

Judges category ■ Stand-out ■ Highly commended ■ Commended

Name of judge	Position	Age	Date of appointment	Comment
Lord Hoffmann	Second senior Lord of Appeal in Ordinary	73	February 21 1995	Regarded as “a legend, possibly the greatest judge of the last 40 years”. His judgments are highly influential and frequently cited, although he became a controversial figure due to the Augusto Pinochet case.
Sir Gordon Langley	High Court – Queen’s Bench Division	64	November 22 1995	Known for his work on the Equitable Life case, he is seen as a no-nonsense, strict intellectual.
Sir Richard Aikens	High Court – Queen’s Bench Division	58	May 6 1999	Seen as “less straitjacketed by the old way of doing things without going too far the other way”. He receives huge respect from the commercial Bar. However, he received some criticism for his decision to ban the press from mentioning the leaked Bush-Blair memo over Iraq.
Sir Jeremy Cooke	High Court – Queen’s Bench Division	58	October 2 2001	Seen as a first-rate judge who is very good at managing complicated cases. Produced an important judgment in an Enron-related dispute in a notably short period of time.
Sir Michael Briggs	High Court – Chancery Division	52	July 3 2006	Considered by some to be the outstanding judge on the current Chancery bench. He is invariably several steps ahead, not only with regards to the substance of the cases before him, but also procedurally.
Lord Bingham of Cornhill	Senior Lord of Appeal in Ordinary	73	June 6 2000	First to have been appointed a Senior Law Lord. Principally responsible for making the House of Lords function successfully.
Sir Christopher Clarke	High Court – Queen’s Bench Division	60	January 11 2005	Was counsel on the Bloody Sunday inquiry before becoming a judge. Impressed respondents with his ability to give fast judgments on complex financial transactions.
Baroness Hale	Lord of Appeal in Ordinary	62	January 12 2004	A radical thinker who has brought a different perspective to the House of Lords. She “stands things on their heads” and is the first female law lord in UK judicial history.
Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury	Lord of Appeal	59	January 11 2007	The UK’s youngest law lord, he is considered to be a modern judge, with a commercial and realistic approach – which many consider to be innovative.
Sir Michael Burton	High Court – Queen’s Bench Division	61	November 23 1998	Considered to have had an innovative approach while president of the Employment Appeals Tribunal. He has a “phenomenal ability to cut to the core of an issue”.
Sir Patrick Elias	High Court – Queen’s Bench Division	60	May 4 1999	Considered to have revolutionised the Employment Appeals Tribunal. His judgments are regularly endorsed by the Court of Appeal; one has become a classic statement of the requirements to prove discrimination.