

PRESS RELEASE

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6 September 2004



NORTHERN IRELAND

**COURT
SERVICE**

Office of the Clerk of the Crown for Northern Ireland

Her Majesty the Queen has appointed:

- the Honourable Mr Justice Sheil to be a Lord Justice of Appeal in Northern Ireland,
- Mr Donnell Justin Patrick Deeny QC to be a Judge of the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland and
- Miss Melody Jane McReynolds, Mr Patrick Lynch QC, Mrs Gemma Mary Loughran and Mr Philip Alton James Babington as Judges of the County Court in Northern Ireland
- All with effect from 6 September 2004.

The judges were sworn in to office as part of the ceremony to mark the opening of the new legal year in Northern Ireland which was attended by Lord Falconer who is the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor, Sir Brian Kerr the Lord Chief Justice and the other judges of the Supreme Court, Lord Goldsmith the Attorney General and representatives from the judiciary in England and Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

Notes to editors

Mr Justice Sheil was educated at Clongowes Wood College, Queen's University, Belfast and Trinity College, Dublin. He was called to the Bar in 1964, took silk in 1975 and was appointed to the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland in 1989. He was a Senator of Queen's University, Belfast from 1987 to 1999.

He is married with one son.

Mr Deeny was educated at Clongowes Wood College, Trinity College, Dublin and Queen's University,

Belfast. He was called to the Bar in 1974 and took silk in 1989. He is a member of the English Bar and is Senior Counsel in the Republic of Ireland. He is a former Chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and a High Sheriff of Belfast.

Mr Deeny is married and has four children.

Miss McReynolds was educated at Friend's School, Lisburn and Queen's University, Belfast. She was called to the Bar in 1982. She lectured part-time in Queen's University from 1984 until 1996 and was appointed as Master of the Probate and Matrimonial Division in the High Court in February 1999.

Miss McReynolds is married and has two children.

Mr Lynch was educated at St. Vincent's College, Castleknock, Dublin and at Queen's University, Belfast. He was called to the Bar in 1975 and took silk in 1999.

Mr Lynch is married with two children.

Mrs Loughran was educated at Queen's University, Belfast. She is a former Director of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board, former member of the Senate of Queen's University, Belfast, a current member of the Board of Visitors of Queen's University, Belfast and a Director of Trócaire.

Mrs Loughran is married with a family.

Mr Babington was educated at Queen's University, Belfast and has practised as a solicitor for almost 25 years. He has been a member of the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal since 1987 and was a Non-Executive Director of Foyle Health and Social Services Trust for 8 years until April 2004.

He is married with a family.

If you have any further queries about this or other court related matters please contact:

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