

Judiciary act

2016 no. 50 7 June

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Where this Act mentions a minister or a ministry without specifying or referring to a particular field, it means the **Minister of Justice** or the **Ministry of Justice**, which is responsible for this Act. [Information on the fields covered by ministries according to presidential ruling.](#)

Chapter I. The Judiciary.

■ Article 1. *Supreme Court of Iceland*

☐ The Supreme Court of Iceland is the state's highest court and is based in Reykjavík.

■ Article 2. *Court of Appeal.*

☐ Court of Appeal is an appellate court, and is based in Reykjavík.

■ Article 3. *Number of District Courts and their Jurisdictions.*

☐ There are eight district courts. Their titles, residences, and jurisdictions are as follows:

1. The District Court of Reykjavík is based in Reykjavík, and the following municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Reykjavík, Seltjarnarnesbær, Mosfellsbær, and Kjósarhreppur.

2. The District Court of West Iceland is based in Borgarnes, and the following municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Akraneskaupstaður, Hvalfjarðarsveit, Skorradalshreppur, Borgarbyggð, Dalabyggð, Eyja- og Miklaholtshreppur, Helgafellssveit, Snæfellsbær, Grundarfjarðarbær, and Stykkishólmsbær.

3. The District Court of the Westfjords is based in Ísafjörður, and the following

municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Reykhólahreppur, Vesturbyggð, Tálknafjarðarhreppur, Bolungarvíkurkaupstaður, Ísafjarðarbær, Súðavíkurhreppur, Árneshreppur, Kaldrananeshreppur, and Strandabyggð.

4. The District Court of Northwest Iceland is based in Sauðárkrúkur, and the following municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Húnaþing vestra, Blönduósbær, Húnavatnshreppur, Sveitarfélagið Skagaströnd, Skagabyggð, Sveitarfélagið Skagafjörður, and Akrahreppur.

5. The District Court of Northeast Iceland is based in Akureyri, and the following municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Fjallabyggð, Dalvíkurbyggð, Hörgársveit, Akureyrarkaupstaður, Eyjafjarðarsveit, Svalbarðsstrandarhreppur, Grýtubakkahreppur, Norðurþing, Tjörneshreppur, Þingeyjarsveit, Skútustaðahreppur, Svalbarðshreppur, and Langanesbyggð.

6. The District Court of East Iceland is based in Egilsstaðir, and the following municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Vopnafjarðarhreppur, Fljótsdalshreppur, Fljótsdalshérað, Borgarfjarðarhreppur, Seyðisfjarðarkaupstaður, Fjarðabyggð, Breiðdalshreppur, Djúpavogshreppur, and Sveitarfélagið Hornafjörður.

7. The District Court of South Iceland is based in Selfoss, and the following municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Skaftárhreppur, Mýrdalshreppur, Ásahreppur, Flóahreppur, Bláskógabyggð, Rangárþing eystra, Rangárþing ytra, Skeiða- og Gnúpverjahreppur, Hrunamannahreppur, Grímsnes- og Grafningshreppur, Hveragerðisbær, Sveitarfélagið Ölfus, Vestmannaeyjabær, and Sveitarfélagið Árborg.

8. The District Court of Reykjanes is based in Hafnarfjörður, and the following municipalities fall under its jurisdiction: Grindavíkurbær, Sandgerðisbær, Sveitarfélagið Garður, Sveitarfélagið Vogar, Reykjanesbær, Hafnarfjarðarkaupstaður, Garðabær, and Kópavogsbær.

☐ The jurisdiction of each district court shall consist of one judicial district. The Minister may set this aside by way of regulation ¹⁾ after a review from the relevant district court and the Judicial Administration.

☐ In the event that the name or boundaries of a municipality mentioned in Paragraph 1 are changed, or if two or more such municipalities merge, then the resulting new municipality shall be considered to belong to the judicial district to which the older municipality or municipalities belonged. If one or two municipalities belonging to separate judicial districts according to the provisions of Paragraph 1 merge, the Minister shall determine by way of regulation to which judicial district the new municipality is to belong until a new arrangement is installed by way of legislation.

¹⁾[Rg. 1122/2017.](#)

■ **Article 4. Other Courts.**

☐ [The Retrial Court operates in accordance with Chapter IX.] ¹⁾ Other courts are the Labour Court and the Court of Impeachment. Provisions in other legislation apply to them.

¹⁾[Act No. 47/2020, Article 1](#)

Chapter II. Joint Judicial Administration.

■ **Article 5. The Judicial Administration.**

☐ The Judicial Administration is an independent agency which oversees the joint administration of the courts.

■ **Article 6.** *Board of the Judicial Administration.*

□ The Minister appoints five persons to the board of the Judicial Administration. One of them is to be elected by the judges of the Supreme Court from their own ranks, and that person is to be chairman, another is to be elected by the judges of the Court of Appeal from their own ranks and the third is to be elected by district judges from their own ranks. The fourth is to be elected by employees of the courts other than judges. The Minister appoints one without a nomination and that person shall not be a court employee. The board's period of appointment is five years, and members are appointed in such a way that the period of appointment of one board member expires each year. Each one of these five persons is to have an alternate who is appointed and, where applicable, nominated in the same way as the main appointee. The same person will not be appointed for the seat of a regular member more than twice in a row. In the event that a judge, who has a seat in the judicial administration or is an alternate for one who does, leaves office before the end of their period of appointment or if they are released from their position within the board, another one shall be elected and appointed in their stead to serve out the rest of their period of appointment. The Minister appoints for the same period a new person for the board if the one he appoints without nomination leaves their position before the end of their period of appointment.

□ The board of the Judicial Administration appoints for a spell of five years its managing director, and that person is empowered by the board to handle the day to day operation of the Judicial Administration. The managing director engages other staff in the Judicial Administration. The managing director is an officeholder, and in other respects the general rules regarding such state employees applies to their position. A person is only eligible for the office once they have received a professional certification or completed an undergraduate degree along with a master's degree in law.

□ The board of the Judicial Administration decides where its operation takes place.

□ [The Minister] ¹⁾ determines the fee for sitting on the board of the Judicial Administration.

¹⁾[Act No. 130/2016, Article 8](#)

■ **Article 7** *Role of the Board of the Judicial Administration.*

□ The board of the Judicial Administration assesses and makes recommendations to the Minister regarding necessary appropriations to the Judicial Administration, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal and joint appropriations to the district courts. If the recommendations of the Judicial Administration are set aside, the Minister of Justice shall inform the appropriations committee about the reasons therefore, along with accounting for the deviations in the budget bill.

□ The courts are to be defined as a special field in the budget bill and in the budget. In the budget, there shall be itemised provisions for appropriations to the Supreme Court of Iceland, the Court of Appeal, jointly to the district courts and to the Judicial Administration. The board of the Judicial Administration divides among the district courts funds which are to be provided jointly in the budget.

□ The board of the Judicial Administration determines the number of district judges and other employees at each district court and sets general rules regarding the transfer of judges between them.

□ The board of the Judicial Administration sets rules regarding leave of absence for judges and provides the judges with leaves of absence.

☐ The board of the Judicial Administration sets rules for the handling of cases within the Judicial Administration and determines the division of labour between the board and the managing director, along with determining which administrative tasks are to be entrusted to the judicial administration and which are to be handled by the directors of the courts to the extent not provided for in the legislation.

☐ [The board of the Judicial Administration sets rules ¹⁾ regarding the publication of the judgments and rulings of the district courts, [The Retrial Court], ²⁾ the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court.] ³⁾

¹⁾ Regulation 1178/2022. ²⁾ [Act No. 47/2020, Article 2](#) ³⁾ [Act No. 76/2019, Article 41](#)

■ **Article 8** *Role of the Judicial Administration.*

☐ In addition to that which is provided for in other provisions of this act and other acts, the role of the Judicial Administration is as follows:

1. To represent the joint administration of the courts and to appear before the government, the media, and others on behalf of all the courts.

2. To organise the continuing education of judges and other employees in the service of the courts.

3. To handle the management of information and technology for the courts, oversee the development of those matters, and make suggestions regarding them as needed.

4. To gather and publish information regarding the number and handling of cases before the courts and issue an annual report regarding its operation and that of the courts.

5. To contribute to coordination and supervise the implementation of rules regarding the dockets of courts, court records, voting records, and equipment for video and audio recording in preliminary readings at the courts, according to this Act, the Act on Judicial Procedures in Civil Cases, and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

6. To set operating procedure ¹⁾ for coordinated case law. The board of the Judicial Administration can decide to make such rules binding if they do not apply to the handling of a court case to the extent that the judge is solely responsible for it.

