

## SUPREME COURT ACT

**Principal Act**

<b>Act. No. 1960-02</b>	<i>Commencement</i>	1.9.1960
	<i>Assent</i>	17.3.1960

Amending enactment	Relevant current provisions	Commencement date
Acts. 1960-11	ss.8, 14, 17 and 38(1)	
1961-19	s.6	
1965-24	ss.28 and 35	
1966-29	ss.20 and 35	
1967-01	–	
1968-24	s.16	
1969-30	ss.2, 11, 28(1), 29	
1970-03	s.28(1)	
Regs. of 28.5.1970	s.20	
Acts. 1971-14	s.28(2)	
1972-06	s.19	
1974-24	ss.20 and 21	
1975-24	ss.27 and 36	
1977-01	s.13	
1977-02	–	
1977-35	ss.2, 4(2), 6(1), 18(2), and (3) and 26	
1978-06	s.23	
1978-29	s.37	
1980-04	ss.3(2), 34 and 38(1)	
1983-44	–	
1983-48	s.36	
1986-24	ss. 28, 29, 32 and 38 (cc).	1.1.1987

The Supreme Court (Admiralty Practice) Rules and the Supreme Court (Prize Court Fees) Rules 1940 are printed under the title Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890.

The Supreme Court Fund Regulations are printed under the title Public Finance (Control and Audit).

**English sources:**

Juries Act 1825 (6 Geo.4 c.50)

County Courts Act 1934 (24 & 25 Geo.5 c.53)

## REARRANGEMENT AND RENUMBERING OF SECTIONS

*Provisions relating to criminal procedure have been transferred to the Criminal Procedure Act.*

Previous number	New number	Previous number	New number
1	1	32	21
2	2	32A	Act. 1961-24, s.158
3	<i>Repealed</i>	33	<i>Repealed</i>
4	“	34	22
5	“	35	23
6	“	36	Act. 1961-24, s.139
7	“	37	Act. 1961-24, s.141
8	9	38	Act. 1961-24, s.142
9	3	39	Act. 1961-24, s.143
10	4	39A	Act. 1961-24, s.144
11	5	40	Act. 1961-24, s.138
12	7	41	<i>Repealed</i>
13	6	42	Act. 1961-24, s.140
14	28	43	Act. 1961-24, s.145
15	32	44	Act. 1961-24, s.146
16	29	45	Act. 1961-24, s.149
17	30	46	26
18	31	47	Act. 1961-24, s.150
19	33	47A	Act. 1961-24, s.151
20	34	47B	Act. 1961-24, s.153
21	35	47C	Act. 1961-24, s.147
22	12	48	Act. 1961-24, s.154
22A	13	49	Act. 1961-24, s.155
23	16	50	Act. 1961-24, s.156
24	15	51	27
25	17	51A	36
26	14	52	37
27	Act. 1961-24, s.128	53	38
28	Act. 1961-24, s.148	54	Act. 1961-24, s.157
29	Act. 1961-24, s.158	55	10
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AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE IN GIBRALTAR.

**Short title.**

1. This Act may be cited as the Supreme Court Act.

**Interpretation.**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Constitution” means the Constitution of Gibraltar as set out in Annex 1 to the Gibraltar Constitution Order 1969;

“court” means the Supreme Court of Gibraltar and includes the Chief Justice, and any additional judge thereof, whether sitting in court or in chambers or elsewhere;

“prescribed” means prescribed by rules of court;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of the Supreme Court appointed under the provisions of section 3.

**PART I.**  
**ADMINISTRATION.**

**Officers of the court.**

3.(1) There shall be attached and belong to the court a Registrar, a Deputy Registrar and so many officers as to the Chief Justice shall, from time to time, appear to be necessary for the administration of justice, and the due execution of the powers and authorities which are granted and committed to the court under and by virtue of this Act.

Provided nevertheless that no new office shall be created in the court unless the Governor shall first signify his approbation thereof to the Chief Justice in writing.

(2) Every officer referred to in subsection (1) shall be appointed by the Governor.

