



Solicitor/Partner - Leeds

Construction – Contentious – minimum 3 years' PQE

The Firm

Devonshires has been based in the City of London for more than 150 years. In February 2017 we extended our geographic reach northwards opening a regional office in Leeds to further develop the firm's pre-existing service offering across the region.

We are recognised by Legal 500 and Chambers UK as a medium-sized niche firm specialising in construction, commercial litigation, corporate, employment, projects and property legal services to clients based throughout the United Kingdom.

Our main client base is Registered Providers and the firm is ranked Tier 1 for its work in social housing. Over the past few years, we have grown significantly and now have approximately 200 staff and a growing international reach.

The Team

Our Construction team is ranked Tier 5 in Legal 500 (London/Real Estate/Construction: contentious and Construction: non-contentious). The team is comprised of 11 (four partners, four solicitors, two paralegals and one trainee solicitor) and is divided into two sub-teams (contentious and non-contentious). About three-quarters of our work is contentious.

Our clients include developers, major corporations, funders, contractors, sub-contractors, construction consultants, local authorities, registered providers of social housing and PFI consortia.

Our work for Registered Providers involves us in some of the largest construction disputes in the social housing sector which are often in the spotlight of the national media.

Job Role

This is an opportunity for an individual with a passion for construction law to join our busy construction department.

We are looking for an ambitious construction lawyer, who is prepared to work hard and go the extra mile, to hit the ground running and make their mark within a thriving construction department.

Candidates must have a minimum of three years PQE with the majority of experience gained in contentious construction but also have some non-contentious experience.

Successful applicants will be self-motivated with demonstrable enthusiasm for business development alongside building and running their own practice.

In addition to the minimum requirements set out above, applications from candidates at Partner level with the ambition and drive to take our business forward across the region would be very welcome.

Main Duties and Responsibilities of the Role

- Responsible for the day to day running of files;
- Capable of drafting straight-talking advice;
- Advising on every aspect of construction contracts (e.g. payments, extensions of time, loss and expense, defects, procurement and insurance issues);
- Drafting submissions for adjudication and arbitration proceedings;
- Managing proceedings in the Technology & Construction Court;
- Amending and advising on contracts (e.g. building contracts, development agreements and agreements for lease, consultant's appointments, plus all supplementary documentation such as security documents, warranties, novations and assignments);
- Interact directly with clients, manage their expectations, always meet deadlines and deliver on every promise;
- Organise and maintain tidy and accurate files both in hard copy and electronically;
- Prepare and deliver seminars and contribute to the department's publications;
- Follow department procedures, the Solicitors' accounts rules and the Firm's policies and procedures as detailed in the Staff Manual, including LEXCEL;
- Undertake such duties and tasks that are appropriate for the role of Solicitor such as changes in information systems and new technology as may reasonably be required;

This is not an exhaustive list and from time to time it may be necessary to vary these to meet the department and business needs.

If you would like further details or wish to apply for this position please email your CV and covering letter direct to legal.recruit@devonshires.co.uk and also complete the diversity monitoring questionnaire which can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Person Specification

Attributes and Skills Required

- You will be a contentious construction lawyer with a minimum of three years PQE in the contentious construction space and with experience of working within the property arena;
- Some non-contentious experience would also be very useful;
- You will have worked, since qualification, as a full-time construction solicitor;
- You will have a strong academic background, ideally gaining a 2:1 at degree level and a postgraduate course in construction law will be advantageous;
- You will have a thorough understanding of the Housing Grants, Construction & Regeneration Act 1996, the Scheme for Construction Contracts (England & Wales) Regulations 1998 and the Civil Procedure Rules;
- You will be proactive and prepared to work independently and intelligently exercise your own judgment with minimal supervision always adopting a can-do attitude;
- You will enjoy client contact and have excellent interpersonal skills;
- You will have excellent communication skills, both written and verbal with experience of drafting submissions in adjudication proceedings;
- You will be experienced in running your own files;
- You will be able to identify key issues in most complex cases, understand the business parameters within a case and reflect that in advice to clients;
- You will be commercially aware, proactive and able to convey clear and concise information to clients and external organisations, which will not compromise the practice or the firm;
- A high attention to detail to produce work / documentation which is consistently of a high standard;
- To have a flexible approach to work to ensure client deadlines are always met and clients are communicated with on a consistent and regular basis;
- You will be comfortable taking a collaborative and collegiate approach to matters, recognising that one can always learn new skills as well as imparting knowledge to others;
- To be familiar with Word, Outlook and Internet applications.

Devonshires Solicitors LLP is committed to providing equal opportunities in employment and to providing a workplace free from discrimination and harassment. As such all job applicants, employees, partners and third parties who come into contact with us, will receive equal treatment, regardless of age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, trade union activities, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. We welcome applications from groups where we are currently under-represented. For this reason we ask that all candidates complete the [recruitment monitoring survey](#) in complete confidence for statistical purposes in order that we can effectively monitor how well our Diversity procedures are working. To review our policies on Diversity & Inclusion and Dignity at Work please visit our recruitment pages at www.devonshires.com