7. To make recommendations for whatever may improve the work of the courts and in the legislation which applies thereto.

¹⁾ Regulation 761/2024, cf. regulation 1661/2024.

■ **Article 9.** *Judicial Affairs Committee*

☐ To hold the offices provided for in this act, the Judicial Administration appoints three persons to sit on the Judicial Affairs Committee, as well as the same number of alternates. One committee member is to be appointed in accordance with the nomination of the Icelandic Judges' Association, one in accordance with the nomination of the legal department of an Icelandic university and one is appointed by the Judicial Administration without nomination. The last one of the aforementioned shall be the chairman of the committee and fulfil the conditions for being appointed to the office of Supreme Court judge, except for the age limit. The nominating parties shall nominate a man and a woman for the seat of a main member, as well as for an alternate, but this may be set aside where it is objectively impossible to nominate both a man and a woman. In that event, the nominating party shall account for the reasons for this. As persons are appointed for the committee, the Judicial Administration shall ensure that the requirements of the Act on the Equal Position and Equal Rights of Women and Men are fulfilled when appointing persons for councils and committees. The period of

appointment for the committee members is six years, and members shall be appointed in such a way that the period of appointment of one committee member expires each year. The same person will not be appointed for the seat of a committee member more than twice in a row.

☐ Practising judges shall not be appointed for the committee.

☐ The Judicial Affairs Committee is independent and autonomous in its activities and the resolutions of the committee will not be appealed to another administrative body. The provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act applies to the committee's handling of cases.

☐ The Judicial Affairs Committee is based at the Judicial Administration. [The Minister] ¹⁾ determines the fee for sitting on the committee.

¹⁾ [*Act No. 130/2016, Article 8*](#)

■ **Article 10** *Role of the Judicial Affairs Committee*

☐ The role of the Judicial Affairs Committee is further defined as follows:

1. To set general rules ¹⁾ regarding which kinds of extra jobs and ownership of companies or enterprise, or participation and work on behalf of other companies and organisations, can be considered to conform to the responsibilities of judgeship and to resolve matters of dispute regarding such matters, cf. Article 45.

2. To keep and publish a register of the extra jobs of judges and the jobs which a judge did before taking office. The Judicial Affairs Committee, in collaboration with the Judicial Administration, sets rules ¹⁾ regarding which information about the extra jobs of judges are to be published and in which manner.

3. To receive and resolve complaints from anyone who feels that they may have been wronged by a judge or, as the case may be, a judge's assistant, in their work, and such complaints as are referred to them by the representative of a court or a minister, cf. Article 47.

☐ The opinions of the Judicial Affairs Committee are to be published. The Judicial Affairs Committee, in collaboration with the Judicial Administration, sets rules regarding the publication of the committee's opinions.

¹⁾ *Regulation 1165/2017, cf. Regulation 1499/2023.*

Chapter III. Appointment of Judges

■ **Article 11.** *Selection Committee on the Qualifications for Judgeship*

☐ The minister appoints five regular members and as many alternates for the Selection Committee to assess the qualifications of applicants for the positions of Supreme Court judges, Court of Appeal judges and district judges [as well as for the position of judge at the Retrial Court]. ¹⁾ One of the committee members shall be nominated by the Supreme Court and that person shall be the chairman of the committee. One of the committee members shall be nominated by the Court of Appeal. The Judicial Administration nominates the third committee member, who shall not be a practising judge, and the Icelandic Bar Association nominates the fourth. The fifth committee member shall be elected by the Alþingi. The nominating parties shall nominate a man and a woman for the seat of a main member, as well as for an alternate, but this may be set aside where it is objectively impossible to nominate both a man and a woman. In that event, the nominating party shall account for the reasons for this. The Minister shall make sure that the requirements of the Act on the Equal Position and Equal Rights of Women and Men are fulfilled when appointing persons for councils and committees. The committee's period of appointment is five years, and appointments shall be

made in such a way that the period of appointment of one committee member expires each year. The same person will not be appointed for the seat of a committee member more than twice in a row.

☐ The Selection Committee is based at the Judicial Administration.

¹⁾[Act No. 47/2020, Article 3](#)

■ **Article 12** *Report of the Selection Committee and Appointment of Judges.*

☐ The committee shall provide the Minister with a reasoned, written report on the applicants for judgeship. The report of the Selection Committee shall contain an opinion as to which applicant is best qualified to be selected for the position. However, two or more applicants may be deemed equally qualified. In other respects the Minister further regulates ¹⁾ the work of the committee.

☐ A person whom the Selection Committee has not deemed the most qualified among the applicants, either alone or along with others, may not be appointed as a judge. This may be set aside, however, if the Alþingi approves the recommendation of the Minister for authorisation to appoint for the position another named applicant who, in the estimation of the Selection Committee, fulfils all the requirements of being appointed for the position. In that case the Minister shall submit such a recommendation to the Alþingi no later than two weeks after receiving the report of the Selection Committee or before the next time the Alþingi reconvenes after the report has been submitted and the recommendation must be approved within a month from the time it was submitted. Otherwise, the Minister is bound by the report of the Selection Committee.

¹⁾ *Regulation 970/2020.*

Chapter IV. Supreme Court of Iceland

■ **Article 13.** *General Necessary Qualifications.*

☐ Seven judges, appointed for an indefinite term by the President of Iceland in accordance with the recommendation of the Minister, serve on the Supreme Court of Iceland.

☐ One may only be appointed for the position of Supreme Court judge who fulfils the following conditions:

1. Has reached the age of 35.
 2. Is an Icelandic citizen.
 3. Is mentally and physically fit to fill the position.
 4. Is legally competent and has never lost the right to manage their own financial affairs.
 5. Has neither been [convicted of a criminal act, after 18 years of age], ¹⁾ nor displayed conduct that may diminish the trust that judges are generally required to enjoy.
 6. Has received a professional certification or completed an undergraduate degree along with a master's degree in law.
 7. Has worked for at least three years as a Court of Appeal judge, district court judge, [a lawyer with the right to argue a case before the Supreme Court], ²⁾ a law professor, a chief of police, a prosecutor, a permanent secretary, a chief of staff in the Ministry responsible for matters of courts and justice or the parliamentary ombudsman, or has for the same length of time worked at another job alike to it which provides comparable legal experience.
 8. Is considered competent to hold the position given their job history and legal knowledge.
- ☐ One may not be appointed for the position of Supreme Court judge who is, or has been,

married to a judge already appointed thereto or related to such a judge or married into their family, or is a descendant of any kind.

¹⁾[Act No. 141/2018, Article 4](#) ²⁾[Act No. 117/2016, Article 77](#)

■ **Article 14.** *President and Vice-President of the Supreme Court.*

□ Supreme Court judges elect a president for a term of five years and a vice-president to serve for the same period of time. The vice-president assumes the responsibilities of the president when they are absent or unable to attend. Should the president or vice-president ask to be released from that duty or should they leave the judgeship before the end of the term, the judges shall elect another in their stead to serve out their term. The Supreme Court announces the election of a president and vice-president with an advertisement in *Lögbirtingablaðið*.

□ The president is the administrator of the Supreme Court and is responsible for the operation and finances of the Supreme Court, subject to the limitations which stem from other legal provisions. The president administers, among other things, the operations of the Supreme Court which are not part of court procedure and apportions responsibilities to judges and other employees. They are to oversee the work of judges and other employees. They communicate with the Judicial Administration regarding matters which appertain to its office and are, among other things, responsible for any tasks with which the Judicial Administration may entrust them. The president in other respects represents the court and speaks for it regarding its particular issues.

□ In the event that neither the president nor vice-president is at work or neither of them is able to participate in the handling of a case or another act in office, the judge with seniority as an appointed Supreme Court judge will act in the president's stead.

■ **Article 15.** *Employees of the Supreme Court.*

□ The president of the Supreme Court appoints for the court a chief of staff for a term of five years in accordance with the decision of the judges there. The chief of staff manages the day to day operation of the court in accordance with the further decision of the president and as their proxy, along with handling any other responsibilities apportioned by the president. The chief of staff of the Supreme Court is an officeholder, and in other respects the general rules regarding such state employees applies to their position. A person is only eligible for the office once they have received a professional certification or completed an undergraduate degree as well as a master's degree in law. [The board of the Judicial Administration determines the wages and terms of employment of the chief of staff.] ¹⁾

□ The president hires for the Supreme Court assistants with a legal education and other employees and determines their purview and position. The hiring and termination of employees of the Supreme Court are governed by the provisions of law on the rights and obligations of government employees.