**Duties of Registrar.**

4.(1) The Registrar shall perform all such duties as are respectively performed by the Master, Registrar, Taxing Master or Keeper of the Records of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England and shall be Registrar of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction and he and the other officers of the court shall be subject to such orders as they may from time to time receive from the Chief Justice. The Registrar shall be a Commissioner of the said court to administer oaths and take solemn declarations or affirmations in lieu of oaths and also to take examinations of witnesses de bene esse.

(2) Any ruling or other decision of any kind whatsoever in any civil criminal proceedings by the Registrar in exercise of the duties imposed upon him by subsection (1) shall be subject to appeal to the court.

#### **Jurisdiction of Registrar in absence of judge.**

5.(1) If at any time neither the Chief Justice nor an additional judge is present in Gibraltar or readily available to hear and determine any matter of an urgent nature it shall be lawful for the Registrar to hear and determine any matter which might lawfully be determined by the Chief Justice or additional judge sitting in chambers and any order, direction or warrant made, given or issued by the Registrar under the provisions of this section shall for all purposes and at all times be of the same force and effect as though such order, direction or warrant has been made, given or issued by the Chief Justice, or an additional judge.

(2) In any matter, not to be dealt with in chambers, if by reason of the death or unavoidable absence of the Chief Justice or an additional judge, a court cannot be held under this Act on any day on which it has been appointed to be held, the Registrar shall adjourn the court to such day as he may deem convenient, and enter in the minute book the cause of such adjournment.

#### **Appointment and duties of Sheriff and Marshal.**

6.(1) The Registrar shall be the Sheriff of Gibraltar and shall, by himself or by his sufficient deputies to be by him appointed and authorized under his hand and for whom he shall be responsible, and execute all such writs, warrants, orders, commands and process of the court as he shall be required by the court to execute, and make return of the same together with the manner of the execution thereof to the court, and receive and detain in prison all such persons as shall be committed to the custody of the Sheriff by the court, and shall be Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction:

Provided that, whenever the court directs or awards any process against the Sheriff or awards any process in any cause, matter or thing wherein the

Sheriff by reason of any good cause of challenge which would be allowed against any sheriff in England cannot by law execute the same, in every such case the court shall appoint some other fit person to execute and return the same and the said process shall be directed to the person so to be named for that purpose and the cause of such proceeding shall be entered on the record of the court.

(2) In the exercise of his powers and duties as Sheriff of Gibraltar, the Registrar may exercise such powers and shall perform such duties as are from time to time exercised or performed by a sheriff in England in accordance with the law from time to time in force in England with respect thereto.

### **Powers of Deputy Registrar.**

7. It shall be competent for the person holding the appointment of Deputy Registrar of the Court subject to such directions as the Chief Justice may from time to time deem expedient to give to perform any act or discharge any duty which the Registrar may lawfully do or is required by law to do and for such purposes the person holding such appointment as aforesaid shall have all powers, privileges and authority of the Registrar:

Provided however, that the Deputy Registrar shall not exercise any of the powers conferred upon the Registrar by section 5(1).

### **Duty of police officers.**

8. It shall be the duty of every police officer to assist in effecting any execution, attachment or committal ordered by court or carried out under rules of court.

### **Seal of court.**

9.(1) The Supreme Court shall continue to use the same seal or a similar seal as hitherto and such seal shall be kept in the custody of the Registrar.

(2) All process issuing out of the court which by any rules of court or otherwise requires to be sealed shall be impressed with the seal of the court.

(3) All process purporting to be sealed as aforesaid, and all copies, certificates and other documents purporting to be sealed as aforesaid or to be stamped with the official stamp of the court shall be received in evidence without further proof thereof.

### **Sittings of court.**

10.(1) The court shall sit for the trial of criminal and civil causes and for the disposal of other legal business pending at such times as the Chief Justice may direct.

(2) The Registrar shall ordinarily give notice beforehand of all such sittings.

