

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

(AS AMENDED AT AGM ON 18 APRIL 2005 AND AT EGM 29 SEPTEMBER 2006)

1. NAME

1.1. The Association shall be known as the UK Association of Women Judges (UKAWJ).

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. The Association is organised for the purpose of promoting greater understanding and better resolution of legal issues facing women and issues concerning women judges, and in particular:

- (a) to encourage co-operation and collaboration among women judges;
- (b) to contribute to the understanding and resolution of legal issues facing women;
- (c) to increase understanding of the broad range of social, economic, psychological and cultural factors that influence women affected by the court system;
- (d) to increase understanding about women judges, their numbers, the processes by which they are selected, the barriers which may interfere with their selection, with a view to achieving a judiciary which more accurately reflects the population it serves;
- (e) to increase understanding of human rights law and the role of the judiciary in implementing that law to promote and protect the rights of women on an equal basis.

2.2. In order to promote the above aims, the Association may:

- (a) hold, arrange or assist in meetings, judicial exchanges, conferences or seminars;
- (b) promote or arrange mentoring schemes for full and part time judges and judicial officers;
- (c) promote, sponsor or engage in study and research;

(d) publish or assist in the publication of educational materials for judges, lawyers, policy makers and members of the public on these and related topics;

(e) do all things necessary and/or proper to accomplish these and similar purposes.

3. MEMBERS

3.1. Any person who holds or has retired from a permanent or salaried judicial post is eligible to be a full voting member and hold office.

3.2. A 'judicial post' shall include a district judge, circuit judge, master or judge of the High Court, Lord or Lady Justice of Appeal in England and Wales, a resident magistrate, crown and county court judge, master or judge of the High Court, Lord or Lady Justice of Appeal in Northern Ireland, a sheriff or Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland and a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and such other legally qualified judicial officers as the Executive Committee may determine.

3.3. Any person who supports the objectives of the Association may be elected by the Executive Committee as a supporting member. Supporting members shall have no voting rights and may not hold office.

3.4. Upon nomination by the officers, any person may be elected to honorary membership in recognition of outstanding service to any of the Association's purposes. Honorary members shall have no voting rights and may not hold office.

4. OFFICERS

4.1. The Officers shall be a President, up to three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, each of whom shall hold office for a period of up to three consecutive years, but shall be eligible for re-election.

4.2. The Association may invite persons of distinction, whether or not members of the Association, to be Patrons. Patrons shall hold office for five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

5. MANAGEMENT

5.1. The affairs of the UKAWJ shall be directed by an Executive Committee of not fewer than 6 members and not more than 12 members.

- 5.2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers together with full members of the UKAWJ elected through nomination and ballot of the membership.
- 5.3. The Executive Committee shall be entitled to co-opt 4 additional members with a view, among other things, to securing appropriate representation from all parts of the United Kingdom, including the English regions, and all sections of the judiciary.
- 5.4. A meeting of the Executive Committee shall be valid only when a quorum of 3 members is present. The business of the Executive Committee may also be transacted by correspondence or email.
- 5.5. Each member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of up to three consecutive years, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 5.6. The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees, which may include persons who are not members of the Executive Committee.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6.1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held. It shall be convened by the Secretary on the instructions of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall give to all members at least one calendar month's notice in writing of the holding of such a meeting.
- 6.2. The quorum of an Annual General Meeting shall be 5 members present.
- 6.3. The Annual General Meeting shall conduct the following business:
 - Receive the Annual Report of the Executive Committee;
 - Approve the Annual Accounts of the Association;
 - Appoint an auditor of the accounts;
 - Discuss such other matters and motions as shall be necessary;
 - Discuss and vote on amendments to the constitution.
- 6.4. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be held. It shall be convened by the Secretary on the instructions of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall give to all members 7 days notice in writing of such a meeting.
- 6.5. The quorum of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be 5 members present.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 7.1. The Secretary shall invite from all members nominations for such offices as are due to fall vacant. Nominations shall be made in writing by at least one member and shall be signed by the person nominated indicating his or her willingness to serve.
- 7.2. Whenever elections are required they shall take place at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting or by ballot of the membership which may be conducted by email.
- 7.3. Those elected shall take office from the date of the Executive Meeting following the ballot. Officers and members duly elected shall serve for the periods set out in this constitution.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1. The subscription payable by members of the Association shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 8.2. The financial resources of the UKAWJ shall be applied by and at the direction of the Executive Committee solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association as set forth in this constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Association or Executive Committee, provided that nothing therein shall prevent the repayment of out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a direct result of the carrying out by any Officer, member of the Executive Committee or other authorised persons of duties in connection with the Association's business. Should the Association be wound up, any surplus funds shall be transferred to the Nuffield Foundation or such other registered charity as the Executive Committee may determine.
- 8.3. The Executive Committee shall by resolution determine upon whose signature or signatures cheques may, for the time being, be drawn upon the Association's accounts with their bankers.
- 8.4. The financial year shall run from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December next following.

9. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

9.1. Amendments to this constitution shall be by resolution passed by no fewer than two-thirds of those members present and voting at a General Meeting. Such a resolution shall not be considered unless:

(a) notice of intention to move the resolution has been submitted in writing to the Executive Committee;

(b) such a resolution be proposed by at least three members;

(c) notice of such a resolution be given to all members not less than seven days before the General Meeting.