

# ASSOCIATE

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<b>Job description:</b>	Solicitor
<b>Job title:</b>	Associate
<b>PQE Required:</b>	4 years +
<b>Location:</b>	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.

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 experience of general commercial litigation and preferably insolvency litigation.

We require an individual capable of running small to medium-sized commercial litigation cases (including on appeal to the High Court and Court of Appeal) on their own and in conjunction with others for larger cases. We welcome the more commercially aware solicitors with an eye for detail and innovative legal skills.

You will be expected to be client facing, have excellent communication skills and deliver swift, high-quality responses to clients that focus on achieving the best commercial outcome and cost-effective resolution. We pride ourselves on the quality of our legal services.

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 enthusiastic and interested in the technical challenges of our clients' instructions and have the ability to provide a "value added" service;
2. 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;

3. Understand the needs of HNW clients and Directors/SMEs and their commercial needs in respect of the commercial risks of litigation, the strategic use of litigation and value-added aspects of litigation strategy.
4. Are keen to understand businesses, their methodologies, their needs and particularly accounting and tax aspects;
5. Are hungry to read into the defence tactics of insolvency, director disqualification, corporate disputes and tax litigation and are able to employ such knowledge for the client's best interests
6. Want to learn and improve, aren't afraid to ask questions, and aren't afraid of hard work;
7. Are personable and understand the importance of getting on with colleagues and clients and are keen to raise the profile of FWJ and their own profiles via marketing and social media portals;
8. Demonstrate an understanding of technology, and open to learning new systems and contributing to the firm's development in this regard;
9. Understand the use of SEO, AI and other modern marketing techniques as part of a modern legal profession, in addition to being comfortable and content to exploit more traditional marketing techniques.
10. Are ambitious and keen to do well and grow their career, based on quality services, technical knowledge and a commercial understanding of the firm's business needs.

### **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:

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- 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 good 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 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.
- Familiarity with accounts would also be an advantage.