**Application to the Advisory Committee on the grant of Patents of Precedence (the ‘Committee’) for a recommendation to Government to be granted a Patent of Precedence**

**It is important that Applicants read the *Guidance for Applicants* before completing this application form.**

*The purpose of this application form is for the applicant to provide succinct and relevant information to the Committee to enable it to fulfil its functions under the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 (the “Act”). The questions below are intended to give applicants an opportunity to provide the Committee with focused and relevant information in support of their application which clearly demonstrates that they satisfy the criteria stipulated by the Act and elaborated upon in the* [***Guidance for Applicants***](https://www.lsra.ie/for-law-professionals/applications-for-senior-counsel/) *document.*

*Applicants should note that while the application form seeks details of various matters, including their qualifications, professional training, professional experience and publications, this does not mean that these matters are decisive. All applications are judged against the established criteria as set out in the* [***Guidance for Applicants***](https://www.lsra.ie/for-law-professionals/applications-for-senior-counsel/) *document.*

Contents

[**Part A, Section 1:** 2](#_Toc157680337)

[**Personal Details** 2](#_Toc157680338)

[**Part A, Section 2:** 3](#_Toc157680339)

[**Academic & Professional Qualifications** 3](#_Toc157680340)

[**Part A, Section 3: Professional Details** 4](#_Toc157680341)

[**Part A, Section 4: Career History** 6](#_Toc157680342)

[**Part A, Section 6: Proceedings** 8](#_Toc157680343)

[**(for those seeking to establish excellence in advocacy (s.173(2)(a)(iii)(I) and/or excellence in specialist litigation (s.173(2)(a)(iii)(III))** 8](#_Toc157680344)

[**Part A, Section 7:** 10](#_Toc157680345)

[**For those contending that they can satisfy the criteria set out at (s.173(2)(a)(iii)(III) specialist knowledge of an area of law.** 10](#_Toc157680346)

[**Part A, Section 8:** 12](#_Toc157680347)

[**Contribution to the Legal Profession (including legal publications, speaking engagements, involvement with relevant associations or organisations)** 12](#_Toc157680348)

[**Part A, Section 9: Character & Temperament** 14](#_Toc157680349)

[**Part A, Section 10: Referees** 16](#_Toc157680350)

[**Part C, Section 1: Declaration** 20](#_Toc157680351)

[**Part C, Section 2: Checklist** 21](#_Toc157680352)

**Having particular regard to the need to manage and circulate documentation to the Advisory Committee, Applications must be submitted in electronic format only.**

*Please type (in Times New Roman, size 12).*

## **Part A, Section 1:**

## **Personal Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Photograph: Please include a recent photograph of yourself with your application. |  |
| Forenames in full: |  |
| Surname: |  |
| Name by which you are known professionally, if different to the above: |  |
| Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms or Other): |  |
| Address (Professional): |  |
| Address (Private):  ***\*Please underline the address that should be used for correspondence in relation to this application*** |  |
| Email address: |  |
| Telephone number: |  |
| Mobile number: |  |
| Date of birth: |  |
| Are you a practising solicitor or a practising barrister? |  |
| **Please specify which of the criteria set out in s.173(2)(a)(iii) viz (I) excellence in the practice of advocacy; (II) excellence in the practice of special litigation; or (III) specialist knowledge of an area of law you consider is satisfied in your case.** |  |

## **Part A, Section 2:**

## **Academic & Professional Qualifications**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Please provide the details, in date order, of your academic and professional qualifications, including qualifications in disciplines other than law.* | |
| Course title: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Qualification obtained: |  |
| Course title: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Qualification obtained: |  |
| Course title: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Qualification obtained: |  |
| Course title: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Qualification obtained: |  |
| Course title: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Qualification obtained: |  |
| Course title: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Qualification obtained: |  |
| Course title: |  |
| Date: |  |
| Qualification obtained: |  |

