

Civil and Public Law Advisory and Dispute Resolution – Senior Associate

Ashurst's Disputes Investigations & Advisory Team, Canberra

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 governments, local and global corporates and financial institutions in all areas of 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. 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 partners Melanie McKean and Rob Andersen, and includes 13 lawyers. The team specialises in dispute resolution, litigation, regulatory investigations and prosecutions, advisory work and inquiries and investigations for Commonwealth government and commercial clients. The team works for a wide range of Commonwealth government clients, with a focus on public 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> <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.</p>

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 civil claims, public law disputes and advisory work, regulatory investigations and litigation to join our team in Canberra. Experience with commercial disputes work will also be valued but is not essential.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work on a wide range of matters including:

- Both complex and routine civil litigation;
- Regulatory investigations and litigation
- Public law (including merits and judicial review, as well as advisory work across a wide range of areas); and
- Royal Commissions, Parliamentary and other inquiries, 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 partner support.
- You will have experience drafting court documents and preparing advice for clients which is clear, concise and actionable.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Essential skills and experience

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.

Our ideal candidate will have;

- 4-8 years' dispute resolution and litigation experience
- Experience in both civil claims and public law litigation and advisory work.
- Extensive experience working with Commonwealth, State and/or Territory government clients, with a strong understanding of the particular expectations and requirements that such clients have for external lawyers.
- 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