¹⁾[Act No. 130/2016, Article 8](#)

■ **Article 16** *Appointment of the Court.*

□ Five judges preside over each trial before the court, in accordance with the decision of the president. In particularly important cases, however, the president may decide to appoint seven judges for the court. Also, the president may decide that one judge [or three] ¹⁾ should hold a session to make a decision regarding the handling of a case or to pronounce a judgement.

□ If a case is extensive, the president may decide that a judge not otherwise involved therein should hear the arguments and take a seat on the court if another judge is later unable to

attend.

☐ The Supreme Court president presides over the court if he has a seat there. Otherwise, the responsibility falls to the vice-president. Should neither of them be involved in the case, the one presiding over the case will be the judge involved in the case who has been a Supreme Court judge for the longest time.

☐ The judges shall typically make a decision regarding the right of appeal and whether an appeal will be deliberated, with the majority of votes deciding the matter.

☐ When the Supreme Court is, in accordance with the law, involved in something other than the case before the court, all regular judges take part in making the decision unless the law states otherwise. Should a judge be unable to attend or not be fit to do so, an auxiliary judge is typically not called to serve in their stead, pursuant to Article 17, unless fewer than five Supreme Court judges are able to participate in making a decision. [The Supreme Court may entrust its president with the responsibility of determining several lesser cases alone.] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 90/2017, Article 1](#)

■ **Article 17.** *Auxiliary Judges.*

☐ In the event that fewer than five or, as the case may be, seven Supreme Court judges have been involved in a case due to incompetency, leave or other reasons in the short term, the Minister will appoint judges, in accordance with the recommendation of the Supreme Court judge, to serve on the case. [An auxiliary judge shall fulfil the requirements of being appointed for the position of Supreme Court judge, cf. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13. ¹⁾ A judge may be appointed in accordance with this clause even if they have reached the age of 70.

☐ Should all Supreme Court judges be incompetent to serve on the court in a particular case, the Minister shall appoint judges for the court pursuant to the recommendation of a committee operating pursuant to Chapter III. Once the court has been installed, the auxiliary judges select one from their own ranks to preside there.

☐ An auxiliary judge shall only be relieved of their duties according to the same rules which pertain to appointed judges.

☐ The Supreme Court determines the fee of auxiliary judges for each case on which they serve and it is to be paid by the state treasury.

¹⁾[Act No. 134/2022, Article 17](#)

■ **Article 18.** *Leave of Supreme Court Judges.*

☐ A Supreme Court judge will be granted a leave of absence for reasons other than illness for no longer than twelve consecutive months.

☐ The position of the judge will not be filled during the time of the leave of absence unless absolutely necessary, for example if more than one judge is unable to attend. Once the recommendation of the committee operating pursuant to Chapter III has been forthcoming, the Minister appoints judges for positions during the leave of absence of a regular judge. [The installed judge shall in that case fulfil the requirements of being appointed for the position of Supreme Court judge, cf. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13.] ¹⁾ In cases where a judge is to be appointed for longer than six months, the position shall be advertised and the provisions of Chapter III shall be complied with.

☐ Despite the provisions of Paragraph 1, a Supreme Court judge may be granted a leave of absence at their own request for up to six years to enable them to take a seat on an

international tribunal or to work at an international institution. In that case, the office shall be advertised as vacant during the period of leave and the provisions of Chapter III shall be complied with.

☐ One is only installed in the position of a Supreme Court judge if one fulfils the requirements of being appointed for that position. A judge may be appointed in accordance with Paragraph 2 even if they have reached the age of 70. While the appointment takes place, the person being appointed is granted the same position as the appointed judge except insomuch as there is a certain time frame determined for their job.

¹⁾[Act No. 134/2022, Article 18](#)

■ **Article 19.** *Court Sessions.*

☐ The Supreme Court holds court sessions in Reykjavík unless there is a particular reason for doing otherwise.

☐ The Supreme Court may decide to reduce or temporarily suspend its regular operation to fit in the leaves of absence of judges and other employees.

■ **Article 20.** *Publication of Judgements, etc.*

☐ Court records, judgement books, voting records and dockets are subject to rules set by the Supreme Court in collaboration with the Judicial Administration.

☐ The judgements of the Supreme Court shall be published along with the pertinent rulings of the Court of Appeal and the district courts in each case. As judgements are published, information regarding the private, financial, or business interests of individuals or legal entities shall be removed, as well as information regarding the security of the state and matters of defence regarding which it is reasonable that secrecy be upheld, in accordance with rules set by the court. ... ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 76/2019, Article 42](#)

Chapter V. Court of Appeal.

■ **Article 21.** *General Necessary Qualifications.*

☐ The Court of Appeal has [16 judges] ¹⁾ appointed by the President of Iceland for an indefinite term in accordance with the recommendation of the Minister.

☐ One may only be appointed for the position of Court of Appeal judge who fulfils the following conditions:

1. Has reached the age of 35.
2. Is an Icelandic citizen.
3. Is mentally and physically fit to fill the position.
4. Is legally competent and has never lost the right to manage their own financial affairs.
5. Has neither been [convicted of a criminal act after 18 years of age], ²⁾ nor displayed conduct that may diminish the trust that judges are generally required to enjoy.
6. Has received a professional certification or completed an undergraduate degree along with a master's degree in law.
7. Has worked for at least three years as ... ³⁾ a district court judge, [a lawyer with the right to argue a case before the Supreme Court], ⁴⁾ a law professor or associate professor, a chief of police, a prosecutor, a permanent secretary, a chief of staff in the Ministry responsible for matters of courts and justice, or the parliamentary ombudsman, or has for the same length of time worked at another job alike to it which provides comparable legal experience.

8. Is considered competent to hold the position given their job history and legal knowledge.

☐ One may not be appointed for the position of Court of Appeal judge who is, or has been, married to a judge already appointed thereto or related to such a judge or married into their family, or is a descendant of any kind.

¹⁾[Act No. 23/2023, Article 1](#) ²⁾[Act No. 141/2018, Article 5](#) ³⁾[Act No. 90/2017, Article 2](#) ⁴⁾[Act No. 117/2016, Article 77](#)

■ **Article 22.** *President and Vice-President of the Court of Appeal.*

☐ Court of Appeal judges elect a president for a term of five years and a vice-president to serve for the same period of time. The vice-president assumes the responsibilities of the president when they are absent or unable to attend. Should the president or vice-president ask to be released from that duty or should they leave the judgeship before the end of the term, the judges shall elect another in their stead to serve out their term. The Court of Appeal announces the election of a president and vice-president with an advertisement in the Legal Notice Journal.

☐ The president is responsible for supervising the Court of Appeal and is responsible for the operation and finances of the Court of Appeal, subject to the limitations resulting from other legal provisions. The president administers, among other things, the operations of the Court of Appeal which are not part of court procedure and apportions responsibilities to judges and other employees. They are to oversee the work of judges and other employees. They communicate with the Judicial Administration regarding matters which appertain to its office and are, among other things, responsible for any tasks with which the Judicial Administration may entrust them. The president in other respects represents the court and speaks for it regarding its particular issues.

☐ In the event that neither the president or the vice-president of the Court of Appeal are at work or neither of them can serve on a case or handle another task related to their position, the president is replaced by the judge who's been an appointed Court of Appeal judge for the longest time.

■ **Article 23.** *Employees of the Court of Appeal.*

☐ The president of the Court of Appeal appoints for the court a chief of staff for a term of five years in accordance with the decision of the judges of the court. The chief of staff manages the day to day operation of the court in accordance with the further decision of the president and as their proxy, along with handling any other responsibilities apportioned by the president. The chief of staff of the Court of Appeal is an officeholder and in other respects the general rules regarding such state employees apply to their position. A person is only eligible for the office once they have received a professional certification or completed an undergraduate degree as well as a master's degree in law. [The board of the Judicial Administration determines the wages and terms of employment of the chief of staff.] ¹⁾

☐ The president hires for the Court of Appeal assistants with a legal education and other employees and determines their purview and position. The hiring and termination of employees of the Court of Appeal are governed by the provisions of the Government Employees Act.

