



CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE – SPECIALIST ADVOCATE PANEL SCHEME

SPECIALIST PANEL – EXTRADITION

SELECTION CRITERIA LEVEL 1

Introduction

1. This entry level is intended to be a testing ground for the identification of suitable counsel able to have conduct of extradition proceedings on behalf of the CPS.
2. The criteria for level 1 are intended to be less onerous than for other levels. If it were otherwise, substantial numbers of applicants would be denied the opportunity to gain experience as prosecution advocates in order to progress to higher levels.
3. Entry to the Extradition Panel at Level 1 is through this application process and is open to barristers who have reached the end of their pupillage / tenancy and solicitors who have a Higher Courts Advocacy qualification.
4. For entry to the Extradition Panel, Level 1 applicants must generally be able to demonstrate an ability to conduct competently a range of magistrates' courts prosecutions up to and including a whole day's list, straightforward Youth Court cases and to conduct simple mentions, guilty pleas, committals for sentence and appeals in the Crown Court. Applicants must provide evidence of up to date legal knowledge relevant to such prosecutions and demonstrate appropriate standards of oral and written advocacy. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they are able to work well with others in this range of prosecutions.
5. Candidates will also be expected to successfully complete the CPS Extradition Fast Track Training Course before being instructed to conduct any extradition case in court.
6. Successful Level 1 applicants will be expected to cover a range of work at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London. This will involve initial hearings, video link remands, bail applications and case-management reviews conducted with the general supervision and support of an experienced CPS prosecutor. Once they have successfully conducted a range of such hearings, successful applicants may progress to covering straightforward contested extradition hearings as part of their learning and development. Advocates



may also be instructed to cover appeals against the grant of bail at the High Court.

7. By conducting this variety of hearings, it is envisaged that Level 1 advocates will develop their skills and experience, thus providing them with demonstrable evidence of their suitability to progress to Level 2 should they wish to apply for upgrade.

GRADE SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA

8. The criteria for assessment will be:
 - Advocacy
 - Advisory Work
 - Other relevant knowledge, skills and experience (including relevant defence experience)
 - Appreciation of the role of CPS Panel Advocate

9. Applicants for Level 1 will be expected to demonstrate the following:

Advocacy criteria

- Completion of pupillage/tenancy and solicitors with higher rights qualifications.
- The ability to conduct advocacy in respect of all magistrates' court prosecutions; straightforward Youth Court cases; simple Crown Court mention hearings; plea and case management hearings; committals for sentence, and appeals to the Crown Court

Advisory Work

- The ability to conduct advisory work in respect of all magistrates' court prosecutions; simple Crown Court cases; committals for sentence, and appeals

Other Relevant Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- IT skills – including word processing, use of e-mail and / or secure email
- Academic strength or compensating strength in other factors
- Relevant defence or regulatory work of an equivalent level, if any

Appreciation of the Role of CPS Panel Advocate

- A knowledge of ethical standards



- A knowledge of CPS Values
- A willingness to work as part of a prosecution team without compromising professional independence
- Familiarity with, and understanding of, the Code for Crown Prosecutors and the Farquharson guidelines on the role of the prosecution advocate
- An appropriate understanding of the professional relationship between the CPS, the police and the advocate
- An appreciation of the requirements in relation to speaking to victims and witnesses

References

10. Applicants for level 1 should provide one reference. An appropriate referee might be a CPS lawyer, head of chambers or a chambers advocacy trainer who has seen the applicant perform advocacy.
11. With regard to the type of work Level 1 advocates will be expected to undertake, referees should be able to state:
 - a. The extent of their knowledge of the applicant's work
 - b. How they assess the applicant's suitability to conduct prosecution work
 - c. How they assess the applicant's ability in respect of advocacy and advisory work.