**PART II.**  
**JURISDICTION AND POWERS.**

**Supreme court a court of record.**

11. The Supreme Court for Gibraltar established by section 56 of the Constitution shall be a superior court of record and, subject to the provisions of the Constitution; shall be constituted and have the jurisdiction and powers hereinafter specified.

**Court to have jurisdiction of High Court in England.**

12. The court shall in addition to any other jurisdiction conferred by this or any other Act, within Gibraltar and subject as in this Act mentioned, possess and exercise all the jurisdiction, powers and authorities which are from time vested in and capable of being exercised by Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England.

**International conventions affecting jurisdiction.**

13.(1) The provisions of this section shall apply for the purpose of giving effect as respects Gibraltar to any convention for the time being in force, by virtue of which the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, or their property are rendered liable to legal proceedings in the courts of the other High Contracting Parties and in the courts of any territory for whose external relations a High Contracting Party is responsible and which has been included in the ratification of such High Contracting Party.

(2) As from such day as the Governor may, by notice in the Gazette, state as being the day on which any such convention has come into force as respects Gibraltar, every High Contracting Party to the convention shall, for the purposes of any proceedings brought in the Supreme Court against that party or in respect of property of that party in accordance with the provisions of the convention, be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the court; and the court shall, in determining whether or to what extent any such proceedings are within its jurisdiction, give effect to any provision of the convention (including any protocol thereto) prescribing the mode of proof of any material circumstance.



(3) The Governor may by notice in the Gazette name those countries which Her Majesty by Order in Council has certified as being the High Contracting Parties to any such convention, in respect of what territories they are respectively parties, and to what extent they have availed themselves of any provision of the convention for suspending or modifying the operation of the convention, and any such notice shall, except in so far as it has been superseded by a subsequent notice, be conclusive evidence of the matters so certified.

**Avoidance of multiplicity of proceedings.**

14. In the exercise of the jurisdiction granted by this Act the court shall have power to grant and shall grant either absolutely or on such terms as shall seem just, all such remedies or relief whatsoever interlocutory or final as any of the parties thereto may appear to be entitled to in respect of any and every legal or equitable claim or defence properly put forward by them respectively or which shall appear in such cause or matter; so that as far as possible all matters in controversy between the parties respectively may be completely and finally determined and all multiplicity of legal proceedings concerning any of such matters avoided.

**Practice and procedure.**

15. The jurisdiction vested in the court shall be exercised (as far as regards practice and procedure) in the manner provided by this or any other Act or by such rules as may be made pursuant to this Act or any other Act and in default thereof, in substantial conformity with the law and practice for the time being observed in England in the High Court of Justice.

**Power to appoint receivers for persons under disability.**

16. The court shall have power to appoint guardians and committees of the persons and estates of minors and persons suffering from mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health Act and unable to govern themselves or their estates, and for that purpose to enquire into, hear and determine, by inspection of the person the subject of such inquiry, or by examination on oath or otherwise of the party in whose custody or charge such person maybe, or of any other person or persons, or by such other ways and means by which the truth may be best discovered, and to act in all cases whatsoever as fully and amply to all intents and purposes as the Lord High Chancellor or the grantee from the Crown of the persons and estates of minors and persons suffering from mental disorder may” lawfully do in England.

**Power of review.**

17. The court shall have full power, jurisdiction and authority to review the proceedings of all inferior courts of justice in Gibraltar, and if necessary to set aside or correct the same.

**Summary power to punish contempt.**

18.(1) If any Person—

- (a) being served with a subpoena to attend the court as a witness in accordance with rules of court refuses or neglects to attend the court pursuant to such subpoena; or
- (b) being present in court and required to give evidence refuses to be sworn or to give evidence; or
- (c) assaults or obstructs an officer of the court while in the execution of his duty; or
- (d) commits any contempt before the court,

it shall be lawful for the court to punish such person in a summary way by a fine of £50, or by commitment to prison for two months, if the court shall think that the contempt is one which may be disposed of without having recourse to its more formal and extensive jurisdiction:

Provided that nothing herein contained shall affect or abridge the right of any plaintiff or defendant to proceed against any party for not appearing pursuant to his subpoena for the recovery of any special damage such plaintiff or defendant may have sustained by reason of the disobedience of any such party:

Provided also that no person having been served with a subpoena shall be so punished for refusing or neglecting to attend the court unless there has been paid or tendered to him at the time of the service of the subpoena such sum in respect of his expenses (including in such cases as may be prescribed compensation for loss of time) as may be prescribed by rules of court.

