**APPLICATIONS FOR 2021 JUDICIAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE NOW OPEN**

The Canterbury Justice of the Peace Assn is now calling for applications for the 2021 Judicial Justice of the Peace Studies Course.

Justices from all walks of life are encouraged to apply. If you think you have the qualities to make a good Judicial Justice of the Peace and the ability to complete the coursework you are encouraged to apply.

Judicial Justices of the Peace work in the Christchurch District Court in a voluntary capacity. Judicial Justices of the Peace must retire from duty when they reach 75 years of age.

**Skills required:**

Judicial Justices rely on a number of skills when sitting in the District Court. These include

* Able to communicate ideas clearly
* Able to listen to and analyse information
* Make reasoned and impartial judgements based on the relevant information
* Speak and write English fluently
* Work in a team environment

There is more detail on the Royal Federation website.

Justices who have been accredited for some time and active in the community are encouraged to apply.

**Availability**

The District Courts for Judicial Justices in Christchurch are on Thursdays and Saturdays (including Public Holidays), based on a roster system. Thursdays can vary from a part day to a full day, depending on the court type and Saturdays and public holidays are usually until late lunchtime.

**About the Course:**

The course lasts for six months where students work through a series of online modules. There are textbook readings that accompany the modules.

Students must attain a mark of at least 50% in each assignment in order to continue with the course, and achieve an overall mark of 60% or greater.

Students study at their own pace but there are three assignments that must be submitted by the due dates. Students must also write about two visits they make to court and complete an academic journal.

A local mentor will be assigned to each student. The mentors act as a support person and a guide for the students during the course.

Students who pass the online course will be invited to attend a two-day practicum in Wellington where there will be the opportunity to practise and demonstrate practical skills on the bench.

The course is estimated to take at least 200 hours and starts at the beginning of April until the end of October. This means you will have to put aside approximately eight to ten hours a week for study.

The Judicial Studies Course is a tertiary level course. While you need not have attended university you will need to draw on the following skills;

* Study effectively by yourself
* Read and understand academic texts, legal cases and legislation
* Write assignments of 3,000 – 4,000 words
* Learn, explain and apply ideas.

You must be comfortable working with a computer as the bulk of the coursework is online. You will need to search for legislation and cases online. Most of the communication you will receive will be via email. Assignments are written and submitted electronically. Students must have access to a computer with current software including word processing software and a media player for the student to watch embedded videos. Students must have reliable internet access and an up-to-date browser.

Students must also visit their local court and observe proceedings as often as possible.

**Ongoing Commitment**

Judicial Justices must be committed to ongoing development. Justices participate in regular development sessions. These are in addition to the Education and Training sessions run by the Canterbury Association.

Candidates are required to observe court prior to submitting their application. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that candidates are aware of the realities of court work before committing to the course.

A formal application for is available from the Registrar, Ken Shields.

Please forward your application by Friday 4th September 2020 – along with a current CV - to the Registrar, Ken Shields, 66 Frankleigh Street, Somerfield, Christchurch 8024 or e-mail to registrar@jpcanterbury.org.nz . If you have any questions please e-mail or phone me on 337 1025 or 021 363 082.

Ken Shields JP

Registrar