



Solicitor – Construction - Contentious – 3 - 8 years' PQE - Birmingham

The Firm

Devonshires has been based in the City of London for more than 150 years. In addition to our office in the City, we have offices in Leeds, Birmingham and Colchester.

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

Our client base consists of Registered Providers of social housing and we are ranked as a leading firm for our work in social housing. Over the past few years, we have grown significantly and now have approximately 250 staff and a growing international reach.

Construction, Engineering and Procurement Team

Our Construction, Engineering and Procurement team is ranked Tier 4 (Legal 500) for contentious construction and is described by Legal 500 as:

“...led well by the partners. They are all knowledgeable, commercial and focused on achieving the right outcome for their clients. They are also very client friendly and good to work with, irrespective of the subject matter.”

The main client base of the team includes Registered Providers, building contractors and construction professionals. There are 24 fee earners in the team who have an unrivalled expertise in fire safety defects in relation to tall buildings. We have a thriving adjudication practice and a number of cases in the Technology and Construction Court.

The team is comprised of 28 fee earners (7 partners, 13 solicitors, 5 paralegals, 1 chartered legal executive and 2 trainee solicitors) and is divided into two sub-teams (contentious and non-contentious) operating from London, Leeds and Colchester.

The Opportunity

This is an opportunity for individuals with a PQE of not less than 3 years and with a passion for construction law to join our busy construction department.

We are looking for an ambitious construction solicitor, 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.

The successful candidate will have at least 3 years PQE in construction, with the majority of experience gained in contentious practise 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

- Responsible for the day to day running of files;
- Capable of drafting straight-talking advice of the highest standard;
- 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;
- 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 are a direct applicant and 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](#).

All recruiters must submit their candidates' CV via our HR team or using the recruitment inbox listed above. Only HR can agree terms of business with third parties, provide the appropriate privacy notice to be shared with candidates and ensure that the firm maintains its commitments to LEXCEL, ISO27001 and Equality Diversity & Inclusion.

Role Specification

Attributes and Skills Required

- A minimum of three years' PQE contentious construction experience working within the construction sector but with some non-contentious experience.
- worked, since qualification, as a full-time construction solicitor;
- a strong academic background, with at least 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;
- experienced in using Word, Excel, 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 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.