



Solicitor

Construction – Non-Contentious – 3 yr PQE +

The Firm

Devonshires 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 to clients throughout the UK.

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 primary client base covers registered providers of social housing (i.e. local authority landlords and private registered providers (non-profit and profit-making)) and the firm is ranked Tier 1 for its work in the social housing sector. Over the past few years, we have grown significantly and now have approximately 230 staff and a growing international reach.

The Team

Our Construction team currently comprises four partners, five solicitors, two paralegals and a trainee. We loosely operate as two sub-teams (contentious and non-contentious) with about 25% of our work being non-contentious; something we are looking to grow. We have a presence in all three offices.

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 of social housing involves us being instructed on some of the largest construction developments in the social housing sector which are often in the spotlight of the national media.

Job Role

This is an opportunity for an ambitious construction solicitor with a demonstrable passion for construction law to join our busy department, working primarily on the non-contentious side.

The successful applicant will have three years PQE in Construction, the majority of which will have been gained on the non-contentious side, they will enjoy business development and jump at the chance to begin building their own practice.

Main Duties and Responsibilities of the Role

- Responsible for the day to day running of files;
- Capable of drafting clear and concise bespoke provisions;
- Advising on every aspect of construction contracts (e.g. payments, extensions of time, loss and expense, defects, procurement and insurance issues);

- Amending, drafting and advising on contracts (e.g. building contracts, development agreements, consultant's appointments, plus all supplementary documentation such as security documents, warranties, novations and assignments);
- A comprehensive understanding of the operations and mechanics of the JCT suite and other standard industry form of contracts;
- An understanding of alternative procurement methods to design and build, such as construction management or management contracting
- An understanding of procuring developments through JV structures is advantageous.
- An understanding of asset management contracts is advantageous.
- 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;

This is not an exhaustive list and from time to time it may be necessary to vary these requirements to meet 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

- minimum of three years' PQE **non-contentious** construction experience, although we may consider candidates of two years plus.
- **must have worked, since qualification, as a full-time construction solicitor;**
- strong academic background, ideally gaining a 2:1 at degree level and a postgraduate course in construction law will be advantageous;
- able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the Housing Grants, Construction & Regeneration Act 1996, the Scheme for Construction Contracts (England & Wales) Regulations 1998;
- proactive and prepared to work independently and intelligently with minimal supervision, but knowing when to consult and always adopting a can-do attitude;
- enjoy client contact and have excellent interpersonal skills;
- excellent communication skills, both written and verbal with experience of preparing bespoke drafting;
- comprehensive understanding of the JCT suite of contracts and development agreements;
- able to identify key issues in most complex issues, understand the business parameters and reflect that in advice to clients;
- demonstrate high level of commercial awareness
- provide succinct and concise advice to clients and external organisations, meticulous attention to detail to produce work / documentation which is consistently of a high standard and accurate;
- flexible approach to work to ensure client deadlines are always met and clients are communicated with on a consistent and regular basis;
- 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, Internet applications, Westlaw and Lexis Nexis.

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.