

Bird & Bird

A world of *possible*.

Associate (Mid Level) 12 Month Mat Cover

Intellectual Property - London

The opportunity

We are looking for a mid-level Associate / Trade Mark Attorney to join our established team in London on a 12 month fixed term contract to cover a maternity leave, as a member of one of the largest departments in the London office.

The firm

Bird & Bird opens up a world of possible for lawyers everywhere. Here you can advise major enterprises and high-growth businesses on matters that are often transformative in nature, and alongside people who are truly collegiate in the way they work with everyone at Bird & Bird. We are one international firm, where over 70% of our work involves teams from across our firm. And that is only going to increase. It is this common purpose and shared approach that makes for a more productive, and collaborative place to work.

The team

Our Intellectual Property team is consistently ranked as band 1 in both Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners. We have one of the largest IP teams in London with c.80 lawyers with unparalleled contentious and non-contentious capabilities in relation to all IP rights; trade marks, patents, copyright and database rights, confidential information and data privacy. We advise on IP protection, enforcement, strategic management, valuation and monetisation of IP portfolios. Because of our broad remit our clients are an eclectic mix of the diverse and traditional. Our dedicated Brand Management team is comprised of 4 Partners and 17 Fee Earners, supported by a large paralegal and docketing support team.

Our promise

Bird & Bird is committed to maintaining an inclusive working environment and we are an equal opportunities employer. We will actively support and supervise your professional development. For those with the necessary energy and ability, we will ensure that the firm is a first-class platform on which you can develop into an industry leader. We support an agile working environment and are happy to discuss flexible working.





What you'll do

- Providing advice on a wide range of brand related issues, both non-contentious and contentious.
- Assistance in the management of worldwide trade mark and design portfolios including conducting and providing advice on trade mark and design clearance searches, drafting trade mark specifications, implementing, and managing worldwide trade mark and design filing programmes, advising on filing strategies.
- Providing advice, dealing with prosecution issues, drafting arguments, and preparing evidence in response to Trade Mark Office objections, third party oppositions, invalidity, and appeal actions.
- Providing advice, drafting settlement agreements, managing trade mark disputes - trade mark oppositions, cancellation actions, enforcement cases, domain name disputes
- Providing advice and drafting agreements relating to IP rights including letters of consent, assignments, licences, co-existence agreements, undertakings, cease & desist letters, and undertakings
- Conducting in-use (online) investigations and research
- Managing own diary deadlines and reminders
- Supervising and training junior team members
- Build new and develop existing relationships with clients.



About you

To meet the competencies of the role, candidates will have at gained post-qualification experience in a leading law firm/IP practice and an ability to manage portfolios and client relationships with limited supervision, while fully considering other legal issues that may be raised by the client.

The successful candidate will have:

- Excellent academic achievement, an ability to learn new skills quickly, a proactive and problem solving mindset.
- Post qualification experience as a solicitor or a trade mark attorney, gained within a comparable environment.
- Exposure to the following areas:
 - International portfolio management for trade marks and designs;
 - International clearance projects for trade marks and designs;
 - Management of negotiations connected with contentious IP matters;
 - Global enforcement and watching programmes;
 - Domain name disputes; and
 - Contentious registry/court proceedings.
- A desire to be working for a truly international firm and work on cross border matters.
- A clear understanding of the operation and structure of a commercial law firm.
- Ability to deal with a high-volume workload and turn around deadline-driven work quickly and effectively.
- An open and collaborative approach to working with senior and junior colleagues, in a dynamic and fast paced team.
- Able to deal directly with clients and manage client relationships.
- Strong presentation skills and/or a willingness to improve presentation skills.
- Working knowledge of the full spectrum of intellectual property rights other than trade marks, including copyright and design rights.





The main responsibilities of this role are outlined above; however, this description is not exhaustive, and the job holder may be required to undertake additional duties from time to time to ensure the smooth running of the department. The role may require some working outside our normal working hours of 9:30am- 5:30pm.

Bird & Bird is committed to creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive environment. We are delighted to confirm that we have achieved Mansfield UK Certification. This certification was achieved by considering at least 30% women, lawyers from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, lawyers with disabilities and LGBTQ+ lawyers for at least 70% of UK fee earner and leadership positions. We are committed to continuing to participate in Mansfield Rule UK and continue to work towards ensuring a diverse pool of candidates are considered for our roles, in line with the Mansfield Rule. You can read more about this [here](#).



In the event that we make an offer to you and you accept, we will conduct pre-engagement background checks, where permitted by local legislation and according to the nature of the role that may include right to work, professional and academic qualifications, criminal records, sanctions, financial stability, media, directorships and references from previous employers.

Please click below to view more detail in our Applicant Privacy Notice.

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