

Competition Lawyer/Senior Associate

Ashurst's Competition Team - Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane

Recruitment

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| 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>The Competition team is looking for a Lawyer/Senior Associate with at least 3 years' experience in competition and consumer law, who is able to work as part of a team.</p> <p>You will work with a leading and highly-integrated team in the Australian and Asian markets, with an enviable and expanding stable of loyal clients, roles in pre-eminent matters across all major Australian and Asian commercial centres, leading practitioners, and a deep, and externally-recognised pool of first-class associates. Our increasing involvement in high profile cross-border matters is boosted by the broader Ashurst network, and the highly integrated nature of the global competition team has proven invaluable to our local capacity and profile. The outstanding nature of our global practice was recently acknowledged by the Global Competition Review as one of the top 20 of their 25 "Global Elite" competition practices.</p> <p>The team continues to excel in complex domestic and multi-jurisdictional matters across the full spectrum of competition and consumer law issues, including ACCC and AER investigations and legal proceedings concerning unilateral conduct or cartels, merger clearances (including informal reviews, authorisations and overseas filings) and transaction structuring, ACCC authorisations, infrastructure access issues and market inquiries.</p> <p>The team offers a diverse client base across a range of industries including, financial services, transport and infrastructure, technology and digital platforms, FMCG, energy and resources, and healthcare and pharmaceuticals.</p> |
| Job overview | Main Tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advising clients• Preparing merger and other submissions |

- Responding to regulatory notices
- Undertaking multi-jurisdictional merger filing analyses
- Compliance training
- Business development activities
- Risk and Control: Ensure that all activities and duties are carried out in full compliance with our regulatory requirements and internal policies.

Description of a Lawyer role:

- You will already have acquired 3+ years' competition and consumer law experience
- You will take day to day responsibility for more straightforward matters and actively progress complex matters with partner, counsel and senior associate support. You will be able to demonstrate well developed drafting skills
- You will be confident and effective in communications with counterparts
- You will be effective in communicating with clients in order to understand their needs and how best to meet them. You will be effective in forming relationships with clients
- You will have excellent attention to detail

Description of a Senior Associate role:

- You will already have acquired 6+ years' competition and consumer law experience.
- You will take day to day responsibility for matters.
- You will be able to demonstrate well developed drafting skills.
- You will be confident and effective in communication with counterparts
- You will be effective in communicating with clients in order to understand their needs and how best to meet them.
- You will be effective in forming relationships with clients.
- You will have excellent attention to detail.
- You will nurture and mentor junior lawyers, and provide leadership in conjunction with partners.

Essential skills and experience

- 3+ years' competition and consumer law experience gained within private practice
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Superior drafting ability across a range of media (email, word, PowerPoint and Excel)
- A commercial approach
- Strong attention to detail with well-developed analytical skills
- A willingness and an ability to work across a global Competition team on a wide variety of matters, with a particular focus on work in the Asia-Pacific region.
- A proactive, positive and energetic approach with a commitment to providing excellent service, and a desire to interact with the market and build client relationships.

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| Recent work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising Google on the ACCC's Digital Platform Services Inquiry (Fifth Interim Report) considering the introduction of digital platform specific consumer rules and ex ante competition regulation for digital platforms. • Advising NBN Co on its renegotiation of complex, long-term Definitive Agreements with Telstra, including engagement with Government regarding authorisation, and securing ACCC authorisation. • Advising Australia's largest retail drinks network, Endeavour Group, and largest portfolio of licensed hotels on 4 strategic acquisitions, including securing ACCC merger clearance in respect of each in key local markets. Advising on divestiture undertakings. • Advising Alkaloids of Australia on criminal cartel proceedings by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in the Federal Court of Australia alleging a global cartel in the supply of scopolamine products, including defending Alkaloids in its sentencing hearing. • Advising Henkel AG on proceedings brought by Reckitt Benkiser in the Federal Court of Australia alleging misleading biodegradability claims and trademark infringement associated with Henkel's launch of a new product range in Australia. • Advising Aurizon on the competition law and access to infrastructure issues associated with its \$1.8 billion intermodal linehaul contract with Team Global Express. • Advising Downer EDI Group on the competition law aspects of the \$212 million sale of Downer's transport projects to Gamuda Berhad. • Advising Mitsui on international merger filing analysis and competition law compliance for its acquisition of a 33.7% stake in Climate Friendly, one of Australia's largest carbon farming project service-providers in Australia. • Advising EnergyAustralia on the ACCC's electricity and gas market inquiries and competition law compliance arising from its retail energy and wholesale power generation businesses. |
| Career advancement | <p>An established Associate Career Path Framework is in place clearly defining expectations and outlining opportunities for promotion.</p> |
| Secondment opportunities | <p>Opportunities often arise for associates to spend time on secondment in house with a key client of the firm. From time to time, secondment opportunities also come up within other Ashurst offices in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.</p> |
| Background checks | <p>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.</p> |

Partner Profiles



Alyssa Phillips specialises in competition and consumer protection law, and also in anti-bribery and corruption matters. She has broad experience advising clients on competition law issues associated with the terms and structure of commercial arrangements, including acting for merger and joint venture parties in obtaining merger clearance (or other forms of authorisation) from competition law regulators.

