

1. Who are the Commissioners on the Judicial Service Commission?

The Judicial Service Commission comprises of six members. These are:

The Chief Justice who chairs the Commission and in his absence, the Deputy Chief Justice.

The Chairman of the Public Service Commission

The Attorney-General,

The Judge President,

2. How are Commissioners appointed?

The Chief Justice, the Chairman of the Public Service Commission and the Attorney General are members of the Judicial Service Commission ex officio. The other three members of the Commission are appointed by the President in terms of section 90 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

3. Where do you find the offices of the Judicial Service Commission?

The Judicial Service Commission is on the first floor of Mapondera Building (High Court Building), Samora Machel Avenue, Harare.

4. What is the relationship between the Judicial Service Commission and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs?

The Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs is the Minister responsible for administering the Judicial Service Act [Chapter 7:08]. He receives regular reports on the performance of the courts but, to adhere to the doctrine of separation of powers, he cannot give directives to the Judicial Service Commission.

5. Is the Judicial Service Commission the same as the Judiciary?

The Judicial Service Commission is an administrative authority that administers the judiciary. The Commission itself is not the judiciary as it is composed of members who in the majority are not judges or magistrates.

6. What is the relationship between the Judicial Service Commission and the Police, the Attorney-General and Prisons?

The Police, the office of the Attorney-General, and Prisons are the most important stakeholders in the justice delivery system. They work very closely with the Judicial Service Commission to ensure that the courts operate smoothly. They are however not part of the Judicial Service Commission and fall under different authorities, mainly under the executive arm of government.

7. How does one become a magistrate or a judge?

To become a magistrate, one must respond to the many advertisements that the Judicial Service Commission flights in the media whenever there is a vacant post. To qualify for appointment, one must be the holder of a law degree from a recognised university or must possess some other qualification acceptable to the Judicial Service Commission.

To become a judge, one must have been a legal practitioner for not less than five years. No advertisements are flighted for this post. One is invited to become a judge. The appointment is made by the President in consultation with the Judicial Service Commission.

8. What is the proper dress code when attending court?

When attending court one must always dress smartly. Shorts, t-shirts and other casual dressing are not permissible. Where practical, one must be in a tie and jacket for men. For women, decency is the key. Short skirts, skimpy tops and tight jeans are not permissible.

For more information and Legal Advice



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