

Qualities Needed by a Judge

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Sanhedrin, Chapter 2*

	Court of 71 Judges	Court of 23 Judges	Court of 3 Judges (minimum)	Undesirable qualities
Wisdom and understanding (of Torah)	✓	✓	✓	
Humility	✓	✓	✓	
Fear of G-d	✓	✓	✓	
Hatred of money	✓	✓	✓	
Love of truth	✓	✓	✓	
Beloved by the people at large	✓	✓	✓	
Good reputation (even in their youth)	✓	✓	✓	
Broad intellectual potential	✓	✓		
Other secular intellectual knowledge e.g. Astrology, Astronomy etc	✓	✓		
Priests and Levites	✓ Preferable if possible	✓ Preferable if possible	✓ Preferable if possible	
Israelites	✓ Allowed	✓ Allowed	✓ Allowed	
Old age (where he cannot father children)	✗	✗	✓	✓
Childless	✗	✗	✓	✓
Cruel	✗	✗	✓	✓
Kings of Israel which were not from the House of David (weren't necessarily G-d fearing)	✗ May not judge or be judged			
Kings of House of David (were G-d fearing)	May be judged and may judge the people but may not be part of the Sanhedrin			
High Priest	✓	✓		
Physical blemishes	✗			✓
White haired	✓	✓		

Dignified physical appearance	✓	✓		
Understand many languages	✓	✓		
Convert	x	x	x	
<i>Mamzer</i>	x	x	✓	
Blind in one eye	x	x	✓	
Blind in both eyes	x	x	x	