## **Part A, Section 3: Professional Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Where applicable, the date of your call to the Bar of Ireland: |  |
| For barrister applicants, please confirm that you are enrolled on the Roll of Practising Barristers and please provide your roll reference number.  See LSRA website for more detail on the Roll:  <https://www.lsra.ie/for-law-professionals/roll-of-practising-barristers/> |  |
| In respect of devilling, please provide the name and address of your Master(s) and the time period(s) (from/to):  *\*Please include the names and addresses of all barristers for whom you devilled and dates* | *Master’s name:*  *Master’s address:*  *Dates (from/to):* |
| Where applicable, the date of your admission to the Roll of Solicitors: |  |
| In respect of your traineeship, please provide the name and address of your training solicitor and the time period (from/to): | *Training solicitor’s name:*  *Training solicitor’s address:*  *Dates (from/to):* |
| Are you now or have you ever been qualified to practice in any other jurisdiction? If so, please give details: |  |
| If you practice in another jurisdiction, please specify the approximate percentage of your practice in Ireland and that in any other jurisdiction(s) |  |
| Have you ever applied for a Patent of Precedence (or equivalent honour) in any other jurisdiction?  If so, please specify the jurisdiction, the date(s) of any such application(s) and the outcome of same. |  |
| Please provide details of your gross income (to the nearest €20,000) from the practice of law for each of your last four accounting years, identifying the accounting years concerned:  *\*in the case of practitioners, particularly those in private practice, income provides some indication of the extent of an applicant’s practice and its development. There is, however, no minimum threshold, and substantial income will not in itself be sufficient to satisfy the statutory criteria. Applicants should feel free to provide a narrative explaining any factors which they consider should be taken into account in considering their income. In this regard, Applicants are referred to the Guidance for Applicants commentary on this issue.*  *If you provide gross income which includes income from sources other than the provision of legal services, e.g. publications, lecturing etc., please provide a brief description and percentage breakdown of your gross income. For example, 100% private practice; 80% employment, 10% lecturing, 10% publications etc.* |  |

## **Part A, Section 4: Career History**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Please give details, in date order, of your professional career. If you wish you can include details of your professional career outside the legal profession. For example, lecturing, company director role etc. (where this may be relevant to the criteria e.g. of specialist litigation or specialist knowledge of an area of law).* | | |
| Dates (from/to) | Private practice, law firm or other organisation and address | Particulars (Please specify your role and type of work) |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Part A, Section 5: Professional Experience and, where relevant, Reported Cases**

***(Word limit – 100 words)***

|  |
| --- |
| *Please give a brief description (within the word limit) of your current legal role, including an overview of the main types of cases you have been involved in over the past 5 years, the percentage breakdown identifying courts and jurisdictions (e.g. Irish Supreme Court 25%, Irish Court of Appeal 50%, Irish High Court 15% and ECJ 10%) and any specialisms.*  *\*If you primarily practice in another jurisdiction, please highlight this and also give details of the extent of your practice in the courts of Ireland.* |
|  |

**Reported Cases**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Please list below no more than 10 reported cases in which you have been involved recently.* | |
| **Name** | **Citation** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## **Part A, Section 6: Proceedings**

## **(for those seeking to establish excellence in advocacy (s.173(2)(a)(iii)(I) *or* excellence in specialist litigation (s.173(2)(a)(iii)(II))**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Please provide details of what you deem to be* ***three examples only*** *of your strongest case work. In setting the cases out, you must ensure that you provide sufficient specific detail as to your involvement in each case, in terms of oral and/or written advocacy. Applicants must note the word limits set out below in providing their responses.* | |
| **Case 1** | |
| Name of the case: |  |
| A brief description of the nature of the case, including sufficient specific detail as to your involvement in the case, in terms of oral and/or written advocacy:  ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |  |
| Your role: |  |
| As appropriate, please provide the name(s) of your instructing solicitor or counsel: |  |
| The name of opposing counsel and their instructing solicitors: |  |
| The name of the presiding judge: |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Case 2** | |
| Name of the case: |  |
| A brief description of the nature of the case, including sufficient specific detail as to your involvement in the case, in terms of oral and/or written advocacy:  ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |  |
| Your role: |  |
| As appropriate, please provide the name(s) of instructing solicitor or counsel: |  |
| The name of opposing counsel and their instructing solicitors: |  |
| The name of the presiding judge: |  |
| **Case 3** | |
| Name of the case: |  |
| A brief description of the nature of the case, including sufficient specific detail as to your involvement in the case, in terms of oral and/or written advocacy:  ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |  |
| Your role: |  |
| As appropriate, please provide the name(s) of instructing solicitor or counsel: |  |
| The name of opposing counsel and their instructing solicitors: |  |
| The name of the presiding judge: |  |