Alyssa has advised on competition law issues arising out of many transactions, and has secured merger clearance for clients in both Australia and many overseas jurisdictions. She has particular expertise in complex mergers and acquisitions, and has market leading expertise in advising on multi-jurisdictional merger filings, particularly within the major jurisdictions across Asia.

Alyssa has advised clients in a range of industries on their competition law obligations, and has particular expertise in the energy, mining, oil and gas, waste, pharmaceuticals and healthcare and transport sectors.



Peter Armitage is an expert in competition and consumer protection law, specialising in complex merger clearances and defending clients in investigations and legal actions by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Peter is a trusted advisor to major corporations in sectors including financial services, manufacturing, transport, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, IT, consumer and retail, mining and resources and waste management.



Melissa Fraser's practice focuses on competition/antitrust matters and includes enforcement litigation and investigations, strategic advisory work on operational issues, merger clearance and compliance matters. She has particular expertise in complex cartel investigations, including acting for immunity applicants. She has also advised extensively on the unfair contract terms regime, unconscionable conduct, misleading conduct and product safety issues and recalls.

Melissa's clients span a broad range of industries, but she has a particular focus on the financial services, energy, and FMCG sectors. Melissa spent several years practising in London advising on UK and EU antitrust law and has real insights into global enforcement trends. Melissa has also undertaken several client secondments, including in Acting General Counsel roles. Melissa is a guest lecturer on cartel conduct at University of

New South Wales in the Competition Law Masters class.



Justin Jones specialises in competition & antitrust matters, with particular expertise in regulated industries / infrastructure access, cartels, competition litigation & appeals, and consumer law. He also has considerable experience in broader power & utilities regulation.

Justin advises on both commercial matters and disputes, and works collegially with other Ashurst offices and practice groups to deliver efficient results for his clients. Justin advises on matters across the oil & gas, mining, transport, and agribusiness sectors. His clients include well-known and significant businesses operating in the resources, energy (upstream and downstream), linear networks (including gas, electricity and rail), agribusiness and retail services industries.

Justin is experienced in dealing with Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) inquiries, investigations and prosecutions. Prior to joining Ashurst, Justin gained considerable experience in conducting investigations and civil prosecutions for the ACCC both as a lawyer in civil regulation for the Australian Government Solicitor, and previously as an ACCC investigator. That experience has given Justin particular insight into the way the ACCC enforces competition and consumer protection laws.



Ross Zaurrini has extensive experience advising on all aspects of competition and consumer law, including cartel conduct, misuse of market power, resale price maintenance, exclusive dealing and third line forcing, misleading conduct, unconscionable conduct, consumer guarantees and unfair contract terms.

Ross specialises in complex competition law litigation and investigations involving the ACCC and is highly capable and experienced in cross-border and multi-jurisdictional matters. He has extensive experience across a range of industries, with a particular focus on the financial services and healthcare sectors.

Ross advises on commercial arrangements which may raise price fixing, misuse of market power or other anti-competitive conduct concerns. He also assists clients seeking informal clearance from the ACCC for proposed transactions and collaborative arrangements, and on compliance with the Australian Consumer Law.



Tihana Zuk specialises in Australian competition law/anti-trust law and consumer law. She has a strong background in advising parties on merger control issues, and obtaining merger clearance from the ACCC for complex domestic and international transactions.

Tihana routinely advises on all aspects of the Australian Consumer Law, including unfair contract terms, consumer guarantees and misleading or deceptive conduct.

Tihana has many years of experience in dealing with the ACCC in relation to merger clearances, notifications and authorisations of conduct/arrangements, as well as investigations and enforcement action. She has helped clients successfully close many ACCC investigations, including into alleged misuse of market power, cartel conduct, anti-competitive arrangements and unfair contract terms.



Angie Ng covers a broad range of competition issues across Australia, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore and the rest of the Asia Pacific region. In 2020, Angie relocated from Sydney to Singapore to head up Ashurst's Asia-based competition practice.

Angie has strong pan-Asian competition law credentials. She has spent a significant portion of her career in Beijing and Hong Kong and advised on the drafting and design of Hong Kong's competition law.

She brings depth to multi-jurisdictional merger filings for complex and large-scale transactions and cross-border investigations by combining international experience with "on-the-ground" local knowledge to deliver effective outcomes and solutions for clients.