

Judicial Communications Office

17 December 2025

PRESS RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDING COUNTY COURT JUDGE AND RECORDER OF BELFAST

The Lady Chief Justice has appointed His Honour Judge Philip Gilpin as Presiding County Court Judge effective from 17 December 2025. The appointment will be for a period of five years. Judge Gilpin will also hold the title of Recorder of Belfast.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Judge Gilpin was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Queen's University Belfast.

He was admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 1994 and was then engaged in private practice until 2010.

In 2010 he was appointed as the Solicitor to the Attorney General for Northern Ireland a post he held until 2012 when he was appointed as a District Judge of the County Court with a concurrent appointment as a Deputy County Court Judge.

He had previously been a President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal, a Deputy Master of the High Court, a Deputy District Judge and a Member of the Solicitor's Disciplinary Tribunal.

In 2019 he was appointed as a County Court Judge and has since served as both the Principal Civil Judge and the assigned judge for Antrim.

If you have any further enquiries about this or other court related matters please contact:

Alison Houston
Lady Chief Justice's Office
Royal Courts of Justice
Chichester Street
BELFAST
BT1 3JF

E-mail: LCJOffice@judiciaryni.uk