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News Release

Lord Justice Hughes and Lord Justice Toulson join Supreme Court

The highest court in the land will welcome two new judges at a swearing-in ceremony tomorrow. Lord Justice Hughes and Lord Justice Toulson are joining The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom from the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, following their appointment by Her Majesty The Queen in February 2013.

Family, friends and former colleagues will gather in the grand setting of Courtroom One to watch the new Justices take the Judicial Oath and Oath of Allegiance in their ceremonial black and gold robes before their ten fellow Justices of the Supreme Court.

Lord Justice Hughes succeeds Lord Dyson, appointed Master in the Rolls in October 2012, and will take the judicial title of Lord Hughes of Ombersley. A member of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales since 2006, Lord Justice Hughes is currently Vice-President of its Criminal Division.

Lord Justice Toulson succeeds Lord Walker, who retired last month, and will take the judicial title of Lord Toulson. A member of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales since 2007, Lord Justice Toulson served previously as Chairman of the Law Commission of England and Wales between 2002 and 2006.

The newly-appointed Lord Hughes will first hear a case from Northern Ireland concerning the admissibility of electronic fingerprinting as evidence; whilst the newly-appointed Lord Toulson will first consider the right to a fair trial in a case from Scotland.

Both Justices will also sit on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC), also based at the former Middlesex Guildhall in Parliament Square since 2009. The Committee serves as the court of final appeal for the UK overseas territories, Crown dependencies and for certain Commonwealth countries.

Ends

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

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Notes to editors

1. Lord Justice Hughes was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1970 and appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court from 1985 to 1997. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1990 and was later appointed a judge of the High Court (Family Division from 1997 to 2003; and Queen's Bench Division from 2004 to 2006). In 2006, he was appointed a judge of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, serving as the Vice President of its Criminal Division since 2009.
2. Lord Justice Toulson was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1969 and became a bencher in 1995. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1986 and a Recorder of the Crown Court from 1987 to 1996. He was then appointed to the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) in 1996. He sat in the Commercial Court and in the Administrative Court and was then Presiding Judge on the Western Circuit from 1997 to 2002. Between 2002 and 2006, he was Chairman of the Law Commission of England and Wales, after which he was appointed to the Court of Appeal of England in Wales in 2007. He has also served on the Judicial Appointments Commission for England and Wales.
3. The appointments to the Supreme Court were announced by 10 Downing Street on 26 February 2013 (<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/senior-judicial-appointments-4/>).
4. The swearing-in ceremony begins at 11.00am and will last around ten minutes. It will be broadcast live over the internet through the streaming service offered by Sky News (www.skynews.com/supremecourt).
5. Following the ceremony, Lord Justice Hughes will be styled Lord Hughes of Ombersley and Lord Justice Toulson as Lord Toulson in accordance with the declaration by Her Majesty The Queen in December 2010 that all Supreme Court Justices will be styled as 'Lord' or 'Lady' for life, regardless of whether or not they hold a peerage.
6. Formal photographs of Lords Hughes and Toulson will be available on request from the contact below, following the ceremony.

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