



Solicitor 1-2yrs PQE

Real Estate & Projects

The Firm

Devonshires is a forward thinking firm which has been based in the City of London for more than 150 years. From our offices in London, Leeds and Colchester we provide legal services throughout England and Wales. We act for a broad range of clients including private and public companies, developers, investors, local authorities, funders and regulators but in particular we act for a significant number of charities and housing associations. We are a “full service” firm with specialists in Banking, Commercial/Corporate, Litigation, Housing, Employment, Real Estate and Projects. Over the past few years we have grown significantly and now have over 240 employees.

The Team

Real Estate (and particularly real estate development) is at the heart of Devonshires’ business, as it is with the major part of our client base. Within the Team, there are 6 dedicated partners working on a wide variety of property transactions with a broad range of clients from registered providers of social housing and care homes, through to private developers, acting on development sites and investment properties securing an income stream but often with an asset management angle or development opportunity post acquisition.

Job purpose

We are looking for someone personable who has strong analytical skills, excellent attention to detail as well as a willingness to ‘roll their sleeves up’ and help with both fee earning and business development to strengthen relations with existing clients and forge new relationships. e. The role will be to assist one of the partners predominantly with commercial property but also to get involved in a wider variety of transactions (from dealing with some property requirements of an entity in a CVA, investments purchases, option agreements, acquisition of development sites and ancillary planning requirements to high value residential work with the aim of honing your property skills to make you a trusted advisor for clients and the ‘go to’ person for their property enquiries). There will also be opportunities to be involved in other work within the real estate team from time to time.

An important part of the role is to provide direct support and assistance to a partner in the team, whilst also helping with the management and development of junior fee earners and contributing more widely to the team and its growth.

The role will require flexibility and the ability to successfully prioritise competing demands.

Main Duties and Responsibilities of the Role:

- Drafting and negotiating leases and licences (acting for both landlords and tenant);
- Site acquisition and disposal;
- drafting full reports on title;
- Site assembly;
- Rights of light, deeds of easements etc

- Asset management of property portfolios;
- conditional contracts, options and overage agreements;
- Property work on corporate transactions and funding requirements
- Acting for investors and liaising with their professional team for transactions
- Managing your own caseload and to assist partners and other fee earners in the day to day administration of files;
- Dealing with enquiries and chasing paperwork where necessary;
- Provide clients with monthly invoices and progress reports as and when required;
- Efficiently manage a large number of deadlines relating to a variety of cases at any one time;
- Organise and maintain tidy and accurate files both in hard copy and electronically;
- Provide support to the other fee earners within the team as and when required;
- Follow department procedures, the Solicitor's Accounts Rules and the Firm's policies and procedures as detailed in the Office Manual.

Person Specification

Attributes and Skills Required

- Strong academic background, ideally gaining a 2:1 at degree level;
- Admitted to practise as a solicitor in England & Wales with a minimum of 1 year's PQE;
- Minimum 12 months continuous experience in a similar role and possess solid drafting skills;
- Excellent administration and organisation skills, including diary management and the ability to deal with more than one task at a time;
- Must have a methodical approach, with a high attention to detail and produce work / documentation which is consistently of a high standard;
- Competent in all MS applications including Word, Excel and Outlook;
- Must be client focussed and have an approachable manner with excellent communication skills both written and verbal;
- Able to work with limited supervision with the ability to prioritise workload to increase efficiency;
- 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;
- 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;
- Familiarity with Registered Providers would be an advantage but is by no means necessary.

Devonshires 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