¹⁾[Act No. 130/2016, Article 8](#)

■ **Article 24.** *Appointment of the Court.*

☐ Three judges at the Court of Appeal serve on cases before the court with the exceptions

mentioned in the Act on Judicial Procedures in Civil Cases and the Code of Criminal Procedure. Also, the president may decide that one judge should hold a session to make a decision regarding the handling of a case or to pronounce a judgement. The president shall assign cases and determine who is to be Chief Judge at each time. As cases are assigned, the president shall make sure that the work load is as evenly distributed among the judges as possible. An effort shall be made, however, to ensure that it is coincidental which case is assigned to which judge.

☐ A judge is permitted to decline an assigned case due to connections with its subjects, parties, representatives, or lawyers, even though they aren't deemed incompetent to serve on it, provided that their request is well reasoned and that another Court of Appeal judge is available to serve on the case. The president considers such requests.

☐ If a case is extensive, the president may decide that a judge not otherwise involved therein should hear the arguments and take a seat on the court if another judge is later unable to attend.

☐ Three judges shall make a decision regarding the right of appeal and whether an appeal will be deliberated, with the majority of votes deciding the matter.

☐ When the Court of Appeal is, in accordance with the law, involved in something other than the case before the court, all regular judges take part in making the decision, unless the law states otherwise. However, should a judge be unable to attend or not be competent, an auxiliary judge is typically not called to serve in their stead, in accordance with Article 25 The Court of Appeal may entrust its president with the responsibility of determining several lesser cases alone.

■ **Article 25. Auxiliary Judges.**

☐ In the event that fewer than three Court of Appeal judges have been involved in a case due to incompetency, leave or other reasons in the short term, the Minister will appoint judges, in accordance with the recommendation of the Court of Appeal judge, to serve on the case. [An auxiliary judge shall fulfill the requirements of being appointed for the position of Court of Appeal judge, cf. Article 21. ¹⁾ A judge may be appointed in accordance with this clause even if they have reached the age of 70,

☐ [If no judge on the Court of Appeal fulfills the necessary qualifications to serve on a case, the president shall issue a unanimous ruling that they shall all recuse themselves from it.] ²⁾ Should all Court of Appeal judges be incompetent to serve on the court in a particular case, the Minister shall appoint judges for the court in accordance with the recommendation of a committee operating pursuant to Chapter III. Once the court has been appointed, the judges select one from their own ranks to preside there.

☐ An auxiliary judge shall only be relieved of their duties according to the same rules which pertain to appointed judges.

☐ The Court of Appeal determines the fee of auxiliary judges for each case on which they serve and it is to be paid out from the state treasury.

¹⁾ [Act No. 134/2022, Article 19](#) ²⁾ [Act No. 76/2019, Article 43](#)

■ **Article 26. Leave of Court of Appeal Judges.**

☐ A Court of Appeal judge will be granted a leave of absence for reasons other than illness for no longer than twelve consecutive months.

☐ The position of the judge will not be filled during the time of the leave of absence unless

absolutely necessary, for example if more than one judge is unable to attend. Once the recommendation of the committee operating pursuant to Chapter III has been received, the Minister appoints judges for positions during the leave of absence of a regular judge. [The installed judge shall in that case fulfill the requirements of being appointed for the position of a Court of Appeal judge, cf. Article 21.] ¹⁾ In cases where a judge is to be appointed for longer than six months, the position shall be advertised and the provisions of Chapter III shall be complied with.

☐ Despite the provisions of Paragraph 1, a Court of Appeal judge may be granted a leave of absence at their own request for up to six years to be able to take a seat on an international tribunal or to work at another international institution or to be appointed to sit on the Supreme Court. In that case, the position shall be advertised as vacant during the period of leave and the provisions of Chapter III shall be complied with.

☐ One is only installed in the position of Court of Appeal judges if one fulfils the requirements of being appointed for that position. A judge may be appointed in accordance with Paragraph 2 even if they have reached the age of 70. While the appointment takes place, the person being appointed is granted the same position as the appointed judge except insomuch as there is a certain time frame determined for their job.

¹⁾ [Act No. 134/2022, Article 20](#)

■ **Article 27.** *Court Sessions.*

☐ The Court of Appeal holds court sessions in Reykjavík unless there is a particular reason for doing otherwise.

☐ The Court of Appeal may decide to reduce or temporarily suspend its regular operation to fit in the leaves of absence of judges and other employees.

■ **Article 28.** *Publication of Judgements, etc.*

☐ Court records, judgement books, voting records and dockets are subject to rules set by the Court of Appeal in collaboration with the Judicial Administration.

☐ The judgements of the Court of Appeal shall be published along with the pertinent resolutions of the district courts in each case. As judgements are published, information regarding the private, financial, or business interests of individuals or legal entities shall be removed, as well as information regarding the security of the state and matters of defence regarding which it is reasonable that secrecy be upheld, in accordance with rules set by the court. ... ¹⁾

¹⁾ [Act No. 76/2019, Article 44](#)

Chapter VI. District Courts.

■ **Article 29.** *General Necessary Qualifications.*

☐ There are 42 district court judges who are appointed to the position of district court judge by the Minister.

☐ One may only be appointed for the position of district court judge who fulfils the following conditions:

1. ... ¹⁾
2. Is an Icelandic citizen.
3. Is mentally and physically fit to fill the position.
4. Is legally competent and has never lost the right to manage their own financial affairs.

5. Has neither been [convicted of a criminal act after 18 years of age], ²⁾ nor displayed conduct that may diminish the trust that judges are generally required to enjoy.

6. Has received a professional certification or completed an undergraduate degree along with a master's degree in law.

7. [Has served as a Member of Parliament for at least three years or has been primarily employed as a lawyer. The duration of the duration of employment on these jobs may be aggregated.] ³⁾

8. Is considered competent to hold the position given their job history and legal knowledge.

¹⁾[Act No. 50/2021, Article 10](#) ²⁾[Act No. 141/2018, Article 6](#) ³⁾[Act No. 134/2022, Article 21](#)

■ **Article 30.** *A District Court Judge's Venue of Work*

☐ The Judicial Administration decides on which district court a judge shall serve. One may decide, however, that up to three district court judges do not have a fixed position at a particular court and that they serve on all district courts, depending on how cases may be allocated to each one at the discretion of the Judicial Administration. The Judicial Administration decides where such judges are to be based.

☐ Decision on venue of work Paragraph 1 shall apply either indefinitely or during a particular period of time. Once the position of district court judge has been vacated a decision shall be made about the first venue of work of the prospective judge before it is advertised as a job vacancy.

☐ As much as possible, the Judicial Administration shall consider the wishes of a district court judge when determining their venue of work.

☐ A district court judge has the right to a change in work venue as soon as possible after having served for three years at the same court or having for three years not had a fixed position at a particular court, provided that the provisions of Paragraph 5 do not preclude finding a position as judge for them at another venue.

☐ A district court judge shall not be moved to a new venue against their will for longer than six months every ten years if they can not reasonably be expected to work there without resettling. This does not apply, however, if a judge must be moved from their venue of work due to a permanent reduction in the number of judges there.

☐ If a district court judge with a fixed position at a district court is needed to work on a particular case at another district court, including a court with more than one judge, the Judicial Administration will decide who gets the job. A judge is obligated to comply with the decision of the Judicial Administration.

■ **Article 31.** *Chief Judge.*

☐ The Judicial Administration appoints a Chief Judge for a term of five years at a time. Wherever three or more judges have a fixed position at a district court they elect one person from their own ranks for the job, but where there are two judges the Judicial Administration nominates one of them for the job if they are unable to come to an agreement on the selection. An election or a nomination is not binding for the Judicial Administration with regard to the appointment of a Chief Judge. If a district court only has one judge, they shall be appointed Chief Judge there. The appointment of a Chief Judge is not upset in the case of an increased or decreased number of judges at a particular court during the period of appointment.

☐ At a district court where three or more district judges have a fixed position, they may elect an auxiliary Chief Judge, but otherwise, the judge at the court who has had the longest period

of appointment as a district court judge is deemed to be the Chief Judge's substitute.

☐ Should a judge who serves as a Chief Judge be transferred to another court or relieved of their duties or their position as district court judge, a new Chief Judge shall be appointed in accordance with Paragraph 1.

