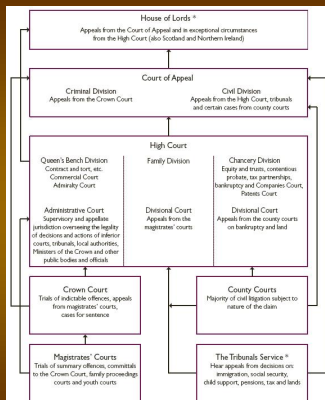


John J Thornhill
Liverpool City Bench

Deputy Chairman





Magistrates

- Instituted 1361
- 30,000
- Between 18-65 (retire at 70)
- No legal qualification required
- No remuneration
- Community Courts (334)
- Part time - at least 26 sittings a year

Judges

- Ancient Office updated
- 640 circuit judges 1,200 recorders
- From 45 (retire at 72)
- Must be either Barrister or Solicitor
- Salaried (LCJ £230,400 - CC £123,200)
- National (RCJ) and Regional Courts (90)
- Full-time

Magistrates Education and Training

- extensive interview process
- assigned mentor to support
- regular appraisals - bench member and chairman
- regular training
 - Criminal Justice Acts
 - performance of duties in court
 - Diversity
 - new sentencing guidelines and practices

Judges Education and Training

- Legal Degree or equivalent
- Qualification as Barrister / Solicitor
- 7 year Practice rule
- Competition for appointment
 - Application
 - Short courses
 - Appraised sittings at certain levels
 - Appointment
- Basic Continuing Training

Magistrates Duties in Court

- bail applications
- manage case progression
- mode of trial process
- decide legal issues
- decide innocence or guilt
- sentence guilty offenders



Magistrates' Other Duties

- Issuing search warrants
- Witnessing documents
- Hearing statutory Declarations



Judges Duties in Court

- bail applications
- manage case progression
- decide legal issues
- manage trials
- manage appeals with magistrates
- sentence guilty offenders



Sentencing intention

- Punishment
- Reduction in crime / deterrence
- Reform and rehabilitation
- Protection of the public
- Reparation



Demand for prison places

87% from 640 circuit judges 1,200 recorders at
90 Crown Courts
13% from 30,000 magistrates
334 Magistrates' Courts

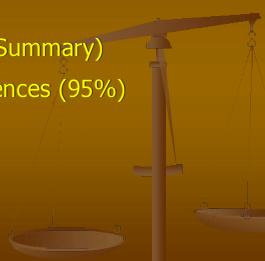
Average Sentence Length

Mags	3 months (constant)
Crown	25 months (up from 21 months)



Advantages

- less costly
- quicker (Simple Speedy Summary)
- majority less serious offences (95%)
- no jury
- one stop shop



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