

Senate Committee Submission

With relation to this inquiry, I make the following suggestions:

1. Judges should be trained as judges. Aspiring law students gauged suitable after the the end of year two Law studies should be channelled into a separate stream and trained as judges.
2. Having graduated as a judge, graduates should be appointed to the lowest courts.
3. Appointments to higher courts should come from the best of those in the lower courts.
4. Appointment of judges should be by the Governor General after taking advice from the Judicial Commission (see below).
5. Judges should have the right to resign or retire at any time.
6. The Governor General should have the power to dismiss a judge for incompetence, incapability or impropriety on receipt of a petition; or on advice from:
 - a. the Parliament,
 - b. the Judicial Commission,
 - c. the Judicial Ombudsman, or
 - d. the Society of Judges.
7. There should be a Judicial Ombudsman appointed by the Governor General after taking advice from:
 - a. the Judicial Commission,
 - b. the Judicial Ombudsman, or
 - c. the Society of Judges.
8. A Judicial Commission should be established. It should be chaired by the Judicial Ombudsman and consist of eight other persons appointed by the Governor General. Four of these should be persons recommended by the Society of Judges and four should be lay members of society recommended by Non-Government Organisations.
9. The Judicial Commission should make recommendations to the Governor General on Judicial appointments and dismissal of Judges.