



**GRAND COURT OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
GRAND COURT JUDGE
JOB DESCRIPTION**

Title:	Grand Court Judge	Reports to:	Hon. Chief Justice
Cost Centre:	0201	Remuneration:	As per Judges Allowances and Emoluments Act

1. Core Function

The holder of this post presides as a judge of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands to try admiralty, civil, criminal and family cases before the Grand Court according to the law and in compliance with the Constitutional Oaths of Judicial office. The judge is responsible for the proper and efficient administration of justice in his/her court.

2. Principal Responsibilities

The post-holder will preside as a judge of the Grand Court in the Admiralty, Civil, Criminal and Family Divisions of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, according to operational need, and will perform the functions and exercise the jurisdiction conferred upon a judge of the Grand Court by the Constitution, the Grand Court Act and other relevant legislation, and the common law. The judge must ensure that an appropriate record is maintained and, where required, made available to the Court of Appeal.

Cases before the Civil Division of the Grand Court range from probate and administration, guardianship applications, personal injury and contract disputes to appeals from the summary court and other tribunals and judicial review of administrative decisions. They require the ability to conduct interlocutory and case management disputes as well as final determinations of disputes following trial.

When trying cases in the Criminal Division, a judge may be required to sit with or without a jury, as permitted by law. In all cases, the reasons for any legal decisions made by the judge and for the sentence must be given by the judge.

In the Family Division, a judge will adjudicate upon the dissolution of marriage and ancillary matters, financial arrangements for the support of the parties and any children and arrangements relating to the custody, welfare and access to children, including public law and Hague Convention matters.

If required to sit in the Financial Services Division, the judge will case-manage and try complex high-value civil disputes that arise out of the business of the financial services sector in the Cayman Islands, often with an international dimension.

Other responsibilities include:

- determining constitutional petitions under the Bill of Rights;
- determining applications pursuant to the Proceeds of Crime Act to restrain or forfeit the property of suspects or convicted persons or to inspect records;

- determining applications for judicial assistance on behalf of foreign courts through the letters rogatory procedure to obtain evidence for use in foreign proceedings, which may be subject to the Confidential Information (Disclosure) Act or similar regulatory law;
- sitting as the chair or a member of statutory boards and tribunals which require a Grand Court judge;
- participating in the training of staff, teaching (e.g.: the Justices of the Peace), lecturing or speaking at conferences; and
- undertaking such other duties and responsibilities as may be required by the Hon. Chief Justice.

The judge must be impartial and independent of all outside influences and must conduct themselves at all times in a way that is consistent with the dignity of high judicial office, the Judicial Code of Conduct and in accordance with the Bangalore principles.

The judge must demonstrate procedural fairness in all cases conducted in their court and deal tactfully and courteously with all participants in such cases as well as with the public. Propriety and the appearance of propriety are essential to the performance of all of the activities of a judge.

3. Background Information

The Grand Court is the superior court of record for the Cayman Islands, established by the Constitution and the Grand Court Act. It exercises unlimited jurisdiction. It is headed by the Hon. Chief Justice, Margaret Ramsay-Hale, and currently has eight additional puisne judges. In addition, it has a small panel of acting judges, who sit as needed, as determined by the Hon. Chief Justice.

The Grand Court administers statute law, the common law and the law of equity in keeping with the Constitution of the Cayman Islands, including the Bill of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities. Dedicated Divisions of the Grand Court for Admiralty, Civil, Criminal, Family and Financial Services cases were established in November 2009.

Appeals from the Grand Court are to the Court of Appeal, which comprises the President and eight non-resident Justices of Appeal, and from there to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, UK.

There is also a summary court comprising the Chief Magistrate and four Magistrates. The summary court hears smaller civil and less serious criminal matters. The summary court includes the Youth Justice, Family and Drug Rehabilitation Courts. Appeals from the summary court are to the Grand Court.

Her Excellence the Governor appoints the Hon. Chief Justice, Grand Court Judges, the President and Justices of Appeal, and magistrates on the recommendation of the Judicial and Legal Services Commission, a statutory body formed under the 2009 Constitution.

Further information can be found at www.judicial.ky.

4. Assignment and Planning of work

Case listing is managed by the Registry and/or listing officer, under the supervision of the Hon. Chief Justice. The judge will be responsible for liaising with the Registry and/or listing officer to schedule their case load and for the efficient management of their assigned cases. The judges of the Grand Court strive to deliver accurate and comprehensive reasoned judgments where necessary either immediately or within a maximum period of three months.

5. Supervision of others

The judge does not have any supervisory responsibility apart from as might arise in respect of their personal assistant.

6. Other work relationships

In addition to working closely with the Hon. Chief Justice and other Grand Court judges, the judge will interact frequently with other members of the judiciary and court staff. *Esprit de corps* among a small team of judicial colleagues is essential.

7. Decision-making authority and controls

In all judicial matters, the judge’s decision-making authority is final and shall be exercised without reference to any other person or authority, save as according to law. The judge’s independence is constitutionally protected and judicial decisions are only subject to review by the Court of Appeal on a properly constituted appeal.

The post-holder reports to the Hon. Chief Justice as the head of the judiciary but is constitutionally independent when exercising their judicial function.

8. Specific demands of the role

A key feature of the position is the ability to prioritise the post-holder’s own work to ensure the prompt delivery of justice to court users. The judge must be able to work under pressure to produce legally correct results.

The judge must maintain at all times: professional integrity, confidentiality regarding information being handled, political neutrality and sensitivity to the public perception of the judiciary.

9. Working Conditions

Normal office hours of 8.30 am to 5.00 pm apply but a judge must be prepared to work beyond office hours to meet deadlines and respond to urgent matters as the need arises. In collaboration with other Grand Court judges, the judge will be expected to take on a fair allocation of urgent matters during court vacation periods. Subject to that, the judge may take their leave at times convenient to themselves and the conduct of the Grand Court’s business, with the approval of the Hon. Chief Justice. Absence from the Island requires notification to the Governor’s office through the Chief Justice.

AGREED BY:

Post-holder:

Date:

Honourable Chief Justice:

Date:

Her Excellency the Governor:

Date: