



Litigation Lawyer

Ashurst's Disputes, Investigations & Advisory Team, Canberra

Recruitment

About Ashurst:

Ashurst is a leading progressive global law firm with a rich history spanning more than 200 years. We are proud of our history and are future-focused, having expanded into new technologies through our NewLaw division, Ashurst Advance, and our consulting arm. Our in-depth understanding of our clients and commitment to providing excellent standards of service have seen us become a trusted adviser to local and global corporates, financial institutions and governments in all areas of commercial law. To find out more please visit www.ashurst.com.

Team overview:


Dispute resolution is a strategic area of focus for Ashurst globally. The firm has major international disputes coverage with over 50 partners and more than 200 disputes lawyers globally. Ashurst belongs to an elite group of firms with large dispute resolution teams in Australia and the United Kingdom, and established and successful teams across Continental Europe and Asia.

In Canberra, our Dispute Resolution team is led by partner Melanie McKean and includes 12 lawyers. The team specialises in litigation, dispute resolution, advisory work and investigations for Commonwealth government and commercial clients. The team works for a wide range of Commonwealth government clients, with a focus on administrative law, civil litigation and commercial litigation. Members of the team may have the opportunity to work across offices, joining teams on commercial dispute resolution or regulatory matters led by partners in other Australian offices.

We align ourselves with our client's objectives and work closely with our client teams in executing an agreed strategy which delivers the best results. Avoiding a dispute or preventing one escalating is often the objective and, to this end, our teams are effective in the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures.

We have acted for the Commonwealth government on many sensitive, high-profile and significant matters. The firm also acts for many of the world's leading companies on their most significant disputes and investigations. Our teams work seamlessly and collaboratively across geographic boundaries. Our team is equally at home operating in national courts, in domestic or international arbitrations, or before specialist tribunals.

	<p>Further information on our Disputes team can be found on our website www.ashurst.com.</p>
Job overview:	<p>We have an opportunity for a junior lawyer to join our dispute resolution team in Canberra. The successful candidate will have experience in government or commercial litigation gained within a top-tier firm, respected mid-tier firm, in Commonwealth government or in-house. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work on a range of matters, which may include administrative law (including merits and judicial review, as well as advisory work), civil litigation, commercial litigation and investigations.</p> <p>Description of Lawyer role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will act on a range of matters for many different Commonwealth government clients.• You will take day to day responsibility for more straightforward matters and actively progress complex matters with close partner support.• You will assist with the preparation of matters for litigation, mediation, conciliation or arbitration, including the preparation of pleadings and evidence.• You will enjoy working as part of a team and will have strong communication skills. You will have excellent attention to detail and will deliver high quality work at all times.• You will be confident and effective in dealings with your colleagues, clients, counterparts and Courts and Tribunals.• Ideally, you will be familiar with the Commonwealth's engagement of external lawyers and its requirements for and expectations of external lawyers.• You will build and maintain a network of business contacts. In addition you will proactively identify opportunities to introduce your clients to other offices and practice areas, working with partners, other lawyers and the business development team to develop opportunities.• You will contribute to our CLEs and expertise programs.• You will be a role model of the firm's values: we're passionate about quality; we deliver through collaboration; we think differently.• Risk and Control: Ensure that all activities and duties are carried out in full compliance with our regulatory requirements and internal policies.
Essential skills and experience:	<p>We seek a lawyer with a proactive, positive and energetic approach, who has a commitment to providing excellent service, and a desire to build client relationships.</p> <p>Our ideal candidate will have:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 years' dispute resolution experience gained within a top-tier firm, respected mid-tier firm, in Commonwealth government or in-house. • Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. • Superior drafting ability, with strong attention to detail and well-developed analytical skills. • A commercial and pragmatic approach which accords with the Commonwealth's obligations in dispute resolution. • An ability to articulate and negotiate effectively. • The ability to be team-focused and work collaboratively, providing leadership and mentoring where appropriate.
Career advancement:	An established Associate Career Path Framework is in place clearly defining expectations and outlining opportunities for promotion.
Secondment opportunities:	Opportunities often arise for associates to spend time on secondment with a key client of the firm.
Security Clearance:	The successful candidate must be able to obtain and/or maintain a security clearance at Baseline Vetting Level. You must be willing to disclose all relevant and required information. You must be an Australian citizen and have lived in Australia, or have a checkable background, for at least the preceding five years for Baseline Vetting clearances. More information on the security clearance vetting process is available on the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA) website.
Background checks:	In order to comply with regulatory and client requirements, Ashurst will undertake appropriate vetting of staff. When applicants accept a job offer, Ashurst, alongside a specialist provider, will undertake professional verification and background checks. These checks are only undertaken with consent, and in accordance with our legal and regulatory obligations.
Partner Profile: 	<p>Melanie McKean specialises in dispute resolution, litigation, public law, investigations and reviews. Melanie advises government, commercial and private sector clients on a wide range of topics. She represents her clients in civil, administrative and commercial claims.</p> <p>Melanie's clients value her legal skills, her ability to identify and manage risk, and her commitment to finding effective solutions for complex disputes.</p> <p>Melanie understands the policy and administrative context in which disputes can arise and which govern how they must be resolved. She has experience leading teams in the conduct of sensitive, high-profile, complex and multi-party matters for her government clients. She has also assisted government clients to make sound administrative decisions relating to complex and high-profile initiatives.</p>