

Job Title	Qualified Patent Attorney
Located	Birmingham
Reports to	Office Managing Partner

Help shape the future of intellectual property. Marks & Clerk LLP is the leading and largest firm of Patent and Trade Mark attorneys in the UK with over 60 partners and 350 employees. Our attorneys are highly skilled in all technical fields. We have 8 offices in the UK: London, Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

Marks & Clerk Birmingham supports a range of clients, from multi-national blue-chip companies to SMEs and entrepreneurs, in a variety of sectors, including automotive, mechanical, life sciences, medical, chemical, electrical, food and drink, and manufacturing. The office also has outstanding links with the academic institutions in the region, advising inventors, guiding spin-outs and assisting technology transfer departments to maximise the value of their intellectual property.

Role purpose

The relevant practice is extremely diverse ranging from materials science, chemical engineering, all chemistry disciplines and biotechnology (primarily immunology and genetics).

The appointee will be responsible for providing exceptional client service for an existing portfolio originating from direct clients but which also includes a degree of agency work. In addition, he / she will support with the acquisition of new clients to expand the team's fee earning capabilities.

The appointee will be actively involved in developing and implementing patent drafting / prosecution. This will include the identification of inventions and drafting, filing and prosecution of patent applications in both the UK and Europe as well as directing prosecution of patent applications in various jurisdictions worldwide via local attorneys. As well as drafting and prosecution, there will be the opportunity to be involved with both opinion and advisory work for direct clients, and there will be significant scope for direct client contact.

The successful candidate will benefit from the assistance and support of the Partners to ensure his / her successful integration into the Firm. Extensive support is also available from highly capable clerical and administrative employees together with the use of a bespoke case management system.

Principal responsibilities

The Firm believes in looking at an entire business portfolio from an IP perspective and likes to take a collaborative approach with clients. The specific responsibilities will be as follows:

- Advise clients on securing appropriate IP protection and preparing and filing patent applications
- Ensure that patentable inventions are recognised and protected
- Draft, file and prosecute patent applications through to grant
- Arrange novelty and infringement services and patent watch services
- Provide freedom to operate advice and validity opinions
- Conduct oppositions, appeals, entitlement hearings, invalidity and revocation proceedings before relevant offices and tribunals, representing clients at oral hearings
- Liaise with solicitors and advocates / barristers in the event of litigation
- Conduct IP audits and due diligence for investors in intellectual property and businesses with IP assets
- Take an active approach to business development opportunities with the support of a professional marketing department

Technical knowledge, professional qualifications and experience

The successful candidate will have a first or upper second class honours degree in a chemistry discipline, and ideally a PhD in a biology related subject (however this is not essential).

They will ideally be a dual qualified attorney (CPA and EPA) with up to 2 years post qualification experience, although candidates who are single qualified and working towards dual qualification will also be considered.

In addition, they will be:

- Highly motivated and pro-active, with the drive and business development skills to develop the practice
- Able to assume responsibility for the development of, and on-going relationship with, clients and through excellent interpersonal skills and written and verbal communication skills
- Able to demonstrate excellent time and portfolio management skills
- Able to work effectively both independently and as part of a team (which will comprise qualified, trainee attorneys and support team members)

Remuneration and benefits

- Extremely competitive salary dependant on qualification and experience
- This role is eligible to participate in a discretionary bonus scheme for qualified attorneys
- 25 days annual holiday plus statutory holidays
- Private medical insurance, which can be extended to cover other family members
- Contributory pension scheme
- Life assurance
- Permanent health insurance
- Reimbursement of membership fees to professional bodies required for the role