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Lawyers who wish to be "Queen's Counsel" refuse to swear to serve the Queen!?!??



It could only happen in Ireland! Northern Ireland's top judge and the Lord Chancellor could be called as respondents in the case of two Belfast barristers challenging the Queen's Council declaration to serve the Queen.

Barristers Seamus Treacy and Barry Macdonald are seeking a judicial review of the Lord Chancellor's decision that they must declare they will "well and truly serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II".

The two men had to make the declaration before they could become senior members of the inner bar, known as Queen's Counsel in Northern Ireland.

They were due to be sworn in in December but they boycotted the ceremony because they said the declaration was discriminatory and affronted their political beliefs. The barristers want a new form of declaration which omits any reference to the Queen to be adopted.

As the barrister's legal challenge to the declaration continued at the Belfast High Court, Mr Justice Kerr who is hearing the case ruled that the most senior legal figure in Northern Ireland, Lord Chief Justice Sir Robert Carswell, and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, could be respondents in the case. The barristers' lawyer suggested that while Mr Treacy and Mr Macdonald have never been officially sworn-in as QCs, they should be afforded the courtesy of Queen's Counsel.

The lawyer also said that, in the event of their High Court action being successful, the Lord Chancellor should pay them damages for loss of earnings through not being elevated through the legal ranks.