(2) Payment of any fine imposed by the court under this section may be enforced upon the order of the court—

- (a) in like manner as payment of any debt adjudged by the court to be paid may be enforced under this Act; or

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- (b) in like manner as payment of a sum adjudged to be paid on summary conviction may be enforced under the Criminal Procedure Act.

(3) The court may in its discretion direct that the whole or any part of any such fine, after deducting the costs, shall be applicable towards indemnifying the party injured by the refusal or neglect.

### PART III TRIAL BY JURY

#### **Liability to jury Service.**

19.(1) Subject to the exemptions and disqualifications hereinafter contained every male person between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five years resident in Gibraltar having a competent knowledge of the English language shall be liable to serve as a juror at any trial held by the Supreme Court in Gibraltar.

(2) Any woman between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five may volunteer for service as a juror, and may apply to the Registrar to be included among persons liable for jury service, and the Registrar if satisfied that she has the necessary qualifications for a juror, shall include her name in his jury lists accordingly.

#### **Eligibility for jury service.**

20. The following persons shall be ineligible to serve as jurors;

- (a) the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly;
- (b) members of Her Majesty's Naval, Military or Air Forces while on full pay;
- (c) justices of the peace;
- (d) ministers of religion;
- (e) persons holding office in the courts of law, barristers and solicitors in actual practice and their clerks, and notaries public in actual practice and police officers, prison officers, and any other persons engaged in the administration of justice;
- (f) registered medical and dental practitioners;

- (g) heads of Government departments and heads of departments in the Army, Navy and Air Force;
- (h) school teachers and members of the nursing service in actual employment;
- (i) members of the City Fire Brigade;
- (j) officers of the Revenue Department;
- (k) persons who immediately before the 1st day of September 1960 were included in the list of grand jurors;
- (l) editors of newspapers;
- (m) persons actually employed in the light or pilotage services;
- (n) persons duly registered under the Medical and Health Act and carrying on the business of retailing, dispensing or compounding medicines or drugs;
- (o) the chairman of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation, the general manager of the Managing Agents of that Corporation and the manager of Radio Gibraltar.

**Disqualifications.**

21. Each of the following persons shall be disqualified for serving as juror-

- (a) aliens who have been resident in Gibraltar for less than ten years;
- (b) persons disabled by mental or bodily infirmity;
- (c) any person who at any time during the ten years immediately preceding has served in any part of the Commonwealth any part of a sentence of imprisonment or detention, being a sentence for a term of three months or more;
- (d) any person who has been sentenced at any time in any part of the Commonwealth to imprisonment or detention for life or for a term of five years or more.

**Jury list.**

22.(1) The Registrar shall before the first Sunday in September in each alternate year make a list in the prescribed form of all persons qualified and liable to serve as jurors under the provisions of this Act and shall cause a copy of the list to be published at such time and at such places as the Chief Justice may direct, and shall attach to each such copy a notice stating that all objections to the list will be heard by the justices at a time and place mentioned therein being not less than fifteen nor more than twenty-one days from the date of publication of the notice.

(2) At the time and place so mentioned, the justices shall hold a petty session for the revision of the list and shall upon any evidence adduced before them or of their own knowledge, information and belief strike out from the list the name of any person therein included who is not qualified or liable to serve or add to the list the name of any person who is qualified and claims the right to serve as a juror.

(3) Any person may appear before the justices at the revision of the list either personally or by his advocate and claim that he is or is not liable to serve as a juror.

(4) The list when revised shall be signed by the justices and delivered by them to the Registrar, and shall be in force from the 1st day of October next after it is allowed for the two years next following.