☐ In addition to working as a judge, a Chief Judge oversees the work of the district court and is responsible for its operation. A Chief Judge apportions tasks to judges and other employees, they can divide the judges into divisions and they allocate cases to judges or their divisions. A Chief Judge hires other court employees besides district court judges and terminates their employment. They are obligated to oversee the work of judges and other employees and maintain discipline over them to the extent not entrusted to others in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII. They are personally responsible for allocating funds which the Judicial Administration provides for the court, they communicate with the Judicial Administration regarding the matters which appertain to its office and is, among other things, responsible for any tasks with which the Judicial Administration may entrust them. The Chief Judge in other respects represents the court and speaks for it regarding its particular issues.

■ **Article 32.** *District Court Employees.*

☐ To assist the judges, lawyers may be hired who meet the requirements of clauses 2-6 of Paragraph 2, Article 29. An assistant shall be hired for a term of five years at a time. The hiring and termination of employees of the district courts are in other respects governed by the provisions of law on the rights and obligations of government employees.

☐ A Chief Judge may entrust an assistant with court tasks other than handling and substantively resolving any sort of private cases, where there is a defence, and criminal cases once they've reached the stage of principal proceedings. A Chief Judge is responsible for the tasks of their assistants and can instruct them in anything having to do with their performance.

■ **Article 33.** *Allocation of Cases to Judges.*

☐ One district court judge serves on cases before the court with the exceptions provided for in the Act on Judicial Procedures in Civil Cases and the Code of Criminal Procedure. In the event that more than one judge serve on a case the Chief Judge allocates the case to them as a group and selects one of them to preside over it. Should there be a need for a district court judge from another court to serve on a case the Chief Judge seeks the assistance of the Judicial Administration, which assigns the task to a judge.

☐ As cases are assigned to judges or their divisions, the Chief Judge shall make sure that their work load is as evenly distributed among the judges as possible. An effort shall be made, however, to ensure that it is coincidental which case is assigned to which judge.

☐ When a case is assigned to a division of judges, the members of that division decide which one of them is to handle it.

☐ A judge is permitted to decline an assigned case due to connections with its subject, parties, representative or lawyer, even though they aren't deemed incompetent to serve on it, given that their request is well reasoned and that another judge is available at the court to serve on the case. Also, a judge is permitted to decline an assignment due to a particular amount of work or on the grounds that it is not equitable. The Chief Judge considers requests such as these but the judge in question is permitted to appeal their decision to the Judicial Administration for resolution. Such an order can not be appealed against to another authority.

☐ The Chief Judge is permitted to withdraw an assignment without a request from the judge

to which a case has been assigned if they do not comply with the orders of the Chief Judge to conclude it within a reasonable space of time or if their illness or comparable happenstance prevents them from handling it. The judge in question is permitted to appeal such a decision of the Chief Justice to the Judicial Administration. Such an order can not be appealed against to another authority.

☐ Should a district court judge recuse themselves from a case, the Chief Judge shall reallocate it, provided that another judge has the necessary qualifications to handle it. If necessary, the Chief Judge may request that the Judicial Administration entrust a judge at another court with the task of assigning the case.

■ **Article 34.** *Auxiliary Judges.*

☐ If no district court judge fulfils the necessary qualifications to serve on a case, the Chief Judge shall declare a single ruling that they shall all recuse themselves from it. Should all judges at the other district courts be incompetent to serve on the case, the Chief Judge shall issue a written, reasoned report on it. Then, once the recommendation of the committee operating pursuant to Chapter III has been received, the Minister shall appoint a judge to handle the case.

☐ An auxiliary judge shall meet the requirements of being appointed for the position of district court judge. In the event that a judge has been installed who deems it necessary that persons other than expert assessors be appointed to the court to serve on the case, or if the law so requires, the Minister shall, at their request, appoint two other judges to handle the case with them, with the one first appointed presiding.

☐ An auxiliary judge shall only be relieved of their duties according to the same rules which pertain to appointed judges.

☐ The Judicial Administration determines the fee of auxiliary judges and it is to be paid by the state treasury.

■ **Article 35.** *District Court Judge Leave.*

☐ A district court judge will be granted a leave of absence for reasons other than illness for no longer than twelve consecutive months. However, the Judicial Administration may make an exception and grant a longer leave of absence, for twelve years at the most, should a judge seek it to pursue studies.

☐ [The position of the district court judge will not be filled during the time of the leave of absence unless absolutely necessary, for example if more than one judge is unable to attend, and only if the Judicial Administration recommends doing so.] ¹⁾ Once a recommendation has been received from the committee operating pursuant to Chapter III, the Minister appoints a district court judge. In cases where a judge is to be appointed for longer than six months, the position shall be advertised and the provisions of Chapter III shall be complied with.

☐ Despite the provisions of Paragraphs 1 and 2, a district court judge may be granted a leave of absence at their own request for up to six years to be able to take a seat on an international tribunal or to work at another international institution or to be appointed to sit on the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court. In that case, the position shall be advertised as vacant during the period of leave and the provisions of Chapter III shall be complied with.

☐ One is only installed in the position of a district court judge if one fulfils the requirements of being appointed for that position. While the appointment takes place, the person being appointed is granted the same position as the appointed judge.

¹⁾ [Act No. 134/2022, Article 22](#)

■ **Article 36.** *Place of Assembly.*

□ Each district court judge shall have a fixed place of assembly where they are based, as well as in each other's judicial district in accordance with the decision of the Minister if the jurisdiction of the court has more than one. Such decisions shall be covered in regulations ¹⁾ set by the Judicial Administration after having received a recommendation from the court in question and they shall be published in section B in the Official Gazette.

□ A district court judge may hold assembly outside the fixed place of assembly to deliberate on a case within their jurisdiction if that is deemed convenient for its operation. With the same proviso, a district court judge may also hold assembly outside of their own jurisdiction in order to deliberate on a case after it has been filed.

¹⁾ *Regulation 1150/2017.*

■ **Article 37.** *Court Sessions.*

□ At district courts regular court sessions are to be held at fixed places of assembly according to the decision of the Judicial Administration, once the recommendations of the Chief Judge have been received. The Judicial Administration announces such a decision with an advertisement in the Legal Notice Journal.

■ **Article 38.** *Publication of District Court Judgements, etc.*

□ The Judicial Administration ... ¹⁾ oversees the publication of the judgements and rulings of district courts.

□ District court judgements in civil actions regarding delicate personal affairs of parties, such as legal majority, relations, inheritance, custody of children, and visitation with them shall not be made public. As other judgements are published, information regarding the private, financial, or business interests of individuals or legal entities shall be removed, as well as information regarding the security of the state and matters of defence regarding which it is reasonable that secrecy be upheld. To that end, judgements in criminal cases shall maintain the anonymity of those mentioned there, although not the charged if they are convicted, unless the persons in question are children. Anonymity shall also be maintained in judgements in civil cases if there is a particular reason to do so. When names are withheld, items which can implicate parties or others with the charges shall also be expunged from the record.

¹⁾ [Act No. 76/2019, Article 45](#)

Chapter VII. Expert Assessors.

■ **Article 39.** *Nomination and Eligibility.*

□ The Judicial Administration nominates a suitable number of persons with expertise in fields other than the law for a term of five years to serve as expert assessors in the main specialties where such expertise is necessary in cases before district courts and the Court of Appeal.

□ The Judicial Administration decides in which disciplines expert assessors shall be nominated and how many belonging to each discipline. Expert assessors shall typically be nominated from the ranks of applicants after a public advertisement or, as the case may be, according to the advice of a judge and the Judicial Administration shall make sure that those who are nominated have sufficient knowledge and experience to be able to do the job of an expert assessor in court cases within a particular specialty. The Judicial Administration is permitted to nominate expert assessors for handling a particular case.

☐ One may only be nominated for the group of expert assessors if one is mature enough and mentally and physically healthy, an Icelandic citizen, is over the age of majority and has reached the age of 25, competent to manage one's financial affairs, and has neither been [convicted of a criminal act after 18 years of age] ¹⁾ nor displayed conduct that may diminish the trust that judges are generally required to enjoy. [A court employee may not be nominated for the group of expert assessors.] ²⁾

☐ The nomination is automatically suspended if the nominated party becomes unfit in accordance with Paragraph 3. Also, the Judicial Administration can suspend the nomination if there are compelling reasons to do so or if the nominated party so wishes.

☐ The party nominated for the group of expert assessors shall give their signed word of honour that they will always handle such work with diligence and objectivity and always comply with the law.

