



Commercial/Contract Claims Advisory and Dispute Resolution - Senior Associate

Ashurst's Disputes, Investigations & Advisory Team, Canberra (or remotely from our Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth offices)

Recruitment

About Ashurst	<p>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.</p>
Team overview	<p>Ashurst is ranked Band 1 in Chambers-Asia Pacific for the government practice area. Our Canberra office plays a key role in that success with partners dedicated full-time to working with their government clients. These partners and their teams deliver a range of major projects, policy, commercial, technology, dispute resolution and employment legal services to more than 20 Commonwealth government departments and agencies.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In Canberra, our Dispute Resolution team is led by partner Melanie McKean and includes 12 lawyers. The team specialises in advisory work, dispute resolution and litigation and in inquiries 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 law claims and commercial/contact claims.</p> <p>The Canberra Dispute Resolution team also works closely with our Projects, Digital Economy Transactions, Property and Risk Advisory partners (and their teams) in relation to claims and disputes arising from large Commonwealth procurements and projects (including construction, ICT, and significant asset and procurements).</p> <p>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.</p>

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.

Further information on our Disputes team can be found on our website www.ashurst.com.

Job overview

We have an opportunity for a Senior Associate with experience in commercial and contract claims advisory and dispute resolution to join our team in Canberra.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work with a range of claims and disputes arising from large Commonwealth procurements and projects (including construction, ICT, and significant asset procurements). Experience with those kinds of claims and disputes is highly desirable.


The successful candidate will also have the opportunity to work on a range of matters, and across offices, including on:

- civil litigation and regulatory matters;
- administrative law (including merits and judicial review, as well as advisory work); and
- commissions, enquiries and investigations.

Description of Senior Associate role:

- 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 (including supervising junior lawyers) and actively progress complex matters with close partner support.
- You will assist with the preparation of matters for making and determining commercial/contractual claims, negotiation or mediation, and (where necessary) arbitration or litigation.
- 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 decision makers (including expert

	<p>determiners and mediators, and (where necessary) arbitrators and judges).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be effective in communicating with clients in order to understand their needs and how best to meet them. You will also have the ability to assist clients in arriving at practical and cost effective solutions. You will be effective in forming relationships with clients. • You will mentor junior lawyers and graduates in the team. You will be able to identify when a team member needs support and will be approachable for advice, giving constructive feedback. • 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
<p>Essential skills and experience</p>	<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"> • 4-8 years' commercial/contract claims advisory and/or dispute resolution experience gained within a top-tier firm, respected mid-tier firm, Commonwealth or state/territory government or in-house. • Experience in relation to Commonwealth or state/territory government procurements/projects claims and disputes is highly desirable. • We are open to candidates with Commonwealth commercial/contract claims advisory experience who have advised "front end" projects/procurement teams and are looking to move into litigation. • Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal. • Superior drafting ability, with strong attention to detail and well-developed analytical skills.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Candidates with flexible working requirements are encouraged to apply. For the right candidate, we may consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working from one of our other Australian offices (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth); and/or • a part-time arrangement.
Career advancement	An established Senior Associate Career Path Framework is in place clearly defining expectations and outlining opportunities for promotion.
Secondment opportunities	Opportunities often arise for Senior 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 Profiles 	<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 multiparty matters for her government clients. She has also assisted government clients to make sound administrative decisions relating to complex and high-profile initiatives</p>