
Personal Assistant – Maternity Cover

Department: Competition

The firm

Bristows is a market leading law firm with a global client base across our core sectors of life sciences and technology. The firm has maintained its high standing in the market with the exceptional quality of our lawyers and the strength and depth of our scientific and legal expertise. We have an all equity partnership that has remained stable over many years.

The Competition team

Our competition lawyers have both an in-depth knowledge of advisory and transactional competition law as well as extensive experience of litigation. Matching the focus of the firm as a whole, we also have a strong sector focus, with the majority of our work relating to tech or life sciences matters. This combination sets us apart and enables us to take a truly integrated approach to cases with strategic and substantive considerations taken from the outset. The team has two partners, 1 of counsel and 5 associates who are supported by two PAs.

Key responsibilities

PAs are expected to anticipate the support their fee earners require across a number of areas including M&BD, billing, travel, document support and production and inbox management. Whilst PA roles vary depending on the department, all PAs are expected to be competent in the core responsibilities listed below:

- Dealing with highly confidential, private and often sensitive information.
- Monitor and filter all emails, recording / diarising / flagging action points on important requirements.
- Make travel arrangements and work on often complex travel itineraries.
- Extensive diary management.
- Meeting planning.
- Provide accurate and regular maintenance of complex electronic and paper filing systems.
- Update and maintain electronic case management systems.
- Proof reading and checking all work for spelling, grammar, formatting, presentation and sense.
- Familiarity with the team's relevant legal processes.
- Operate as a supportive team member providing holiday, lunchtime and absence cover for other PAs as required; ensuring all phone calls are picked up and being prepared to help out when others are busy.
- Cover front of house duties when required.

Business Development

- InterAction – Responsible for proactively ensuring all their fee earners' client/ contact information is up to date, are on the relevant mailing lists and BD activity such as lunches, coffee, dinners etc are recorded as an activity.
- GARS – Responsible for recording all relevant activity for their fee earners. This includes pitches, BD trips, work experience and event/ conference attendance.
- Pitches/ credentials documents – assist M&BD with the preparation of these documents by using PitchPerfect in Word and PowerPoint to ensure all information is up to date and on-brand.
- Managing logistics for fee earners attendance at events/ conferences etc with input from BD regarding the budget.
- Assisting with the coordination of Bristows client-focused events, particularly where their fee-earner has direct involvement in the event or the objective of the event is aligned to their BD goals.
- Proactively seeking and attending upskilling/ training on the CRM systems (such as GARs and InterAction) as our use of each system will evolve over time.

Billing

- Assisting with the management of Work In Progress alongside the allocated Revenue Controller.
- Ensuring accuracy of prebills, via editing and amendments within Prebill Manager to ensure accuracy and in accordance with client specific billing requirements, including specific fee rates if applicable.
- Take an active role in ensuring the prompt dispatch of final invoices, via ebilling or other methods.
- Maintain accurate records of expenses/ disbursements/ fees for client billing.
- Liaising with credit control department to monitor payment of invoices and responding to internal and external requests for additional documentation and information.

Document Production

- Producing and amending business critical legal documents on Word with speed and accuracy.
- Maintain databases and spreadsheets in Excel.
- Produce PowerPoint presentations including charts, graphs, client pitches and proposal documents.
- Initiate draft responses to written correspondence in a fee earner's absence.

Key requirements

- Prior experience of working as a Legal Personal Assistant is preferred but not essential
- Very strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proactive and intelligent approach, able to use initiative to find solutions
- Resilient and calm under pressure
- Very high level of computer literacy
- Positive 'can do' attitude and personable nature

Our values & culture

With around 300 staff and partners in total and one UK location, we are able to maintain a friendly atmosphere where everyone is able to get to know each other and many policies and practices can operate on a trust basis.

We value face to face collaboration and the social element of working relationships. Our remote Working Policy enables staff to work in an agile way. We don't monitor attendance, but simply ask that everyone spends on average across the year more time in the office than out of it - typically three days a week for a full time employee. We provide a comprehensive home working set up including laptop, additional monitors, mouse, keyboard, headphone, chair etc as required.

Our firm values, which we very much "live", are Ambition, Bravery, Curiosity and Friendliness. These underpin all that we do across both our client work and our internal strategic decision making. We are signatories to the Mindful Business Charter and take our commitment to staff welfare and work life balance very seriously. None of our lawyers have billing targets which means we can focus on doing the best for our clients while also having the time and capacity to assist each other in a genuinely collaborative working culture. No one is competing for hours and everyone knows they can enjoy downtime when it arrives. We have an active, partner-led Diversity & Inclusion group which runs awareness raising and educational initiatives in addition to ensuring that our policies and procedures remain inclusive. Our Charities Committee is equally busy and puts on a range of events from sporting to baking to our Christmas Craft Shop, all in aid of our Charity of the Year. Our Wellbeing Programme is championed at partner level and is structured around the pillars of Physical, Mental, Financial and Community wellbeing with an annual programme of events, educational activities and support.

Reward & benefits

Our salary and bonus structure reflects our absence of billing targets and collaborative culture and any bonus is paid as a simple percentage bonus across the whole firm. We have a flexible benefits package that is kept under regular review and is designed with the wellbeing of our staff and their families at its heart.

Diversity & inclusion

At Bristows we are committed to championing equality, diversity and inclusion for all, and we are a proud signatory of the Law Society's Diversity and Inclusion Charter. As a firm, and as individuals, we do all we can to treat people fairly and with mutual respect. This commitment enriches our work and our working lives and has played a key part in our success over the years. It is our policy to provide equal opportunities for all employees and job applicants in relation to recruitment, selection, pay, training, working conditions and promotion opportunities regardless of age, disability, gender, gender affirmation, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

For more information about D&I policies and practices at the firm, please [see here](#).

For more information on our firm values, [see here](#).