(5) Every person whose name is included in the jury list as revised by the justices shall be liable to serve as a juror notwithstanding that he may have been entitled by reason of some disqualification or exemption to claim that he ought not to be in the jury list.

#### **Service of summons.**

23.(1) A summons to serve as a juror shall be in the prescribed form and shall be served by the Marshal at least six clear days before the day appointed for the sitting of the court –

- (a) by delivering it to the person to be summoned or, in case he shall be absent, by leaving it at his usual place of abode or place of business; or
- (b) by sending him by registered post addressed to him at his usual place of abode or place of business.

(2) No person shall be summoned to serve on any jury or inquest more than once in any one year, unless all the jurors upon the list have been already summoned to serve during the year.

**Application of Part VII of the Criminal Procedure Act to civil actions.**

24. Subject to sections 25 and 26, the provisions of Part VII of the Criminal Procedure Act that relate to juries shall apply so far as they are appropriate, mutatis mutandis, to juries summoned for the trial of any civil action.

**Jurors may be required to stand by.**

25. In any civil action, it shall be lawful for the court, if it shall think fit so to do, at the request of either party, to order any juror to stand by:

Provided that when the panel is exhausted the names of all those who have been ordered to stand by shall be called over again and shall not be objected to by either party except for cause.

**Verdicts in civil cases actions.**

26. In any civil action tried by the court with a jury, the verdict of the jury need not be unanimous and the court may-

- (a) accept a verdict upon which at least seven jurors are agreed, if the jury are unable to reach an unanimous verdict after deliberation for such time as the court may consider reasonable, not being less than two hours from the conclusion of the summing-up;
- (b) with the consent of all parties to the case, and after the jury have deliberated for such time as the court may consider reasonable not being less than three hours, accept the verdict of a simple majority of the jurors.

**Remuneration of jurors.**

27.(1) The Chief Justice may, with the approval of the Governor, make rules prescribing compensation for loss of earnings which jurors in the Supreme Court would have otherwise have made.

(2) A person who, in obedience to a summons to serve on a jury, attends for service as a juror shall be deemed to serve as a juror notwithstanding that he is not subsequently sworn.

(3) The amount due to a person by way of payment in respect of jury service for loss of earnings shall be determined by the Registrar.

(4) Any amount due to any person by virtue of the provisions of this section and the rules made thereunder shall be paid by the officer determining the same.

## PART IV. BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS.

### **Admission of barristers.**

28.(1) The Chief Justice may approve, admit and enroll as barristers of the Supreme Court any person who satisfies the following requirements, that is to say—

- (a) he has been called to the Bar in England or Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, or has been admitted as an advocate in the Court of Session in Scotland;
- (b) he is not at the time of his application for admission disbarred, or removed from the roll of advocates in Scotland, or suspended from practice as such barrister or advocate;
- (c) since his admission in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland he has completed a period of at least six months' pupillage with a practising barrister of at least five years professional standing in England, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or Gibraltar, or a practising advocate of at least five years professional standing in Scotland, or has completed a practical training course approved by the Council of Legal Education in England or by an equivalent body in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland or Scotland; and
- (d) he intends on admission to practise in Gibraltar either alone or in partnership with another barrister or solicitor.

(2) The Chief Justice may admit a person as a barrister under this section for the purpose of any particular case or cases, notwithstanding that such person does not satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) of sub-section (1), and may impose on a person so admitted such restrictions and conditions as he may think fit.

(3) Every person holding the office of Attorney General, Law Draftsman, Senior Crown counsel or Crown Counsel shall, so long as he continues to hold such office, have and enjoy all the rights and privileges of a barrister entitled to practice in Gibraltar.

### **Admission of solicitors.**

29.(1) The Chief Justice may approve admit and enroll as solicitors of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar any person who satisfies the following requirements, that is to say—

- (a) he has been admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England, or in any court of record in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland, or as a solicitor admitted to practice in Scotland;
- (b) he is not at the time of his application for admission struck off the rolls or suspended from practice as a solicitor; and
- (c) he intends on admission to practise in Gibraltar either alone or in partnership with another barrister or solicitor.

