

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### FOR FIRMS

#### What background and experience do your lawyers have?

lawyerbank lawyers are talented senior practitioners with outstanding technical acumen in the fields of commercial law, administrative law, and / or litigation. Our lawyers generally have over five years of experience (most having more than 10) and have worked in well-respected law firms, at a Senior Associate level or above, and/or highly regarded in-house legal teams, at the Principal Legal Officer / Director level or above.

Our corporate lawyers are well versed in all types of commercial transactions including purchase and sales arrangements, IP and ICT transactions, corporate restructuring, finance and banking, property and construction matters, licences and leases of real and personal property and insurance and regulatory compliance.

Our administrative lawyers are accustomed to advising on complex issues arising under portfolio legislation; legislative processes and programs, legislative instruments and delegations; FOI, privacy and government accountability and transparency regimes; and Government decision-making to ensure decision-making processes are legally valid and will survive judicial review or similar challenges.

Finally, our team of litigators is experienced in providing high quality advice, litigation management and dispute resolution in a range of Courts, Tribunals, Commissions and Inquiries. We have particular expertise in instructing and appearing in the Federal Court, Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and the Australian Human Rights Commission, as well as mediating disputes, and providing expert determination, case appraisal and decision auditing services.

#### How is client and firm confidentiality managed?

We understand the importance of confidentiality when working within a commercial legal practice. Our lawyers are under strict obligations to maintain the confidentiality of information of both the law firm and its clients. This information is not shared with lawyerbank (or within DFC Legal Pty Ltd). We are happy to have our lawyers execute confidentiality deeds if required.

#### How are client conflicts managed?

We appreciate how important clients are to a firm. We are happy to work with you to minimise the potential for any conflict and to avoid the situation where lawyerbank lawyers who work with you also perform other work for the same clients.

#### How is this model cost effective for firms?

This alternative model of resourcing enables firms to adjust the size and capability of their team in a flexible manner without the risks, costs, delays and commitments associated with traditional recruitment.

Our competitive rates mean you can engage a talented senior lawyer who can hit the ground running, while the firm still enjoys a profit margin for their contributions on billable matters. It also enables firms to more proactively manage their employee cost base during periods of lower productivity, assisting to alleviate budget pressures.

## How long can a lawyerbank lawyer be on secondment for?

We have lawyers available that can fill both long and short term positions. There's no minimum or maximum period for lawyerbank secondments. We aim to be as flexible as possible to meet your requirements.

## Are lawyerbank lawyers engaged on a full-time or part time basis?

Our lawyers can be engaged on a full-time or part-time basis depending on your requirements. Our lawyers work anywhere between one and five days per week in relation to secondments to meet the needs of each client. We can also perform work up to a pre-agreed set number of hours on a virtual secondment basis to provide a greater level of flexibility to meet resourcing demands (see below).

## What is a virtual secondment?

A virtual secondment arrangement involves a lawyerbank lawyer working from their own office rather than working at your office. Under this arrangement you purchase a defined number of hours over a period and have lawyerbank perform the work as you need it. If you don't use all the hours that's no problem. We'll only bill you for the work that we perform.

This type of arrangement is ideal when you are uncertain about the consistency of work, perhaps because of an unpredictable project, dealing with sudden staff shortages or responding to ad hoc work. The virtual secondment model allows you to better control your budget by not paying for a fixed term secondment when the workflow doesn't warrant it.

Virtual secondment work is generally performed on an hourly basis but at rates that take into account the nature of the arrangement. With any virtual secondment arrangement our lawyers are available to attend your office (or your client's) as you need.

## Can I engage a lawyerbank lawyer on a project basis or for a particular matter?

Yes. While many lawyerbank lawyers work on secondment, lawyerbank lawyers are also available to work on one off projects and matters including to providing relief assistance with the business as usual workload, or to provide senior expertise for high profile, complex or contentious matters.

## How do you vet your lawyers?

We only appoint lawyers that have significant legal experience, usually in both public and private enterprise. Before appointing our lawyers we spend considerable time with them, discussing their experience and understanding how they approach their work. We ensure they have suitable references from previous employers and have requisite skills to work in your practice.

## Do I get to pick my lawyerbank lawyer?

Yes. We generally suggest one or more lawyers that would be suitable given the nature of the work you need performed. Where multiple lawyers are available and have the relevant experience we will provide you with their CVs so you choose who you prefer and on what basis.

## How do I get a quote to use a lawyerbank lawyer or find out more?

If you would like to obtain a quote for a lawyerbank lawyer or if you have any other questions please contact Vanessa Smith or Edward Evers:



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