

BIRNBERG PEIRCE CRIMINAL DEFENCE SOLICITOR ADVERTISEMENT

Hours: 35 per week (plus participation in rota of emergency cover)
Salary: £45K rising to £53K per annum depending on experience
Location: London

Birnberg Peirce is a long-established law firm whose purpose is to uphold civil rights and liberties and to ensure these principles ground the representation of those who come to us for help.

We are advertising for a 3+ year qualified solicitor, to join a very experienced team of criminal defence lawyers. We act in a wide range of challenging criminal cases in magistrates, crown and appellate courts (domestic prosecutions as well as extradition requests). We take cases to the European Court of Human Rights and to international bodies concerned with human rights. We endeavour to bring challenges to wrongful convictions to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Our task is to represent clients to the utmost of our ability and beyond; we place the highest value on investigation in every case, small or large. In the defending of charges and their consequences, issues frequently arise of importance for others and/or change or progression of the law. These include questions of discriminatory interpretation and/or application of the criminal law, patterns of forensic error, protections for vulnerable defendants. The backgrounds of those we represent often involve politically complex circumstances, demanding understanding of global political history as well as of this country. The spectrum of defence work includes the arrest of protesters/demonstrators and the principles of free speech. A number of the summary and/or indictable offences originate in Terrorism Act legislation, often novel and controversial, including Schedule 7 stops at ports of entry.

There is a purposeful overlap with the work of solicitors in the firm's other departments: civil litigation, public law, prison law and immigration/asylum. The defence of criminal accusations frequently demands a co-ordinated understanding of allied areas; and on occasion the bringing of collateral challenges. We see it as imperative that a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience is accessible for our solicitors working in each field and to be handed down for the future.

Our work is almost entirely publicly funded; as a firm we have fought long and hard to defend the continuation of Legal Aid itself.

The post advertised will involve the solicitor's management of their own caseload as well as working collaboratively in the cases of colleagues. The solicitor will be able to act as advocate and, increasingly unusually for publicly funded solicitors, to attend trials when counsel are instructed.

Representation at police stations is a critical part of the work; as well as participation in the firm's rota of emergency cover.

We aspire to be a diverse and inclusive team, truly representative of every community and section of society.

How to apply: Please send CV and covering letter to Claire Sibley c.sibley@birnbergpeirce.co.uk

Closing date: 18th March 2024

Interviews to be conducted in week commencing late March early April 2024

Anticipated start date: ASAP