



Burford Capital Limited Vice President - Business Development London

Burford Capital is a leading global finance and asset management firm focused on law. Its businesses include litigation finance and risk management, asset recovery and a wide range of legal finance and advisory activities. Burford is publicly traded on the London Stock Exchange, and it works with law firms and clients around the world from its principal offices in New York, London, Chicago, Washington, Singapore and Sydney.

The Firm is adding a Vice President - Business Development position who will be responsible for interacting with lawyers and other influencers in our target markets to build relationships and identify cases and portfolios of cases and other opportunities in which Burford may be willing to provide financing solutions. We are seeking a creative lawyer or former lawyer, with an agile mind and experience with the business of law, particularly litigation, and previous experience and demonstrated success in business development.

The role will report to the Head of Origination for Europe (London-based manager) and, whilst the position will be based in London, travel to Continental Europe may be required.

www.burfordcapital.com

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Burford's work environment is that of a start-up and therefore fast-paced and "always on". Despite its growth, Burford has endeavoured to retain a culture characteristic of a small growing firm; hence its team members are creative, resourceful, fast-moving confident people who do not need the infrastructure of a large company to succeed. There is little administrative support and the expectation is that everyone, including senior people, will roll up their sleeves to perform and engage collectively for the overall success of the business.

Burford also operates in a geographically dispersed fashion, with its senior team in multiple locations and relying heavily on email and conference calls to communicate. Strong written communication skills are essential for success, and a willingness to engage in substantive discussion by email, personally and by telephone is critical for fit and success.

Change - and the uncertainty and alterations in course and priority that accompany change - is a constant in Burford's business. Enthusiasm for change in a rapidly developing market is essential.

Burford pays base salaries consistent with the financial services industry and favours incentive compensation to reward performance.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

Identify and Build Relationship with Prospective and Existing Clients

Based upon the firm's strategic growth and expansion goals, drive growth in financing and capital deployment opportunities via identifying and developing relationships with lawyers at law firms and corporations within our target markets. The successful candidate will evangelise Burford's offering and value proposition and represent Burford in the market at networking and marketing events, conferences and via outbound outreach to lawyers and finance professionals in our target markets. You will be responsible for building and maintaining relationships with clients and prospective clients, and for facilitating relationships between them and internal stakeholders. Your mission is to drive litigation finance opportunities and deliver ROI from your targeted activity with clients and prospective clients. Success will be measured in opportunities identified, closed financing transactions, and growing client relationships.

- Drive qualified litigation finance and other legal finance opportunity creation
- Identify financing opportunities with law firms and corporations within a loosely defined geographic area (both the UK and Continental Europe).
- Outreach to law firms, in-house corporate counsel and potentially other C-level contacts at corporations to develop relationships and drive business origination.
- Work collaboratively with the business development, underwriting teams, and other teams in London and the US to identify and build client relationships and originate legal finance opportunities.
- Represent Burford at marketing events, third party conferences, and networking events.
- Record and log all business development activity in Burford's CRM system (salesforce.com).

SKILLS DESIRED

Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor's degree and JD required, MBA a plus.
- 10+ years of combined experience in business development/sales in a professional services industry (preferably legal or finance related), and/or in private practice as a litigator (competition law experience a plus). If experience is purely in private practice, a proven track record of and prowess in business development within that role.
- Deep understanding of litigation, legal markets and the legal industry; legal experience required.
- Understanding of complex commercial financial products and services.
- Familiarity with marketing and business development objectives and techniques.
- Ideally, fluency in another language (German, French or Spanish).
- Working knowledge of Salesforce.com.

Core Competencies & Skills / Personal Attributes & Fit

- Demonstrate ingenuity and ability to collaborate and contribute to a team-based effort to develop innovative business growth ideas.
- Strong analytical acumen with a supple and creative mind able to see connections others would miss.
- Self-starter able to generate his/her own research leads and hypotheses in a unique industry where there is no playbook.
- A thoughtful problem solver able to make smart simplifying assumptions and evolve thinking and strategy iteratively based upon research, data, and feedback.
- Exceptional verbal and written communication and presentation skills with the ability to tell a compelling story from qualitative insights.
- Ability to build consensus and work across functions and with executives.
- Sound business judgment and the ability to align recommendations to business strategy.

Other Requirements

- Global outlook or experience in multiple markets or industries a plus.
- Flexible travel schedule.
- Superior detail orientation and organisation.

SUMMARY

The Vice President - Business Development will be a valued contributor to the business development team, both identifying qualified opportunities and building and managing relationships with prospective clients and existing clients. This position requires a unique blend of strong relationship management and business development skills combined with a collaborative and team-focused professional outlook. You will bring a track record of strong business development performance and ability to evangelise a complex, nuanced, professional offering to lawyers.

The Vice President - Business Development will be a team player who is more about overall results and teamwork than one who seeks the limelight. S/he will possess the credibility, commercial savvy, and persuasive conviction to identify and advance qualified legal finance opportunities at law firms and corporations. S/he will understand the cadence of client relationship building and will eagerly attend to Burford's clients and prospects and will favour action over inaction. S/he will always adhere to Burford's reputation for professionalism, trust, and excellence. Given that Burford's business is located at the unique intersection of finance and law, it is an excellent opportunity for a multi-talented, curious professional seeking an "outside the box" position to enjoy applying his/her ingenuity and creativity to solving business growth challenges.