¹⁾[Act No. 141/2018, Article 7](#) ²⁾[Act No. 76/2019, Article 46](#)

■ **Article 40.** *Summons of Expert Assessors.*

☐ When an expert assessor is needed on a case before the court, the district court judge, president of the Court of Appeal or, as the case may be, a presiding judge who has been assigned a case, shall summon one or more of the experts nominated by the Judicial Administration in accordance with Article 39, provided that the person or persons in question have the expertise necessary to resolve the case. Should the person wishing to summon an expert assessor deem none of the persons nominated in accordance with Article 39 to have the expertise necessary to resolve the case, they shall seek the assistance of the Judicial Administration, which will find the expert who the judge in question deems to have the requisite expertise. In other respects, the provisions of Article 39 apply to such a nomination of an expert to serve as an assessor in a particular case.

☐ An expert assessor who has been summoned to serve on a court case before the end of their period of appointment may serve until the case is concluded.

■ **Article 41.** *Rules Regarding Expert Assessors.*

☐ The Judicial Administration sets general rules regarding the payment of the fee and expenses of expert assessors related to their work on court cases.

☐ The Judicial Administration shall ensure that the expert assessors are at least marginally familiar with legal procedure and court proceedings.

☐ The Judicial Administration sets further rules regarding assessment of the knowledge and experience of expert assessors, regarding their nomination and other points not covered by law.

☐ In other respects, other laws which apply to expert assessors apply to their summons, their special qualifications and their work.

Chapter VIII. The Rights and Obligations of Judges

■ **Article 42.** *Scope of Application.*

☐ The provisions of this chapter pertain equally to Supreme Court judges, Court of Appeal judges, and district court judges, unless otherwise stated. They also pertain to expert assessors and the assistants of judges when they hold judicial power, where applicable.

■ **Article 43.** *Independence of Judges.*

☐ Judges are independent in their work and they are personally responsible for carrying it out.

In resolving cases they comply only with the law and never defer to the authority of others. A judicial act will not be reviewed by anyone else unless it has been appealed to a higher court.

□ A judge is obligated to conclude the cases assigned to them within a reasonable time-frame and to carry out their work meticulously and diligently. A judge is obligated to comply with the director of the court regarding matters pertaining to their work other than handling and resolving cases. Judges are also obligated to comply with the legitimate decisions of the Judicial Administration.

□ Judges are obligated to maintain their knowledge of the law. They are to be provided with leave and support to pursue continuing education. The Judicial Administration shall lay down further rules regarding such matters.

■ **Article 44. *The Wages of Judges.***

□ [The wages of the president of the Supreme Court are ISK 2,008,085 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 526,460 per month. The wages of the vice-president of the Supreme Court are ISK 1,891,910 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 459,456 per month. The wages of other Supreme Court judges are ISK 1,844,401 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 459,456 per month.

□ The wages of the president of the Court of Appeal are ISK 1,817,643 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 478,600 per month. The wages of the vice-president of the Court of Appeal are ISK 1,735,005 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 440,312 per month. The wages of other Court of Appeal judges are ISK 1,692,155 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 440,312 per month.

□ The wages of the Chief Judge in Reykjavík are ISK 1,689,042 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 478,600 per month. The wages of the auxiliary Chief Judge in Reykjavík are ISK 1,447,669 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 315,876 per month. The wages of the Chief Judge outside Reykjavík are ISK 1,533,817 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 402,024 per month. The wages of other district court judges are ISK 1,410,328 per month, including payment for overtime and the extra work load of the job, which shall amount to ISK 315,876 per month.

□ Wages according to Paragraphs 1-3 shall be altered on July 1 of each year. Statistics Iceland calculates and publishes, before June 1, the proportional change in the average regular wages of the employees of the state for the previous calendar year. In assessing changes in wages, Statistics Iceland gathers the reports and data which it deems necessary and also conducts its own wage research as it deems necessary. During the payout of wages for July, the Financial Management Authority updates the amount of ISK in accordance with the numbers of Statistics Iceland.

□ Should a judge be on call, the Judicial Administration shall determine the wages for that.

□ Rules set by the Judicial Administration may stipulate that the rules regarding general terms of employment which apply to officeholders, where the wages are determined in special

provisions, cf. Paragraph 2, Article 39 of the Government Employees Act, also apply to judges as applicable, precluding the provisions regarding continuing education, cf. Paragraph 7,

□ A judge has the right, on the one hand, to a paid sabbatical to pursue continuing education and, on the other hand, to a grant for vocational training. A judge has a right to a paid sabbatical every four years to pursue continuing education, with the first one taking place after four years on the job. A judge earns three weeks of leave during each year. However, the accumulated leave cannot exceed six months and is not paid out at the end of employment. A judge maintains their wages when on sabbatical and their expenses for travel and lodging is paid in accordance with the rules of the travel expense committee. The Judicial Administration sets further rules regarding the sabbatical of judges, including regarding maximum expenses for travel and lodging.

□ The state treasury pays the equivalent of 0.92% of the gross pay of each judge into a particular vocational training fund for judges. The expenses incurred by judges during courses, educational conferences, conventions or comparable knowledge acquisition which may be considered vocational training is paid out from the fund. The Minister appoints three persons for the board of the fund, one of them without a nomination, and that person shall be the chairman of the board of the fund, one of them in accordance with the nomination of the Supreme Court of Iceland and another in accordance with the nomination of the Judicial Administration. The board of the fund writes rules for receiving grants from the fund and makes decisions regarding its preservation and investments.] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 79/2019, Article 9](#)

■ **Article 45.** *Additional Duties of Judges*

□ A judge is not permitted to take other jobs or own a share in a company or a business. The Judicial Affairs Committee can make exceptions to this in accordance with rules ¹⁾ which they set in accordance with Clause 1, Paragraph 1, Article 10, if it is clear that such an arrangement is not incompatible with the position of the judge or leads to a risk that they will be unable to properly fulfill their responsibilities of office. Neither is a judge permitted to participate in the activities of other companies or organisations if their operation is obviously incompatible with their responsibilities of office. A judge shall notify the Judicial Affairs Committee of the extra job before they take it on, as well as of any share which they acquire in a company or a business. The same applies when the judge first assumes office. Should there be no mention of permission to do the job or own such a share within the general rules of the committee, the judge shall seek in advance its approval to do so.

□ Should the rules set by the Judicial Affairs Committee stipulate that the permission of the committee is not required to take on an extra job, the judge shall nevertheless notify the committee before taking it on, or notify it of the fact that they have the job when assuming office.

□ The Judicial Affairs Committee can, by way of a reasoned decision, forbid the judge to do the extra job or own a share in a company or a business, or take part in the activities of other companies or organisations which cannot be reconciled with the work of a judge, cf. the provisions of Paragraph 1. A judge is obligated to comply with such a prohibition but is permitted to dispute its legitimacy before a court.

¹⁾ *Regulation 1165/2017, cf. Regulation 1499/2023.*

■ **Article 46.** *Processing of Cases Due to Misconduct of the Director of a Court*

□ In the event that a judge or another court employee considers the director of the court to have infringed against them in their work, they can direct a complaint over such an occurrence to the Judicial Administration. Likewise, the Judicial Administration can, on their own initiative, accept cases pertaining to the administrative work of a director, should they deem it necessary.

□ Should the Judicial Administration consider a director to have committed a violation while on duty, they shall provide them with the opportunity to express themselves regarding the misconduct. In the event that the Judicial Administration deems the explanations of the director insufficient, they can issue them spoken or written instructions or provide them with a written reprimand or a dismissal in the case of a Chief Judge.

■ **Article 47.** *Complaints Regarding the Misconduct of a Judge.*

□ Should the director of a court consider the behaviour of a judge or negligence on duty, or their conduct outside the workplace, to be exceptionable without the provisions of Paragraph 2 applying, the director can instruct them verbally or in writing to redress said behaviour.

□ Should instructions in accordance with Paragraph 1 not be successful or should the director of the court consider the misdemeanors of the judge to be serious enough to warrant more than their instructions alone, they shall direct the matter to the Judicial Affairs Committee with a written and reasoned message. The same shall apply if the judge fails to comply with the decision or prohibition of the Judicial Affairs Committee in accordance with Paragraph 3. Article 45.

□ The Minister is permitted to direct a matter to the Judicial Affairs Committee in the same way as specified in Paragraph 2. The committee is also permitted to deliberate on a case on their own initiative if the facts of the case are such as outlined there.

□ Anyone else who considers a judge to have wronged them in their work is permitted to lodge a written and reasoned complaint thereof to the Judicial Affairs Committee. Such a complaint must be placed in the care of the committee within three months from the occurrence of the event to which the complaint refers, or from the time it was discovered by the complainant. A complaint will not, however, be lodged with the Judicial Affairs Committee after a year has passed since the event referred to in the complaint took place. Complaints regarding the rulings of judges will not be sent to the Judicial Affairs Committee.

■ **Article 48.** *Handling and Conclusion of Cases at the Judicial Affairs Committee*

□ In a missive pursuant to Article 47 to the Judicial Affairs Committee, there shall be an account of the events in question and arguments to support the conclusion that the rights of the complainant have been violated. Should the Judicial Affairs Committee receive [a missive] ¹⁾ which it considers not to warrant further actions, the Committee will [subsequently] ¹⁾ reject it. Otherwise, the committee provides the judge in question with the opportunity to submit written comments within a particular time-frame. The committee is permitted to take on simultaneously [two or more cases] ¹⁾ which are directed at the same judge.

□ Should [the missive be deemed admissible] ¹⁾, the Judicial Affairs Committee shall conclude the matter with a written and reasoned opinion. The committee assesses whether the conduct [described in the missive] ¹⁾ is compatible with diligence in the work of a judge and should it consider [the missive] ¹⁾ to warrant further action, it can, in its opinion, find fault

with the work of the judge in question or reprimand them in accordance with the provisions of Article 49.

☐ In the event that the Judicial Affairs Committee considers the [missive admissible] ¹⁾ the Judicial Administration shall be informed thereof. The committee shall also send a copy of its opinion to the Judicial Administration once it has been prepared.

¹⁾ [Act No. 117/2016, Article 78](#)

■ **Article 49. Reprimand.**

☐ Should a judge be issued a reprimand, it shall be issued to them in a demonstrable form. Also, the decision to reprimand shall be sent to the Minister, the director of the court where the judge works, and to the Judicial Administration.

☐ A judge who has been issued a reprimand may file suit against the Minister on behalf of the state to have it nullified, which in that case must be done within a month from the time it was issued to the judge.

■ **Article 50. Temporary Dismissal.**

☐ A judge may be relieved of their duties temporarily if they have been reprimanded and failed to make improvements within a reasonable time-frame or if they are, within three years, again found guilty of misconduct which warrants a reprimand. The judge will also be temporarily relieved of their duties if they no longer have the necessary qualifications to hold it. The same also applies if a police investigation is directed against the judge or if a criminal case is filed against them and an indictment on the charges against them would result in them losing their necessary qualifications.

☐ The President of Iceland temporarily relieves a judge at the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal of their duties in accordance with the proposal of the Minister, while a Minister provides a district court judge with such a dismissal. Before one is temporarily relieved of their duties, the Minister shall obtain a written report from the Judicial Affairs Committee.

☐ Should a judge be temporarily relieved of their duties for some reason other than the ones mentioned in the final sub-paragraph of Paragraph 1, a case shall be filed against them within two months in accordance with the provisions in Paragraph 1, Article 51. Otherwise, the dismissal lapses. Should the case be dismissed by the court or dropped, the dismissal also automatically lapses if a new case is not filed within two weeks, but that will only occur once. A dismissal issued temporarily as outlined in the final sub-paragraph of Paragraph 1 will stand until the investigation concludes with a decision not to prosecute the judge in question, with six months having passed without charges filed against them or with the criminal case ending in a final judgement finding them not guilty, or otherwise with two weeks having passed since there was a final judgement finding them guilty.

☐ The judge maintains their wages in full during a temporary dismissal.

■ **Article 51. Dismissal from the Office of Judge by Court Order**

☐ Should a judge be temporarily relieved of their duties for some reason other than the ones mentioned in the final sub-paragraph of Paragraph 1 of Article 50, the Minister files suit on behalf of the state against them before the District Court of Reykjavík calling for them to be dismissed from their position with a judgement. The case is handled in accordance with general judicial procedures in civil cases, except that it is fast-tracked and three district court judges are to be appointed to the court.

☐ Even if a judgement is issued in the case before the district court in accordance with

Paragraph 1, the temporary dismissal still stands while there is a chance to appeal before the general deadline, as well as after the case is deliberated before the Court of Appeal or Supreme Court, if appealed.

☐ A final judgement finding that a judge shall be dismissed automatically leads to their dismissal from their position.

☐ Should a judge be found not guilty of the charges calling for dismissal, they automatically return to their position from the point in time when a judgement on the matter is considered final.

■ **Article 52.** *Dismissal from the Office of Judge for Other Reasons.*

☐ The President of Iceland temporarily relieves judges of their duties at the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal in accordance with the recommendation of the Minister, while the Minister does the same in the case of a district court judge.

☐ A judge shall be relieved of their duties if they ask to be, provided that it is done in accordance with the provisos which generally apply to state employees.

☐ A judge is considered automatically dismissed from their position if they are appointed for another position.

☐ A judge may be relieved of their duties without their own request if they have reached the age of 65, in which case they shall from then on receive a pension as if they had served on the position until the age of 70 unless they enjoy a more generous pension according to fundamental law.

☐ A judge shall be released from their position no later than the day when they reach the age of 70.

■ **Article 53.** *Criminal and Tort Liability of Judges.*

☐ The general criminal code and special provisions of other laws apply to the criminal liability of a judge due to their actions while in office.

☐ Should the actions, or lack thereof, of a judge on duty lead to the loss or damage of others, the state is liable according to general rules. A judge will not be required to pay compensation. However, after an indictment has been issued, the state is permitted to claim payment from them, provided that an intentional act of theirs resulted in liability.

☐ General rules shall apply to the handling of cases where the facts are in accordance with the aforementioned.

Chapter IX. [Retrial Court.]¹⁾

¹⁾ [Act No. 47/2020, Article 5](#)

■ **Article 54.** *[Appointment and role of the Retrial Court.]*

☐ The Retrial Court is a specialised court which determines whether the reopening of cases previously brought before a district court, the Court of Appeal, or the Supreme Court should be permitted.

☐ The provisions of the Act on Judicial Procedures in Civil Cases or the Code of Criminal Procedure apply to criminal cases.

☐ The Minister appoints five judges for the Retrial Court. Three of them shall be judges currently serving, one of which is nominated by the Supreme Court from the ranks of judges at the court, another one of which is nominated by the Court of Appeal from the ranks of judges at the court and the third jointly nominated by the Chief Judges of the district courts

from the ranks of district court judges. The aforementioned parties shall nominate a man and a woman for a seat on the court, but this may be set aside where it is objectively impossible to nominate both a man and a woman, in which case the nominating party must explain the reasons for this. The board of the Judicial Administration sets rules regarding procedure during selection of the currently serving judges in office which are nominated for a position on the court. As many auxiliary judges are to be appointed for the judges from the ranks of currently serving judges and the Minister shall decide from among the nominees of each nominating party which one will be a regular member and which will be an auxiliary judge.

□ The position of two judges and the equal number of auxiliary judges is to be advertised and as they are assigned, the provisions of Chapter III and rules regarding the work of the committee shall be complied with. They shall fulfil the requirements to be appointed for the position of Supreme Court judge and not be previously or currently serving judges or the employees of a court.

□ The court's period of appointment is five years, and appointments are made in such a way that the period of appointment of one person expires each year. The same person will not be appointed as a regular judge on the court more than once.

□ The Supreme Court judge appointed for the court shall be its president and Chief Judge when they serve on a case. When not serving on a case, the Court of Appeal judge or district court judge appointed for the court shall take the seat of the Chief Judge.

□ Three judges serve on each case, two judges appointed in accordance with Paragraph 4 along with one currently serving judge as decided by the president. A judge shall not serve on a case if there is a petition to reopen a judgement issued by the court by which they were nominated. Should a judge appointed in accordance with Paragraph 4 be unable to serve on a case due to incompetency or other reasons, the president decides which one of the auxiliary judges will replace them. In other respects the provisions of the Act on Judicial Procedures in Civil Cases or the Code of Criminal Procedure apply to the competency of judges to serve on particular cases.

