

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

Job description:	Solicitor
Job title:	Senior Associate
PQE Required:	7 years +
Location:	Farringdon, London

WHO WE ARE

We are a modern, ambitious law firm always on the look-out for talented individuals to join our team.

We are recognised market experts across a number of legal areas including, commercial litigation, corporate restructuring and insolvency, specialist director advice (both pre and post commencement of proceedings), shareholder disputes, tax disputes and banking & finance work.

We are constantly looking to develop technologically and have a focus on quality legal services and will support individuals with innovative ideas.

Many of our solicitors previously worked at national and international law firms but have chosen to join us to work with our great team and longstanding clients. They enjoy working in a forward looking firm where collaboration and ideas are encouraged.

ROLE OVERVIEW

An exceptional opportunity for a bright lawyer looking to join our dynamic and growing Contentious Insolvency and Corporate Services team and to deal with cases of significant size and complexity. The successful candidate must have previous experience of a junior or mid-level management role and have a thorough developed understanding of commercial and insolvency litigation.

We require an individual capable of managing a part of the team dealing with variously-sized commercial litigation cases which mainly comprise claimant or defended insolvency proceedings, technical insolvency matters, corporate litigation with an emphasis of s.994 petitions, solvent winding-up and other types of proceedings relating to shareholder disputes, director disqualification proceedings (with experience in any form of accounting practice or the Insolvency Service of interest) and commercial litigation – particularly any experience managing the defence of or issue of freezing order applications.

We encourage fresh ideas and innovative and confident knowledgeable approaches, particularly where the client is in a defendant position.

You will also be expected to be confidently client facing, dealing with enquiries and have a strong record of developing clients, to complement FWJ's website and online optimisation software and CRM system.

Our people are central to the success of Francis Wilks & Jones and ensuring the successful candidate fits into our culture is important to us. We are therefore looking for candidates who

1. Are legally competent with regard to commercial litigation, insolvency and general commercial law.
2. Are reactive to client needs and interested in the technical challenges of our clients' instructions and have the ability to provide a "value added" service;
3. Are energetic and enthusiastic self-starters who can effectively drive part of the team forward combined with the necessary demonstrable technical knowledge in support.
4. Are keen to keep themselves updated with regular training and the understanding of breaking case law which often impacts upon the services provided to our clients;
5. Understand the needs of HNW clients and Directors/SMEs and their commercial needs in respect of the risks of litigation, the strategic use of litigation and value-added aspects of litigation strategy.
6. Are keen to understand client businesses, their methodologies, their needs and particularly accounting and tax aspects;
7. Are experienced in insolvency, director disqualification, tax avoidance and/or corporate disputes and are able to employ such knowledge for a client's best interests
8. Can develop junior team members and balance these attributes with fee earning and developing the business of this department.
9. Be experienced in modern case management systems and be open to the use of technology within the law.
10. Having some understanding or be willing to understand the use of SEO, AI and other modern marketing techniques as part of a modern legal profession.
11. Have client contacts and/or be willing to develop business as part of their role.

SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE:

The successful candidate should ideally be able to demonstrate a range of experience of insolvency litigation and general commercial litigation, including where possible experience of the following areas:

- Experience of a client facing role, speaking to clients from initial enquiry through to conclusion and, developing their personal legal and communication skills in a direct-facing client roles.
- Conducting general commercial litigation (fast track and multi-track claims), to include a reasonably accurate understanding and experience of the CPR and how this can be used for clients strategically.
- Required skills include drafting witness statements, interim applications (security for costs, further information, strike-out), dealing with detailed disclosure exercises (including disclosure under new pilot early and extended disclosure rules), mediation / ADR, and taking all steps up to and including trial.
- Obtaining or defending freezing orders;
- Conducting insolvency litigation claims and defences including applications for preferences, TUVs, under s.423, for misfeasance/breach of fiduciary duties. Any experience defending directors for using EBT schemes would be advantageous.

- Experience of Shareholder and corporate disputes including applications under the Companies Act 2006, rights issues, deadlock matters and generally mediating pre-action and thereafter experience of s.122 winding-up petitions, s.994 unfair prejudice petitions and derivative claims.
- Experience or an understanding of defending Director Disqualification claims, including pre-action correspondence and proceedings through to trial would be advantageous.
- It would also be advantageous if the candidate had experience of litigation funding, including CFAs, DBAs, discounted and fixed fee agreements, disbursement funding and ATE insurance products.
- Any accounting experience or familiarity with accounts would also be an advantage.