

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b> Associate (Mid Level)	<b>Departments:</b> Commercial and IP
<b>Hours of work:</b> 9.00am to 5.00pm with flexibility needed at all times	<b>Reporting to:</b> Head of Department

## OBJECTIVE OF ROLE

We are looking to recruit a Mid Level Associate to join the Commercial and IP Practice Groups in our Dubai office.

Our International Commercial and IP practices are at the heart of Bird & Bird and are recognised internationally as market leading. Unlike many of our competitors, Bird & Bird offers commercial advice as a principal standalone specialist offering as opposed to a support function to a corporate department. This focus and the level of expertise and experience developed as a result sets Bird & Bird apart from other law firms. We are also strategically sector focused in areas that truly transform our clients business and get involved in some of the worlds most innovative and groundbreaking projects around the world. With this high level of industry focus, our lawyers get the opportunity to experience a degree of variety and are exposed to areas of specialization that set us apart from other law firms.

This role offers the right candidate the opportunity to join a strong, growing team in the UAE, and to be part of an expanding business. Our IP team enjoys high praise in the leading legal rankings directories and we continue to broaden our practice capabilities in this space.

Bird & Bird have built a strong reputation not only on exceptional legal expertise, but also on our ability to think beyond the details of law to meet our clients' needs; Bird & Bird lawyers are recognized as innovators, solution providers and lawyers that clients enjoy working with. We have over 1000 lawyers worldwide working as a single, cohesive team across 29 offices. We also work with a wider network of trusted law firm partners in the Middle East, Europe and Asia, giving us genuine global reach.

The firm offers excellent prospects for progression and our culture provides our people with world-class support to achieve their ambitions and goals.

## DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

You will work on a broad range of commercial and IP agreements including franchising agreements, hospitality/restaurant agreements, distribution and supply contracts, regulatory product recalls and labelling, IP advisory, and trademark advisory with a focus on franchising. You will give specialist advice in the retail and consumer sectors and general advice on a wide range of other commercial and IP arrangements and regulations across our other sectors such as hospitality, life sciences etc.

## **SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES**

Candidates will need to understand and have a broad range of Commercial expertise with an IP focus.

You will be 3-5 PQE with demonstrated experience gained in a leading firm, preferably with exposure to an international law firm environment. Ideal candidates will have a good understanding of the commercial laws of the UAE and will have some experience specifically in hospitality, food & beverage and retail. Any additional UAE employment law and free zone incorporations/de-registrations experience would be helpful but is not necessary. Bi-lingual (English/Arabic) is advantageous but not essential; however fluent English is a prerequisite.

In addition, we expect our Mid-level Associates to demonstrate:

- Flexibility, supporting cases across a broad range of matters.
- The ability to manage aspects of complex matters and clients, with proven negotiation skills.
- Ability to manage own case load.
- Knowledge of key areas of the law; providing clear, precise, practical advice.
- The ability to use initiative and the confidence to build success and achievements.
- The ability to liaise effectively with other fee earners from within the group, but also to liaise and coordinate with fee earners from other relevant disciplines and jurisdictions as required.
- Delegation and supervisory skills where appropriate.
- Keen to work in a high paced, challenging, team-centric environment.
- The willingness and ability to support business development activities, creating and maintaining strong client relationships and identifying new business opportunities.
- A commitment to regularly update their own technical expertise and to undertake continuous self-improvement and development.
- The ability to contribute to the knowledge base of the UAE offices through the sharing and dissemination of knowledge.

**This job 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.**