

Children Panel Solicitor - Person Specification

Description of role:

HMB wishes to recruit a solicitor to join our long established and respected childcare team. We are looking for a solicitor with recent panel accreditation, or ready to gain accreditation. Our childcare lawyers have a wealth of experience acting for children, parents and other relatives in care proceedings. There is also some scope for acting in private law children cases.

HMB has been proud to provide the best quality legal aid services for over 25 years across a range of legal disciplines. A commitment to legal aid is still at the heart of our firm, and our childcare team work collaboratively with our private law family colleagues, as well as with our public law and housing teams who often refer clients or assist in identifying and working to resolve issues affecting our clients including homelessness.

Our children lawyers are experienced and accomplished advocates, and the successful candidate will be expected to work as part of a team, including providing and receiving advocacy support to/from colleagues.

The successful candidate will:

- Be enthusiastic about family law and in particular acting for children and parents faced with care proceedings;
- Ideally have experience and knowledge of working in cases where DV is a relevant issue, including DV case work and subsequent Finding of Facts,
- Consolidate and maintain, or develop, sources of referral including guardians and other professional sources;
- Have 3 to 10 years post qualification experience and ideally already be a member of the Children Panel (although we can support the right candidate who is close to application stage);
- Have excellent knowledge and experience of legal aid;
- Be able to manage support staff including oversight of CCMS applications and day to day queries;
- Enjoy and be good at cooperative and collaborative working, both within the team and with colleagues who can offer complementary expertise; have a positive approach to work and to learning from and working with others.
- Be able to work effectively under pressure, prioritise and meet targets;
- Understand and be willing to work according to the firm's systems and respond effectively to management;
- Have and want to develop commercial awareness and understand how to run a profitable caseload;
- Be comfortable with using different IT systems/ have good IT skills;
- Be highly motivated, reliable and efficient;
- Have the confidence to develop good marketing and networking skills;
- Have excellent written and oral communication skills.