

Competition, Consumer and Economic Regulatory Law

Senior Lawyer

Webb Henderson is a Trans-Tasman specialist law firm with offices in Auckland and Sydney.

The New Zealand office specialises in strategic legal advice for competition, consumer and economic regulatory law, TMT (telecommunications, media and technology) and corporate and finance transactions. The 24-lawyer local team have been recognised at the New Zealand Law Awards as Boutique Law Firm of the Year 2014 - 2018, 2021 and were finalists once again in 2022. The Australian office specialises in competition law, disputes and TMT.

Competition and consumer law has been an area of specialisation across both offices for more than 10 years. Webb Henderson is one of Australasia's leading firms focussing on competition, consumer and economic regulatory law and litigation with four partners and 11 lawyers in this sector across the two offices.

Webb Henderson is keen to attract a talented senior lawyer, ideally with more than five years' high-quality competition, consumer and/or economic regulatory law experience, including litigation, to join the team. It is not a pre-requisite to have advised on all areas of competition, consumer and economic regulatory law and litigation; but a high level of competence in understanding financial and economic concepts, familiarity with litigation process, intellectual curiosity, a genuine interest in the speciality, and a real willingness to learn, are.

What's On Offer

Whether you are looking for full, part time or flexible employment, Webb Henderson will accommodate any mutually beneficial arrangement, as it does for the current team. If you are keen to work in the Sydney office from time to time or consider relocating on a short or long term basis, either in the near future or further down the line, all of those options are available for the right candidate.

You could expect to be involved in:

- Providing competition law advice on market-leading local and global corporate transactions, including in respect of clearance and authorisation processes;
- Assisting major corporates on Commerce Commission cartel investigations and leniency applications, including in respect of dawn raids and criminal cartel investigations;
- Providing specialist advice on significant and complex joint venture arrangements, supply and licencing agreements and distribution structures;
- Advising on the interface between IP and competition law, including in the context of media, global platforms, health, construction and horticulture industries;
- Providing guidance to businesses with substantial market power on their interactions with customers, suppliers and competitors;
- Providing consumer law advice, including misleading and deceptive conduct, unfair contract terms, and substantiation of claims;
- Assisting clients with their role in market studies, and subsequent regulatory regimes, and
- Advising on detailed aspects of economic regulatory regimes, including in telecommunications, dairy, and electricity markets.

The firm's egalitarian, integrated and collaborative team ethos means you will work closely with all the competition, consumer and economic regulatory law partners and staff in both offices. Your client-centric focus and efficiency will enable you to meet the firm's high standards for service delivery. You will be ambitious for continuous opportunities for responsibility and learning, while being trusted and supported to deliver results.

Expertise

In New Zealand, Sarah Keene leads the local competition, consumer and economic regulatory law practice, working closely with Jordan in Auckland and Andrew and Diana in Sydney. Sarah has over 25 years' experience leading major competition, consumer and economic regulatory projects, transactions and litigation. She joined Webb Henderson from the independent bar in January 2023 where she was practicing as a leading competition, consumer and economic regulatory law barrister. Prior to that, Sarah was a partner in another major firm, where she was also head of practice and Chair of the Partnership.

Jordan Cox is the other partner in the New Zealand competition law practice and also leads the local TMT practice, working closely with the three Sydney TMT partners and team. He joined Webb Henderson as a graduate when the firm was established in 2009 and has specialised in TMT and competition law ever since. Apart from recognising his expertise and commitment to the growth of this practice area, his promotion to partnership demonstrates the career development opportunities available at Webb Henderson and the firm's commitment to its own people.

Sarah and Jordan, together with the partners in the corporate and finance area have attracted and retained an outstanding team of lawyers at all levels. Lawyers have joined from leading New Zealand firms and emigrated or returned from major overseas firms to work at Webb Henderson. While people have diverse life experiences and outlooks, they are strongly connected by shared values and aspirations, their drive and work ethic, their respect for each other and desire to enjoy working with and supporting one another.

As a cohesive and dedicated team, the expertise applied, service levels delivered, and outcomes achieved for the firm's clients reflect those usually associated with the premium large firms. At Webb Henderson, this is delivered in a highly personal, flexible and cost-effective manner.

Culture

The glue that binds the firm's outstanding team, clients, and work is its distinctive values-based culture.

The partners are actively committed to creating an engaged and rewarding work environment. This includes encouraging and supporting the team to integrate their professional and personal lives to be able to fulfil their goals and aspirations in both spheres. Examples of the culture in action include:

- Ensuring inclusivity, equity and diversity are at the forefront of all discussion, decision-making, behaviour and activity;
- Provision of day to day, on-the-job development feedback;
- Active, regular personal mentoring from partners and more experienced lawyers;
- Access to an external professional coach for team and individual sessions focussing on personal growth and soft skill development, along with access to external conferences;
- Quarterly career discussions;
- Provision of various types of support that people may require to respond to life's challenges from time to time;
- Promoting healthy, sustainable careers through a range of practices including WFH, subsidised fitness, medical and income protection insurances and extended parental leave;

- Team feedback requests and sessions to continually shape the team culture;
- Regular wide-ranging social activities bringing everyone together;
- Firm wide training and development sessions and off-site retreats - in Fiji at which all legal and support staff from both offices come together to learn and contribute to the firm's strategy and goals;
- The opportunity to learn about the "business of law". Growth and development of the firm is discussed openly and transparently with the team in financial meetings. Everyone understands, and is invested in, the firm's performance; and
- Competitive market remuneration including bonuses, based on team and individual performance.

Environmental, Social and Governance

For some years, the firm has been focussed on mitigating its impact on the environment and proactively supporting a variety of socially responsible initiatives. Examples include:

- Becoming a Toitū Carbon Zero Certified Organisation in 2019;
- The firm's lawyers supporting a mentoring programme for University of Auckland law students with limited exposure to the legal industry;
- Actively participating in the TupuToa internship programme for Maori and Pacific law students; and
- Undertaking a range of pro-bono legal engagements, where the firm's experience and expertise can make a real difference.

The firm is proud to be a B Corp certified company. This globally recognised certification confirms that Webb Henderson meets the highest standards of social and environmental impact, balancing purpose and profit.

What You Will Offer

As you would expect joining a high calibre team, you will be intellectually and commercially astute. Given the nature of work, you will enjoy working on predominantly novel and complex projects. You will be practical and dedicated to achieving business outcomes as well as personally invested in helping create a client experience that sets the firm apart from others. Most importantly, your values will be aligned with those of Webb Henderson. Your authenticity, integrity, commitment to excellence and innovation, generosity toward others, and modesty in relation to yourself, will ensure you easily fit in and thrive.

What Clients Say

"The key differentiator when working with the Webb Henderson team is their intense level of engagement on all commercial matters and the ability to contribute strategically for materially better outcomes for their clients. On a personal level they are hardworking, efficient and available to their clients at all times. They also make the journey enjoyable even when the work is challenging".

About Applying

Webb Henderson requires you to be legally eligible to work in New Zealand. The firm is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment and recruits on values, cultural fit, professional merit and personal potential.

Please contact Victoria Fletcher to discuss or apply.
021 300 982 / victoria@victoriafletcher.co.nz

Webb Henderson

Legal and Regulatory Advisors