□ [If the requisite number of currently serving judges is unable to serve on a case due to incompetency or other impediment, the Minister can, at the recommendation of the nominated parties in question, appoint a judge to serve on the case. Should the requisite number of judges appointed in accordance with Paragraph 4 be unable to serve on a case due to incompetency or other impediment, the Minister can, at the recommendation of the President of the Retrial Court, appoint a judge to serve on the case, and they shall fulfill the requirements in accordance with Paragraph 4 for appointment to the court.] ¹⁾

□ The Retrial Court is based at the Judicial Administration. The judges of the Retrial Court receive payment for each case on which they serve in accordance with an hourly wage determined by the board of the Judicial Administration. In other respects, Chapter VIII. applies to their rights and responsibilities, except that a judge appointed in accordance with Paragraph 4 is permitted to take on extra jobs and own a share in a company or a business without first seeking the permission of the Judicial Affairs Committee to do so, although they must notify the committee of their extra jobs and share in a company or a business.] ²⁾

¹⁾ [Act No. 134/2022, Article 23](#) ²⁾ [Act No. 47/2020, Article 4](#)

Chapter X. Entry into Force

■ Article 55. *Entry into Force*

☐ This Act enters into force on 1 January, 2018, except for interim provisions I, II, IV, V, [VI and VIII] ¹⁾ which enter into force immediately.

☐ ...

¹⁾[Act No. 90/2017, Article 3](#)

Interim Provisions

■ I.

☐ As this Act enters into force, the position of those already appointed or installed into the judgeship will not be upset. From the point in time when [this Act] ¹⁾ enters into force, a judge shall not be appointed into the Supreme Court or installed pursuant to Article 18 before the number of judges reaches the number provided for in Article 13.

☐ [Despite the provisions of Paragraph 1, the Minister shall install, during the period from January 1 of 2018 to July 1 of 2019, a judge at the court if a judge is unable to serve due to illness or if they have been granted a leave of absence and a judge shall be installed pursuant to the recommendation of the committee in accordance with Chapter III. An installed judge shall then come from the ranks of former judges. Should that not be possible, however, they shall come from the ranks of others who fulfill the requirements of being appointed for the position of Supreme Court judge, cf. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13. During the same time period the Minister installs, pursuant to the recommendation of the president of the court, auxiliary judges to serve on a particular case even though the requirement of Paragraph 1 of Article 17 is not fulfilled, that fewer than five or, as the case may be, seven Supreme Court judges have been able to serve on a case due to incompetency, leave, or other reasons. An installed judge shall meet the requirements of being appointed for the position of district court judge, cf. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13. A judge may be appointed in accordance with this clause even if they have reached the age of 70.] ²⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 117/2016, Article 79](#) ²⁾[Act No. 90/2017, Article 4](#)

■ II.

☐ [For the purpose of preparing the operations of the Judicial Administration, including the appointment of its managing director, the board of the Judicial Administration shall be appointed for the first time from [1 August], ¹⁾ 2017 onwards. The managing director of the Judicial Administration may be appointed from 1 October, 2017.

☐ When the board of the Judicial Administration is appointed for the first time, in accordance with Article 6, the president of the Court of Appeal shall be appointed a regular member for one year and the vice-president of the Court of Appeal will be appointed their alternate for the same period of time. Another regular member, along with an alternate, shall be appointed for a period of two years, the third regular member along with an alternate for three years and so on, so that the fifth regular member along with an alternate is appointed for five years. The period of appointment of others than the representatives of the Court of Appeal shall be decided entirely by chance once it has been determined who is to be employed there.

☐ Once this Act enters into force, appointments for the council of district courts administration lapse.] ²⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 10/2017, Article 1](#) ²⁾[Act No. 117/2016, Article 80](#)

■ III.

☐ As this Act enters into force, appointment for the Judicial Affairs Committee, the Retrial Commission, and the Selection Committee is not upset, pursuant to [Article 4.a of the Judiciary Act, no. 15/1998](#), because this Act applies to the appointment of new members for the committees after the date of entry into force.

■ IV.

☐ Appointment of judges for the Court of Appeal shall conclude no later than [July 1]¹⁾ of 2017, and the judges are appointed for the office from 1 January of 2018 onwards. [A committee, pursuant to [Article 4.a of the Judiciary Act, no. 15/1998](#), shall assess the qualifications of applicants for the office of Court of Appeal judge for the first time and provide the Minister with a report on the applicants, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of that Article and the rules regarding the committee. The Minister may not appoint as a judge a person whom the Selection Committee has not deemed the most qualified among the applicants, either alone or along with others. This may be set aside, however, if the Alþingi approves the recommendation of the Minister for authorisation to appoint for the position another named applicant who, in the estimation of the Selection Committee, fulfils all the requirements of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 21 of this Act.]¹⁾

☐ When the Minister makes a recommendation for an appointment for the Court of Appeal for the first time, they shall submit their recommendation for each appointment to the Alþingi for approval. Should the Alþingi accept the recommendations of the Minister, they shall send them to the President of Iceland who is responsible for handling appointments for the positions, cf. Article 21. Should the Parliament not accept the recommendation of the Minister for a particular appointment, the Minister shall submit a new recommendation to the Alþingi for approval.

☐ [Those who have been appointed judges at the Court of Appeal shall, no later than on [20 July]¹⁾ of 2017, elect a president for a five year term and a vice-president for the same term. The Minister announces for the first time the election of a president and vice-president of the Court of Appeal with an advertisement in Legal Notice Journal.

☐ The president shall be appointed a judge at the Court of Appeal from [1 August]¹⁾ of 2017 onwards. From that time onwards, the president is permitted to make the necessary decisions in preparation for the operation of the Court of Appeal, including hiring employees for the court.]²⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 10/2017, Article 2](#) ²⁾[Act No. 117/2016, Article 81](#)

■ V.

☐ Those who are appointed Supreme Court judges shall be considered ahead of others for appointment on the Court of Appeal, should they so wish, and shall lose none of their wages in that event.

■ VI.

☐ From the point in time when this provision enters into force, during appointment for the Selection Committee in accordance with [Article 4.a of the Judiciary Act, no. 15/1998](#), the provisions of sub-paragraph 6 Paragraph 1, Article 11 shall apply.

■ [VII.

☐ Despite the provisions of Article 2, the Court of Appeal may be based outside Reykjavík until January 1 [2027].¹⁾ ²⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 136/2021, Article 5](#) ²⁾[Act No. 10/2017, Article 3](#)

■ [VIII.

☐ Should an appointed judge at the Court of Appeal request a leave of absence before January 1, 2018, the Minister may provide such a leave for a period of up to three months if there are compelling reasons to do so. Should a judge be granted leave in accordance with this clause, another judge will not be appointed to replace them.] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 90/2017, Article 5](#)

■ [IX.

☐ As on December 1, 2020, the Retrial Court takes on rehearing petitions which have not been resolved by the rehearing commission before then. The provisions of this act and the Act on Judicial Procedures in Civil Cases apply to such cases after that point in time.

☐ A Minister is permitted, after this provision has entered into force, to appoint judges at the court from December 1, 2020, onwards. To that end, the Minister is permitted, after the same point in time, to seek nominations from the group of Supreme Court judges, Court of Appeal judges and district court judges, and to advertise two vacancies and an equal number of vacancies for auxiliary judges at the court.

☐ When first appointing persons for the Retrial Court, one judge shall be appointed for one year along with an auxiliary judge, another judge shall be appointed for two years along with an auxiliary judge and so on until the fifth judge is appointed for five years along with an auxiliary judge. Their period of appointment shall be decided entirely by chance once it has been determined who is to be employed there. If a regular member is appointed for three years or less, they may be appointed for the Retrial Court one more time.] ¹⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 47/2020, Article 6](#)

■ [X.

☐ Despite the provisions in Paragraph 4 of Article 44, the wages of the president of the Supreme Court, the vice-president of the Supreme Court, other Supreme Court judges, the President of the Court of Appeal, the Vice-President of the Court of Appeal, other Court of Appeal judges, the Chief Judge in Reykjavík, the auxiliary Chief Judge in Reykjavík, the Chief Judge outside Reykjavík, and other district court judges, shall increase by ISK 66,000 from July 1, 2024 onwards instead of the proportional increase in accordance with the provision on July 1, 2024. This includes an increase for overtime and extra work load which comes with the job in the amount of ISK 17,303 for the president of the Supreme Court, ISK 16,028 for the vice-president of the Supreme Court, ISK 16,441 for other Supreme Court judges, ISK 17,378 for the president of the Court of Appeal, ISK 16,750 for the vice-president of the Court of Appeal, ISK 17,174 for other Court of Appeal judges, ISK 18,702 for the Chief Judge in Reykjavík, ISK 14,401 for the auxiliary Chief Judge in Reykjavík, ISK 17,299 for Chief Judges outside Reykjavík, and ISK 14,782 for other district court judges.] ¹⁾ ²⁾

¹⁾[Act No. 60/2024, Article 4](#) ²⁾[Act No. 52/2023, Article 4](#)