



JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING

Judicial officers make decisions in all aspects of their work. Decisions are made both in and out of court. At the core of a judicial officer's work is the making of decisions and the exercise of judgement. Usually a judicial officer must give reasons for the decision.

Professional development activities should help judicial officers to deliver oral judgments and write well-composed judgments. Part of the judicial role is also to give directions to juries. Although this does not involve the judicial officer in making a decision, it does involve the judicial officer giving the jury the means whereby it might make a correct decision. The judicial role also involves the sentencing of offenders. In this aspect judicial officers must make decisions in order to sentence appropriately.

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Program Objectives and Learning Outcomes

On completion of this training programme, In particular, participants will:

- Strengthened their case-management and leadership skills,
- Attained an understanding of the skills needed to preside over various roles,
- Developed their awareness of the complexities of the decision-making process,
- Practiced and honed their skills with respect to drafting written judgments, and
- Develop a thorough understanding which will help participants:
 - a. to make decisions during the course of matters before the courts
 - b. to make decisions as part of the process of composing a judgment, whether in written or oral form
 - c. to provide directions to juries to enable them to make a decision
 - d. to sentence offenders
 - e. to make decisions in interlocutory and routine matters
 - f. to use decision-making power to deal with dilatory practices in the court
 - g. to research as part of the process of decision-making
 - h. to evaluate the relevance and importance of evidence
 - i. to understand the impact of personal values and cultural belief systems on decision-making

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Who Is the Course For:

This course is suitable for people responsible for making judicial decisions, who are involved in the administrative structures around such decisions, or who are seeking training to enhance their applications for judicial roles in the future. The course is suitable for lawyers and people working in a regulatory context with familiarity with a rules-based approach to rights and entitlements.



PROGRAM

The program covers the following key themes

DAY 01 The exercise of judicial skills and decision-making

- The role and identity of the judge
- Ethical considerations; types of judicial roles/quasi-judicial bodies,
- The application and recruitment process,
- Understanding and managing the trial process,
- Rules of evidence from the decision-maker's perspective.

DAY 02 Mediation, managing proceedings, and administering justice

- Mediation overview from a judicial perspective,
- The effect of the Mediation Act 2017,
- Functions and duties of chairpersons of a board.

DAY 03 Written judgments and decision-making skills

- Drafting written judgments,
- Proceedings involving litigants-in-person,
- Assessing credibility; assessing expert evidence.

DAY 04 The social context of law

- Independence and accountability,
- Equality legislation and inclusion,
- Consistency in sentencing,
- Dealing with vulnerable clients or witnesses.

DAY 05 Litigation Accounting

- cases, personal injuries and contracts cases, family law cases
- calculations of damages in relation to the future
- discounting rates
- calculation of damages for loss of services
- calculation of damages for possibilities



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