

COURT OF APPEAL

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO 1/2026

(Addressing Judges in Court of Appeal Proceedings)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Practice Direction is made by the President, with the concurrence of the Judges of the Court of Appeal, and prescribes the proper forms of address to be used by parties when addressing the Court in open-court and in-chambers proceedings before the Court of Appeal.
- 1.2 This Practice Direction is issued in response to requests by counsel for clarification as to the proper form of addressing the Court, given that:
- (i) the only Practice Direction addressing this subject matter was issued on 4 October 1988, entitled "Re: Style and Address of the Hon Miss Justice Marjory Morgan in the Court of Appeal", when the Honourable Miss Justice Marjory Morgan was the only female Judge of the Court of Appeal;
 - (ii) the 4 October 1988 Practice Direction requires parties to address a panel of judges of the Court of Appeal collectively as "your Lordships" regardless of the gender composition of the panel; and
 - (iii) the gender composition of the court has significantly changed over time and no updated guidance on the proper form of address has been issued.
- 1.3 This Practice Direction does not govern written submissions or correspondence addressed to the Court, the President or Judges.
- 1.4 The Practice Direction issued on 4 October 1988 is revoked.
- 1.5 In this Practice Direction:
- "Judge" means a Judge of the Court of Appeal, including any person acting in that capacity.
- "Party" means an attorney-at-law, litigant in person or any other person addressing a Judge or a panel of Judges in open-court or in-chambers proceedings before the Court of Appeal.

"President" means the President of the Court of Appeal, including any person acting in that office.

1.6 This Practice Direction takes effect immediately upon issuance.

2. General provisions

2.1 When addressing the President, the proper form of address is:

- (i) If the President is male, "*My Lord*", "*Your Lordship*" or "*My Lord President*".
- (ii) If the President is female, "*My Lady*", "*Your Ladyship*" or "*My Lady President*".

2.2 When addressing a Judge, the proper form of address is as follows:

- (i) If the Judge is male, "*My Lord*" or "*Your Lordship*".
- (ii) If the Judge is female, "*My Lady*" or "*Your Ladyship*".

2.3 When addressing a Judge, nothing shall preclude reference to the Judge by name with the proper form of address, as appropriate.

3. Proceedings in Court before panels of three or more Judges

3.1 Parties appearing before a panel of three or more Judges, whether including or excluding the President, shall address the Court in accordance with this section.

3.2 A panel comprising solely male Judges shall be addressed as "*My Lords*" or "*Your Lordships*".

3.3 A panel comprising solely female Judges shall be addressed as "*My Ladies*" or "*Your Ladyships*".

3.4 Where a panel comprises both male and female Judges, parties shall address the Court by combining the appropriate forms of address for the Judges on that panel.

3.5 A mixed panel may be addressed by combining the appropriate forms of address for the Judges on the panel, where applicable:

- (i) "*My Lords and Ladies*" or "*Your Lordships and Ladyships*", where there is more than one Judge of each gender;

- (ii) *"My Lord and Ladies"* or *"Your Lordship and Ladyships"*, where one male Judge sits with more than one female Judge; or
 - (iii) *"My Lords and Lady"* or *"Your Lordships and Ladyship"*, where one female Judge sits with more than one male Judge.
- 3.6 When addressing a Judge on a mixed panel, nothing shall preclude reference to the Judge by name with the proper form of address, as appropriate.
- 4. **Conclusion**
- 4.1 The Court intends to keep this Practice Direction under review and make such adjustments as experience dictates.


Marva McDonald-Bishop, OJ, CD
President of the Court of Appeal
5 October 2026