

Ask a Judge Evening – A Western Circuit Women’s Forum initiative on Career Progression and Judicial Applications



From left to right

Back row – on the bench - Cutts J, Sharp LJ, HHJ Richardson

Front row - DDJ Mashembo, Kate Sherwood, HHJ Cronin and Miss Rec Martin QC

On 20 May 2022 the Western Circuit Women’s Forum were delighted to present our “Ask a Judge” evening. A packed Court One at Exeter Law Courts listened to a distinguished panel of speakers from across the judiciary talk about what had brought them into the law and why they had chosen to apply for a judicial role.

Drawn from across the judiciary The Rt Hon Dame Victoria Sharp DBE, President of the Queen’s Bench Division of the High Court was joined by The Hon Mrs Justice Johanna Cutts, one of our Western Circuit Presiders, Her Honour Judge Tacey Cronin, Her Honour Judge Anna Richardson, Tribunal Judge Lynn Griffin, Miss Recorder Joanna Martin QC and Deputy District Judge Carol Mashembo. The judges were joined by Kate Blackburn, from Sherwood Consulting, also a Magistrate.

The audience was made up a diverse range of people from students, through pupil barristers, to senior barristers but all those who attended had an interest in what it would take to become a judge in the 21st Century.

The Judges talked about how they decided what law suited them best and what their top tips are for making an application for an appointment. They revealed varied and unexpected journeys into the judicial world, sharing the challenges and the joys of their work as judges.

Kate shared her experience of supporting candidates to provide their best evidence to the Judicial Appointments Commission.

The audience left inspired to make a judicial application when the time was right for them and well informed as to how to make their application a success! We wish them all the best of luck.