**Job Title:** Lawyer (Construction Team) 2-5 yrs PQE

**Status:** Full time, permanent

**Main responsibility**: To provide a full range of principally non-contentious construction advice to our clients. Assist in growing Construction business.

**The Team**

The Construction team at Wedlake Bell consists of 4 Partners and 8 fee earners. The team advises at every stage of the construction life cycle, from feasibility planning and design, throughout the procurement, resolving problems when they arise, to successful completion. The team plays a proactive role in any project team – responding to the client’s needs and driving the project forward.

The team is highly rated and noted in *Chambers & Partners 2022* as providing:

 "*Practical advice that offers solutions*" and for being "*knowledgeable, thorough and attentive*."

‘Their attention to detail stands them apart, with a focus on getting matters concluded promptly and efficiently.’

‘Attention to detail while also understanding commercial aspects of contract negotiations, ensuring that commercially sensible, legally robust terms are in place on different scales of projects.’

‘Very personable and approachable. Willing to advise on contractual position but with a realistic approach to potential outcomes.’

‘Impressive industry knowledge and expertise within the construction field. The team also have foresight in the way construction terms are negotiated and look to future proof agreements where possible.’

As part of the team you will be trusted with direct contact with clients and will work closely with them and their other professional advisors, giving you the opportunity to develop relationships with the key stakeholders. Wedlake Bell construction lawyers are experienced across a range of construction industry sectors This role will principally be working with our real Estate housebuilder team whose clients are significant house builders dealing with the construction aspects of land acquisition development and disposal of private and social housing, including development agreements with registered social housing providers whether for sale or rent. . Apart from that, you will deal with a varied workload with clients (ranging from developers to sub-contractors) within the hospitality, offices, logistics, retail, and healthcare sectors. You will work with other teams across the firm, principally with the wider real estate team, dealing with development work, transaction support and giving advice to clients in relation to issues which arise both during a construction project and after the project has reached completion.

You will predominantly work with the Partners in the team and will be trusted to progress your work properly without over the top/unnecessary supervision. However, when dealing with more complex matters or if you want support, the Partners are all very approachable, actively interested in seeing you develop and quick to help. The wider team of qualified fee earners are extremely willing to help and you will be assisted by trainees and paralegals. The firm has good IT systems and IT support sometimes said by recruits from larger city firms to be superior to the systems they are used to.

The construction team is not stuffy - everyone is very friendly and supportive, and there is a genuine team spirit helped by regular team and training meetings and social events not only within the team but also the wider firm. You'll be given plenty of room to develop your skills as a lawyer in a team which has an excellent reputation for bringing on young lawyers. You will also have the opportunity to participate in business development activities for the team and the wider firm.

**Profile**

* Primarily non-contentious but having some contentious advisory experience would be an advantage, though not vital.
* As mentioned above, this particular role also has an emphasis on site acquisition and disposals (excluding plot sales) for housebuilder clients.

**Duties**

* Domestic construction work for a range of clients (on and offshore) including high net worth individuals, joint ventures, corporate and commercial organisations, institutional investors and developers, industry bodies and private healthcare providers.
* Contract drafting and advisory including bespoke and based on recognised industry forms principally JCT and NEC, bonds, guarantees and other construction security documents, development agreements and agreements for lease.
* Construction finance both acquisition and development acting for lenders and borrowers.
* Wide range of projects.
* Working directly with construction team clients and also providing integrated cross firm transaction support.
* Assisting to provide solutions and strategies to help achieve the client's required outcome

**Essential Skills or Knowledge:**

* The ideal candidate will have experience that has included acquisition of land (with and without planning permission) for development, disposal of land to buyers of development sites/affordable housing, options and conditional contracts for acquisition of strategic and/or development sites.
* Strong academics
* Excellent technical skills
* Commercially aware and ability to handle a diverse range of work
* A willingness to get involved with marketing activities and understand the importance of nurturing professional contacts and developing referrals and repeat referrals from clients and contacts.

Please view <https://wedlakebell.com/services/construction/> for further information on the team.

If you are interested in this role, please contact Darren Chidgey, recruitment adviser at dchidgey@wedlakebell.com