## **Part A, Section 7:**

## **For those contending that they can satisfy the criteria set out at (s.173(2)(a)(iii)(III) specialist knowledge of an area of law.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Please provide details of what you deem to be* ***three examples only*** *of your strongest case work setting out where possible the case or transaction, the client and your role, emphasising any particularly unique or complex aspects of the matter that assist in demonstrating your specialist knowledge* | |
| **Case / Transaction 1** | |
| Name of the Case / Transaction: |  |
| A brief description of the nature of the case / transaction, including such specific detail as to your involvement in it and why you consider it demonstrates specialist knowledge of an area of law:  ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |  |
| Your role: |  |
| The names of other lawyers involved for any other party: |  |
| **Case / Transaction 2** | |
| Name of the Case / Transaction: |  |
| A brief description of the nature of the case / transaction, including such specific detail as to your involvement in it and why you consider it demonstrates specialist knowledge of an area of law:  ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |  |
| Your role: |  |
| The name of other lawyers involved for any other party: |  |
| **Case / Transaction 3** | |
| Name of the Case / Transaction: |  |
| A brief description of the nature of the case / transaction, including sufficient specific detail as to your involvement in the case, in terms of oral and/or written advocacy:  ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |  |
| Your role: |  |
| The names of other lawyers involved for any other party: |  |

## **Part A, Section 8:**

## **Contribution to the Legal Profession (including legal publications, speaking engagements, involvement with relevant associations or organisations)**

**Legal Publications**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Please give details of what you consider to be your* ***three most significant papers, articles or legal publications*** *that you have written, edited or contributed to or similar professional activities. (Where this form is being completed electronically and if possible, please include a hyperlink to the three publications. In relation to any books referenced, please provide details of the year of publication and publisher, ISBN No).* | |
| **Books** | **Date** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Articles** | **Date** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Speaking Engagements**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Please give details (including the date, name of event, details i.e. your role and topic) of* ***no more than 5*** *addresses to significant conferences, seminars or similar. Please provide the date and details of the event. (If possible, please include a hyperlink to any addresses/presentations.)* | |
| **Name of event & details** | **Date** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Involvement with relevant associations or organisations**

|  |
| --- |
| *Please give details (including dates (from/to), your role, name of organisation) of your involvement in or memberships of legal organisations, associations or societies, in Ireland or internationally where such involvement is relevant to the established criteria (which would ordinarily involve a leadership role as opposed to just membership).* |
|  |

## **Part A, Section 9: Character & Temperament**

*The following may affect suitability for a grant of a Patent of Precedence.*

*Applicants should ensure that sufficient detail is provided in relation to matters which the applicant must raise in this section. If relevant matters are not set out clearly, the Advisory Committee will form an appropriate view on the application. Applicants should note the information in the Applicant Guidance in respect of this Section.*

*In this regard,* ***applicants’ attention is drawn to section 175, and in particular section 175(6) of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 (see also Applicant Guidance).***

*In the case of any pending proceedings, please provide the anticipated date and sufficient detail on the nature of the proceedings.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Are any criminal proceedings pending against you?  Yes/No  *(\*You do not need to refer to minor road traffic offences)* | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Have you been convicted of a criminal offence?  Yes/No  *(\*You do not need to refer to minor road traffic offences)* | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Have you been adjudged bankrupt, made a composition with creditors or been sued to judgment, or are proceedings pending?  Yes/No | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Have proceedings ever been brought against you or have you had a penalty imposed or reached a settlement relating to tax or are proceedings pending?  Yes/No | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Are you or have you ever been the subject of a complaint and/or disciplinary process (with the Law Society, Bar Council or Legal Services Regulatory Authority) involving an allegation of professional misconduct?  Yes/No  *(\*If the matter was dismissed, you do not need to include it here)* | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Have you ever been the subject of proceedings for professional negligence or misconduct or are proceedings pending?  Yes/No  *(\*If the matter was dismissed, you do not need to include it here)* | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Have you ever been disqualified from holding any statutory office, for example restriction or disqualification from holding office as a company director, or are proceedings pending?  Yes/No | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Have you ever been the subject of a disciplinary process by any other professional or regulatory body?  Yes/No | *If yes, please provide details* |
| Please provide any other information that does or may affect your suitability for a grant of a Patent of Precedence?  (\**Please include anything in your private or professional life which might affect your suitability to be or become a Senior Counsel.)* |  |