(2) Every person duly approved, admitted and enrolled as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Gibraltar shall be at liberty to act also as a barrister.

**Enrolment of solicitors.**

30.(1) Every person admitted or entitled to practice as a solicitor of the court as aforesaid, shall cause his name to be enrolled in a book to be kept for the purpose in the office of the Registrar, and to be called the Roll of the Court, and he shall be entitled to a certificate of enrolment under the seal of the court. No person whose name shall not be enrolled as aforesaid shall be entitled to practise in any of the courts of Gibraltar, and no solicitor shall actually practise without first taking out a certificate.

(2) No solicitor not duly certificated shall be entitled to sue for, or recover, any fee, reward or disbursement on account of, or in relation to any act or proceeding done, or taken by him in his professional capacity.

**Barristers and solicitors may practice in all courts.**

31. It shall be lawful for persons enrolled as barristers or solicitors to practise as such in all the courts in Gibraltar.

**Barristers may act as solicitors.**

32. All barristers shall be at liberty to act also as solicitors and shall be entitled to sue for and recover, any fee, reward or disbursement on account of, in relation to any act or proceeding done, or taken by them in their professional capacity as such solicitors:



Provided that a Barrister who attains the rank of Queen's Counsel shall not undertake or perform any professional function unless instructed by a solicitor or another barrister not having the rank of Queen's Counsel. Nothing herein contained will preclude the barrister having the rank of Queen's Counsel from continuing or engaging in partnership with another barrister or solicitor.

**Law relating to barristers and solicitors.**

33.(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any rules of court for the time being in force the law in England for the time being in force relating to barristers and solicitors shall extend to Gibraltar, and shall apply to all persons practicing as barristers or solicitors in Gibraltar.

(2) The rules prescribed from time to time by the Bar Council and the Law Society in England in regard to the professional conduct of barristers and solicitors shall with such modifications as the Chief Justice may deem fit to allow be respectively observed by barristers and solicitors in Gibraltar.

**Disciplinary powers of Chief Justice.**

34.(1) The Chief Justice may, for reasonable cause—

- (a) order the name of any barrister or solicitor to be struck off the Roll of the Court;
- (b) suspend any barrister or solicitor from practising within Gibraltar during any period specified by the Chief Justice;
- (c) administer any reprimand to any barrister or solicitor;
- (d) order any barrister or solicitor to repay or forego any fee; or
- (e) on the investigation of any complaint relating to the professional conduct of a barrister or solicitor, or on the determination of any proceedings relating to the professional conduct of a barrister or solicitor, make such order as he thinks fit as the payment by the barrister or solicitor or the complainant or any other party of the costs of the investigation or proceedings.

(2) The Chief Justice may at any time, for good cause, set aside or annul any order made under subsection (1).

(3) Where the Chief Justice—

- (a) makes or refuses to make an order under subsection (1); or
- (b) on application refuses to set aside or annul under subsection (2) any such order,

in respect of any barrister or solicitor, that barrister or solicitor may appeal against the decision to the Court of Appeal, but in every other case the decision of the Chief Justice in any proceedings referred to in subsection (1) or subsection (2) shall be final.

**Unqualified person practising.**

35.(1) A person not enrolled as a barrister or solicitor in Gibraltar, and not being a notary public, who, unless he proves that the act was not done for, or in expectation of, any fee, gain or reward, either directly or indirectly draws or prepares any instrument –

- (a) relating to movable or immovable property or any legal proceeding;
- (b) for or in relation to the formation of any limited liability company whether private or public;
- (c) for or in relation to the making of a deed of partnership or the dissolution of a partnership;

is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of £50.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in any other law or Act contained, proceedings in respect of any offence under this section may be brought at any time within two years next after the commission of the offence or within six months next after the first discovery thereof by the prosecutor whichever period is the shorter.

(3) This section shall not extend to-

- (a) any public officer drawing or preparing instruments in the course of his duty; or
- (b) any person employed merely to engross any instrument.

