



Solicitor

Real Estate & Projects 3 - 5 years' 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 main client base is Registered Providers and the firm is ranked Tier 1 for its work in social housing. We also act for a number of private developers and investments funds. Over the past few years, we have grown significantly and now have approximately 260 staff and a growing international reach.

Devonshires fully supports agile working and we will consider applicants from all locations, however we would require candidates to be able to commute to the office as and when required.

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 9 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 sites and developments from a handful of units to thousands.

Job Purpose

The role will specialise in site acquisition and development projects for our clients. The role will cover a full range of property related legal issues from giving advice on draft section 106 agreements, development agreements, conditional contracts and potential title problems through to legal completion.

The role will also include an opportunity to provide support on property aspects of projects such as leisure projects, regeneration projects, care projects and business and share sale/acquisition matters primarily focused on specialist accommodation such as care homes, extra care/supported housing, key worker and/or student accommodation.

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.

Main Duties and Responsibilities of the Role

- Responsible for the day to day running of files to include, but not limited, to:
 - preparing/drafting full reports on title;
 - section 106 agreements and planning;
 - development agreements;
 - drafting and negotiating agreements for lease, leases and licenses.
 - an understanding of/structuring transactions with reference to SDLT and VAT

- dealing with access rights;
 - highways and drainage (with paralegal support);
 - conditional contracts and option agreements;
 - nomination agreements (we will provide training if necessary);
 - S38, S104 and S278 adoption and highways agreements (with paralegal support);
 - Statutory utility easements, leases and transfers (with paralegal support); and
- To keep clients constantly updated with progress and meet their deadlines;
 - Organise and maintain tidy and accurate files both in hard copy and electronically;
 - To meet fee targets;
 - To develop and grow client relationships;
 - To provide support and supervision to other fee earners across the team and to share knowledge as and when required;
 - To follow department procedures, the Solicitors' accounts rules and the Firm's policies and procedures as detailed in the Office 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;
 - To take on an active role and responsibility for training and developing fee earners.

Person Specification

Attributes and Skills Required

- You will have between 3 - 5 years' PQE as a property solicitor with experience of site acquisition and development work;
- You will have a strong academic background, ideally gaining a 2:1 at degree level;
- Experience in care homes and specialist (key worker, supported living and/or student) accommodation projects is desirable, but not essential;
- You will enjoy client contact and have excellent communication skills, both written and verbal;
- Ability to prioritise workload to increase efficiency;
- 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 happy to undertake work with minimal supervision;
- To be familiar with Word, Outlook and Internet applications;
- Familiarity with Registered Providers would be an advantage but is by no means necessary.

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](#).

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 identity, 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