



Solicitor/Graduate Legal Executive – Agriculture Department

Job Overview

Our Head of Agriculture partner, Frank Collins, has a real passion for what he does. Frank has 30+ years experience supporting the agricultural community in the south-west. He is well respected and has extensive networks across the farming community.

The role reports directly to Frank and will handle a wide range of agricultural property matters.

You will have a focus on business development as you will be taking a lead role in developing business networks and creating opportunities across the sector.

Occasionally you'll need to visit clients premises which may require pulling on a pair of wellies, or they may take you out on their estate in a Landrover or tractor.

This role is about building long term relationships with clients – Frank is currently working with the grandchildren of clients he started with 30 years ago. It's about working with long established family businesses as they develop their plans and strategies for the next generations.

You'll also be working closely with lawyers in the wider Commercial Property team, providing comprehensive advice to clients with agricultural property on instructions ranging from supporting landowner clients buying and selling property, or promoting land for development by way of options or promotion agreements, through all aspects of management of rural assets, including tenancy issues and planning, to both the implementation of green energy schemes and the letting of land for these purposes. You'll also be acting for lenders to rural borrowers wishing to offer agricultural land as security, but with one or more challenging factors.

There will be the responsibility of having a fee earning target and managing your own case load, as well as attending networking events to attract new clients and grow your own client base.

Departmental Overview

Based in the Sherborne and Wells offices our Agricultural team are an important resource for those in the agricultural industry because we provide useful advice and support for land and pesticide use, as well as issues that pertain to seed, water, labour, and the environment. Due to this highly regulated industry, our agricultural lawyers ensure clients understand agriculture laws and requirements; it is our job to help clients run their agribusiness or farm in an appropriate manner. Additionally, we need to stay up-to-date on new regulations and legislation so that the advice we provide is accurate.

We are one of the most well respected teams of rural lawyers in the country. The team have established genuine long-term client relationships characterised by trust and affection, they rely on our thorough understanding of countryside issues. With over 150

years' experience of providing multi-disciplinary advice to landowners, they know that they're in good hands.

All this doesn't mean we've lost our personal touch. It's the quality and commerciality of our service, our industry insight and the talent and passion of our people that engages our clients, and they love what we do.

Key Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Personal Aspects:

- Manage own case load and ensuring that all clients are updated regularly
- Meetings with clients and professionals, both in the office and out on the farm or other professional offices
- Build strong relationships with community members, especially local farmers
- Always put the clients needs first and ensure that matters and cases are dealt with in a timely fashion
- Liaise regularly with Land Agents and accountants;
- Help farmers plan for their successor to preserve the farming operation

Technical Aspects

- Advise on:
 - Buying & selling land
 - Promotion agreements
 - Option agreements
 - Asset management
 - Energy schemes
 - Financing, lending & securities
- Negotiate documents, review titles, do title investigation work; prepare certificates of title for lenders.
- Draft leases, contracts and purchase agreements
- Assist with land and boundary issues
- Keep up to date on environmental laws and the rights of landowners
- Guide farmers and agribusiness owners in legislation and regulatory compliance
- Provide legal counsel to businesses and organisations
- Learn current issues that affect the agricultural industry, and what solutions are available
- Attend team meetings and provide ideas on business development

Special Requirements

A pragmatic, flexible approach to working is required, there are 3 office locations you can choose from –Sherborne, Wells and Bath and there is opportunity to work from home. However, at times you'll need to do client visits, attend marketing events and do some of your own business development. Knowledge of your 'patch' is useful, as is the ability to create and nurture client relationships.

Ready to join us?

Send us your CV and covering letter addressed to Karen Sherwin, our Head of Human Resources at HR@mogersdrewett.com