(4) For the purpose of this section the expression “ instrument” does not include-

- (a) a will or other testamentary instrument; or

- (b) a letter or power of attorney; or
- (c) a transfer of stock or shares containing no trust or limitation thereof.

**PART V.**  
**MISCELLANEOUS.**

**Interest on judgment debts.**

36. Every judgment debt shall carry interest, from the time the judgment is entered until it is satisfied, at such rate as the Chief Justice may, with the approval of the Governor by order direct and such interest may be levied under a writ of execution on the judgment.

**Rules regulating funds in Court.**

37. It shall be lawful for the Chief Justice, with the concurrence of the Financial and Development Secretary, to make rules regulating the payment of moneys into court and the lodgment of securities . and effects in court, the investment of funds in court and the payment out of moneys in court, the transfer of securities and the delivery out of effects, and, without prejudice of the generality of the foregoing, such rules may—

- (a) prescribe what moneys are to be invested, and in what manner, and what moneys are to be retained un-invested;
- (b) authorize the payment of interest on moneys that are un-invested, prescribe the rate of interest from time to time payable, and specify the moneys on which interest shall accrue and the moneys on which interest shall not accrue;
- (c) subject to the provisions of the Exchange Control Act, make any necessary provision regarding moneys in foreign currencies;
- (d) authorize the employment of an agent in transacting any business relating to funds in court and the payment to him of any commission or fee subject to such rules and to any order of the court;
- (e) make provision for the transfer to the Consolidated Fund of moneys lying unclaimed, without prejudice to the right of the persons, if any, entitled thereto;

- (f) prescribe the accounts to be kept, the forms to be used and the returns to be rendered.

**Rules of court.**

♦38.(1) It shall be lawful for the Chief Justice to make rules of court for carrying this Act into effect and in particular for all or any of the following matters:-

- (a) for regulating the sittings of the Supreme Court for the dispatch of civil business therein and of a judge sitting in chambers;
- (b) for regulating the pleading, practice and procedure in the Supreme Court in civil cases and in matters which in Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England come within the jurisdiction of the Crown side of the Queen's Bench Division thereof;
- (cc) for regulating pupillage generally, including the qualifications for admission to pupillage, the manner in which pupillage may be served, appeals in respect of pupillage, and the approval and termination of pupillage.
- (c) the summoning, impanelling and challenging of jurors and the fees to be paid in respect of trials of civil actions by jury;
- (d) for regulating the admission of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Supreme Court, their professional practice, conduct and discipline and for those purposes for delegating to any two or more persons (being barristers or solicitors) on such terms as may be specified in the rules, any of the powers conferred on him by section 34 (other than the powers of disenrolment and suspension);
- (e) for regulating the powers of commissioners for oaths, the fees and costs of barristers and solicitors and the hours of opening and closing the offices of the court;
- (f) generally for regulating any matters relating to the practice and procedure of the court or to the duties of the officers thereof or the costs of proceedings therein;

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♦ *The powers conferred by this section were enlarged by section 5 of the Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance and by section 14 of the Evidence Ordinance.*

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This version is out of date

(g) regulating access to and the use of the Law Library of the Supreme Court, prescribing fees for such access and use and the penalties to be paid for any damage to or loss of books therein and the method of recovering of such penalties.

(2) Rules made under this section may empower the making of orders at any stage of any proceedings directing that specified facts may be proved at the trial by affidavit with or without the attendance of the deponent for cross-examination, notwithstanding that a party desires his attendance for cross-examination and that he can be produced for that purpose.

(3) The power to make rules conferred by this section shall include the power to make rules with respect to all or any of the matters dealt with by the rules of the Supreme Court in England made from time to time.

(4) Where any provision in respect of the practice or procedure of any of Her Majesty's Courts the jurisdiction of which or of any courts substituted for or united and consolidated with which is vested by this Act in the Supreme Court are contained in any Act of the Parliament at Westminster rules of court may be made under this section modifying those provisions to any extent that may be deemed necessary by the Chief Justice for adapting the same to the Supreme Court.