

Judicial Recruitment proposals

Concept Note

Justice service has two unique aspects: first, it is a public good, and second, it is very technical. Both these aspects earnestly demand that judges must be of great professional caliber and moral righteousness. In contrast, our existing judicial system appears to have failed in both aspects. This is clear from the ever growing public dissatisfaction with the system. In any judicial reform initiative for efficient and effective service delivery, merit-based competitive recruitment should be the starting point. Hon'ble the Chief Justice has expressed a vision for revamping the judicial service recruitment process, as part of his greater vision for judicial reforms.

Earlier, input has been sought from the District Judiciary (letter # 6996-7041/Admn., dated 14 April 2017) regarding specific areas of reforms, including recruitment. Till date, barring a few districts and a couple of special courts, the input from most of the districts is still awaited. In the meanwhile, HCJ has desired that the issue of recruitment be pursued on priority basis and that all Judicial Officers be involved regarding the proposed options for entry to judicial service.

The input available and the informal interaction with Judicial Officers suggest that majority are in favour of one point entry, which seems to be ideal. In case, if the one point entry couldn't be materialized, alternate options may be searched. Herein below as many as four options are suggested: one-point entry, two-point entry per option 2 & 3, and four-point entry. The fifth one is the existing mechanism. Please read all the options carefully and use the last table for exercising your option.

OPTION 1: One point entry				
Position	Eligibility			
	Upper Limit	Age	Sub option	Experience
Civil Judge	30 yrs.		A	Lawyer either fresh or experienced
	33 yrs.		B	5 yr. as lawyer
	35 yrs.		C	7 yr. as lawyer

NB 1: As mentioned above, it is one point entry exclusively.
NB 2: Lawyer includes any service related to law and justice in any public and/or private organization(s) rendered after qualifying the first law degree.

Option 2: Two point entry
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the level of Additional District & Sessions there shall be no quota. 100 % recruitment shall be on the basis of open competition from both bar and bench with 8 years' experience.• The entry at the level of Civil Judge shall remain open as it is.

OPTION3: Two points entry					
Position with Age			Eligibility		
Civil Judge	Upper Age Limit	Senior Civil Judge	Upper Age Limit	Sub option	Experience
	30 yrs.		35 yrs.	a	Lawyer either fresh or experienced
	33 yrs.		38 yrs.	b	5 yrs. as lawyer
	35 yrs.		40 yrs.	c	7 yrs. as lawyer

OPTION 4: four point entry					
	Civil Judge	SCJ	ADJ	DSJ	Remarks
Age Limit (AL) or Upper Age Limit (UAL)	22-30	27-35	32-40	37-45	
		32	37	42	
			42	47	
				50	2 yrs requirement (in sequence) reduce to complete at least 10 years' service
	Y			47	
	y	Y		42	
Qualification	LLB or equivalent		Y	42	
Experience (for JO)		Five years	Ten years	Fifteen years	
<p>NB 1: The upper age limit is only applicable in case of initial recruitment.</p> <p>NB 2: Qualifying an examination will reduce age requirement by five year progressively from position to position, whether after passing the examination, the candidate joins service or opts for bar practice.</p> <p>NB 3: After approval, the Secretariat will consider making an appropriate arrangement to safeguard the serving Judicial Officers.</p>					

Option 5
The existing system of recruitment

Exercising option/sub-option					
Option	Tick	Designation	Tick	Name	Signature
1A		D&SJ			
1B					
1C		AD&SJ			
2					
3a		SCJ			
3b					
3c		CJ			
4					
5					
NB: Ex-cadre Judicial Officers may please tick their original designation.					