## **Part A, Section 10: Referees**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *You are required to provide* ***two references only****. The Committee considers that references are a particularly important part of the application and accords weight to both the identity of the referee, and the extent to which they are in a position to give an authoritative and insightful reference. Where an application is being made by reference to s.173(2)(a)(iii)(I) or (II) (advocacy or specialist litigation) it will be particularly useful to have a reference from a judge or former judge before whom the applicant practised regularly. In the case of an application by reference to s.173(2)(a)(ii)(III) – specialist knowledge of an area of law, a reference from an authoritative source within the area with knowledge and experience of the applicant’s practice is considered particularly useful. References should be no longer than 2 A4 pages in length and be dated within three months of the application date. Applicants are directed to the Applicant Guidance document which sets out more detail on what is sought by the Committee with respect to references.*  ***Important: References must be sent directly to the LSRA by the individual referees for the attention of the Secretary to the Committee. Please ask your referees to ensure that these references are sent to LSRA before the deadline for receipt of Applications. For administrative purposes, electronic copy is required and can be sent by referees for the attention of the Secretary to the Advisory Committee at*** [***patents@lsra.ie***](mailto:patents@lsra.ie)  ***Any formal correspondence can also be sent to:***  ***Secretary***  ***Advisory Committee (Patents of Precedence)***  ***LSRA***  ***PO Box 12906***  ***Dublin 7***  *Please provide contact details for the two referees below.* | |
| **Referee 1** | |
| Name: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Mobile: |  |
| Email: |  |
| **Referee 2** | |
| Name: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| Mobile: |  |
| Email: |  |

**Part B: Addressing the established criteria**

*Please clearly and succinctly outline how you meet each of the established criteria by reference to specific examples. This can be from the cases you have identified above or other cases. Applicants should have regard to the description of the criteria contained in the Guidance for Applicants. Applicants must limit the length of their responses in line with the word limits provided.*

|  |
| --- |
| **Professional experience, legal knowledge and probity: *(Word limit – 100 words)*** |
|  |
| **Professional independence:** ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |
|  |
| **Integrity, honesty and professional standing: *(Word limit – 100 words)*** |
|  |

*Please outline how you meet one or more of the following criteria:*

|  |
| --- |
| **Excellence in the practice of advocacy**: ***(Word limit – 100 words)*** |
|  |
| **Excellence in the practice of specialist litigation: *(Word limit – 100 words)*** |
|  |
| **Specialist knowledge of an area of law: *(Word limit – 100 words)*** |
|  |

*Finally, applicants are expected to set out any other matter of which the Committee should be aware in making its recommendation. The Committee expects applicants to make full and frank disclosure in this regard. The Committee may, pursuant to s.175(1) recommend revocation of the grant of any patent.*

***(Word limit – 100 words)***

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## **Part C, Section 1: Declaration**

I confirm that I am a practising solicitor/practising barrister\*[[1]](#footnote-1), within the meaning of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015.

I declare that the information provided here is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and accurate. In the event of a material change to the information provided above, I undertake to immediately advise the Committee of such change. I acknowledge that this is particularly relevant in respect of the questions at Part A, Section 8.

I am aware in the event of my being awarded a Patent of Precedence, that a consequence of the provision of false information in this application form may result in the revocation of such grant under the provisions of subsections 172(2),(6) and (7) of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 (the ‘*Act*’).

I am aware that, pursuant to section 172(5) of the Act, all proceedings of the Committee and all communications by and to the Committee, including consultations by the Committee under section 174(3), shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed except for the purposes of the Act.

I am aware that, pursuant to section 174(3) of the Act, where the Committee receives an application, it shall consider whether the application meets the criteria established under section 173 and, for that purpose, may consult in confidence with such persons as it considers appropriate.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## **Part C, Section 2: Checklist**

Prior to submitting your application, please check that it includes:

* A completed application form;
* A signed and dated declaration;
* Current Tax Clearance Certificate or

Tax Reference Number and Tax Clearance Access Number;

* Where relevant, copies of any articles or addresses/presentations (in pdf or electronic format where possible).

Please also confirm with your nominated referees that they have submitted their references, one of which is to be from a current or former judge and one from a legal practitioner.

**Please note that incomplete applications may be returned to the Applicant without being assessed.**

1. Delete as appropriate. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)