



Solicitor - Leeds

Construction – Contentious – 2 - 4 yrs PQE

The Firm

Devonshires has been based in the City of London for more than 150 years and opened offices in Leeds in 2017.

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

Whilst our main client base is Registered Providers, and the firm is ranked Tier 1 for its work in social housing, we are gaining rapid traction in the area of traditional construction disputes and transactional work. Over the past few years, we have grown significantly and now have just under 240 staff and Partners and a growing international reach.

The Team

Our Construction team is comprised of 16 (six partners, eight solicitors, one trainee and one paralegal) 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. In addition, our work in the energy and project sectors involves us with sophisticated and high value projects often involving state-of-the-art design and engineering works.

Recently, our Leeds office was joined by an experienced contentious construction partner specialising in high value energy, infrastructure and projects work. With a growing case load there is an opportunity for the candidate to be seen as the “go to” assistant for disputes and transactional work in the north and a knowledge of the local market would be a valuable benefit to the successful candidate.

Job Role

This is an opportunity for an individual with a passion for construction law to join our Leeds office to work alongside the resident partner and also in conjunction with the wider national construction department.

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

The successful candidate will be 2 – 4 years PQE with the majority of experience gained in contentious construction but with some non-contentious experience.

In addition, they will be self-motivated and have enthusiasm for business development and building our business.

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, novation's 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

- Two – four years' PQE contentious construction experience working within the property arena but with some non-contentious experience.
- worked, since qualification, as a full-time construction solicitor;
- a strong academic background, ideally gaining a 2:1 at degree level and a postgraduate course in construction law will be advantageous;
- 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;
- proactive and prepared to work independently and intelligently exercise your own judgment with minimal supervision always adopting a can-do attitude;
- enjoy client contact;
- excellent communication skills, both written and verbal with experience of drafting submissions in adjudication proceedings;
- experienced in running own files;
- able to identify key issues in most complex cases, understand the business parameters within a case and reflect that in advice to clients;
- 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;
- excellent attention to detail to produce work / documentation which is consistently of a high standard;
- demonstrate a 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;
- 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.