leading briefs in significant criminal cases.
- In addition to the Criminal Law part of his practice, he has diversified into historical and legacy enquiries and inquests.
- Mr Rafferty was appointed as a Deputy District Judge in 2007 and has gained significant judicial experience in this role.

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- Ms McCaffrey was admitted as a solicitor in Northern Ireland in 1984 and in the Republic of Ireland in 2002. She is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast and the College of Europe, Bruges.
 - Following her admission as a solicitor, Ms McCaffrey worked mainly in the field of civil practice, principally conveyancing and commercial practice, together with probate work, estates planning and family law. Ms McCaffrey also developed a substantial employment law practice, specialising in discrimination law.
 - From June 2007 to February 2013 Ms McCaffrey was a member of the Law Society Council, where she chaired the Law Reform Committee, the Access to Justice Committee and the Non-Contentious Business Committee.
 - Ms McCaffrey's most recent role was as a full time Employment Judge in the Industrial Tribunals and Fair Employment Tribunal (ITFET). Some of the many facets of the role included hearing cases involving all aspects of employment law, from unfair dismissal to discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, religious or political belief or age. Prior to appointment to this substantive office, Ms McCaffrey held the office of part-time Chairman (now known as Employment Judge) of the ITFET from 1998 – 2013.

If you have any further queries about this or any other related judicial appointment

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