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PRESS RELEASE

**'SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION PAPER ON
INCREASING DIVERSITY IN THE JUDICIARY'**

The report from Lord Falconer, Constitutional Affairs Secretary and Lord Chancellor, on 'Increasing Judicial Diversity in the Judiciary' is very much welcomed by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors.

ACSeS responded to the invitation to comment on the consultation document. We are pleased to note that our comments have received serious consideration as detailed in the summary of responses to the consultation paper.

The report promises much and the expectations of ACSeS members, like other legal organisations have been raised. ACSeS looks forward to working with the DCA and other stakeholders to deliver the promises.

ACSeS has a rich pool of talented and experienced local government lawyers who deal with community issues on a daily basis. They will be able to bring this experience to judicial posts.

Local government legal departments attract large numbers of women, black and ethnic minority and disabled lawyers. There is a rich diversity within local authorities who with their community experience, can make a valuable contribution to the judiciary.

Gifty Edila, President of ACSeS said she particularly welcomes Lord Falconer's proposals to radically review and overhaul the judicial appointments process to achieve a diverse judiciary and make the judiciary more accessible to lawyers. His commitment to actively encourage lawyers to apply for judicial appointments is to be commended.

Other innovative proposals such as career breaks for Judges, mentoring and return to practice opportunities will increase diversity in the judiciary.

ACSeS looks forward to working with the DCA to implement many of the proposals.

**Gifty Edila,
President, Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors**