



de Rechtspraak

Press judge profile

Function

The press judge's duties are performed alongside his regular work as a judge / senior judge. He does not receive any specific exemptions from other responsibilities for carrying out these duties.

Purpose

The press judge helps to clearly formulate / translate legal, complex language for citizens / others to assist them in understanding the background, context and assumptions surrounding a legal case. The judge also contributes to the development and implementation of communication policy, either aimed specifically at the media or at society in general.

Status and Position

The press judge acts within the frameworks for media policy as established by the court administration system and the Council for the Judiciary. The judge also coordinates all press briefing activities with the Communications Department in advance. Among other things, he prepares and develops external communications and identifies trends and potential issues.

The press judge reports to the Communications portfolio holder, who is a member of the court administration. The court administration is ultimately responsible should disagreements arise.

Performance Areas

Provision of information

- 1 The press judge:
 - a) Liaises with the media, providing them with information about court cases and further clarifications on court verdicts.
 - b) Anticipates and responds to publicity-sensitive issues and media coverage about court cases, the courts and the administration of justice in general.
- 2 Serves as the contact person and source of information for colleagues with regard to contact with the media. Coordinates in advance with colleagues on specific legal issues and questions.
- 3 Prepares and issues press releases.
- 4 Contributes proactively to internal and external communication activities within the framework of information for the general public (giving presentations, lectures and participating in round tables), including actively participating in these activities.

Performance indicators:

- 1 Satisfaction of court administration and staff.
- 2 Satisfaction of the media regarding the press judge's interventions and/or attitude.
- 3 The image of the court among the media and other external target groups.
- 4 Number of incidents involving miscommunication with the media.

Media Communications

- 1 Liaises with representatives of the media who wish to be present at court sessions.
- 2 Involved in establishing rules for the media regarding their presence in court.
- 3 Coordinates and maintains media contacts.
- 4 Prepares media visits and media contacts in publicity-sensitive cases.
- 5 Contributes to the development and implementation of communication policy, specifically aimed at the media or society in general.

Performance indicators:

- 1 Degree of satisfaction on the part of the media with regard to accessibility and guidance.
- 2 Degree of satisfaction on the part of colleagues and other staff with regard to media activities.
- 3 Clarity of the arrangements and agreements made with the media.
- 4 Effective action, both behind the scenes and in the public eye, in publicity-sensitive cases (with regard to the image of the judiciary in particular and the administration of justice in general).

Required expertise

- Knowledge of the role of all involved in the administration of justice
- Knowledge of the political landscape and social sensitivities
- Understanding of how the media work. Understanding of the realities of electronic information provision.
- Knowledge of current events
- Communication and media training.

Additional skills / qualifications

Competencies of a judge: Listening skills, oral and written communication skills, opinion forming, ability to prioritize, self-confidence, environmental awareness, self reflection, decisiveness. The following applies to senior judges: staff development (including colleagues on the bench). In addition to these competencies, the following also apply to the press judge:

Oral presentation Clear presentation of facts, ideas and opinions; use of relevant resources

- 1 presents a coherent and clear argument, in which main issues and side issues are distinguished
- 2 responds appropriately to reactions from listeners
- 3 makes use of clear examples / metaphors to support his argument
- 4 enlivens a presentation with humour, catchy examples or anecdotes, provides variation
- 5 adjusts the content of the presentation to the expectations of the audience
- 6 makes appropriate use of posture, gestures, facial expressions and voice to gain attention and keep listeners' attention during presentations
- 7 is able to establish positive contact with the public, the 'clients' or listeners, gives them his undivided attention.

Qualities The press judge communicates easily in all registers and in every setting. He rises to the challenge presented by the expectations of society and the media. The press judge is also aware of local and national developments. He anticipates and responds to these developments in clear and concise language. The press judge is aware of the impact of his work and is capable of captivating his audience and ensuring that they are provided with relevant information. The press judge shows initiative, is flexible and results-oriented. In addition, the press judge takes a hands-on approach and has a practical attitude toward matters.

Fundamental matters

- 1 With regard to publicity-sensitive cases, the press judge is expected to clearly express how the court handled the case and reached a verdict. He may be confronted with, and have to respond to inattentive or insensitive statements by third parties, information not (yet) known to him or emotional reactions from the public. He keeps his calm in such situations and is capable of informing the media and the public while avoiding negative consequences for the case in question or for the image of the judiciary.
- 2 The press judge acknowledges the media's sway with regard to the image of the judiciary in particular and the administration of justice in general. Despite differences of opinion which may occur as information on court cases is made available, the press judge works together with the Communications Department to build and maintain an open relationship with the media, contributing to a positive image of the administration of justice in general and of the judiciary in particular.
- 3 In urgent cases, the press judge also carries out his special duties outside of office hours.