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District Judge Philip Rogers

The Senior Master

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# FOREWORD

I am delighted to welcome this complete revision of the JSB's Civil Bench Book. The bench book is intended primarily as a guide for the inexperienced judge, but it should also prove a useful tool for the more experienced judge when he or she has to deal with the less frequently encountered areas of substantive law.

It now seems a long time since the implementation of the civil justice reforms. The pace of change has continued unabated since those reforms both in substantive as well as procedural law. Sometimes, it is not obvious even to the experienced judge or recorder how best to deal with an unexpected procedural problem. I hope that this Civil Bench Book will serve as a useful publication for all of the civil judiciary who may use it.

Since the original publication of this bench book, the JSB has launched its Judicial Training Website, and with it a database of training materials used on all its training courses. This bench book is intended to supplement that database, and support the JSB's programme of induction training for civil judges, by providing guidance on the primary judicial skills required in managing a civil case.

I would like to thank all the contributors to the *Bench Book*, and in particular its general editors, District Judge Stephen Rogers and Judge Michael Roach. I appreciate how much work has gone into this guide.

Any comments on the contents or suggestions for the future - both of which are welcome - should be addressed to [publications@jsb.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:publications@jsb.gsi.gov.uk).

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