

AN ETHICAL PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR IN-HOUSE SOLICITORS

Jim Baxter

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WHO AM I?

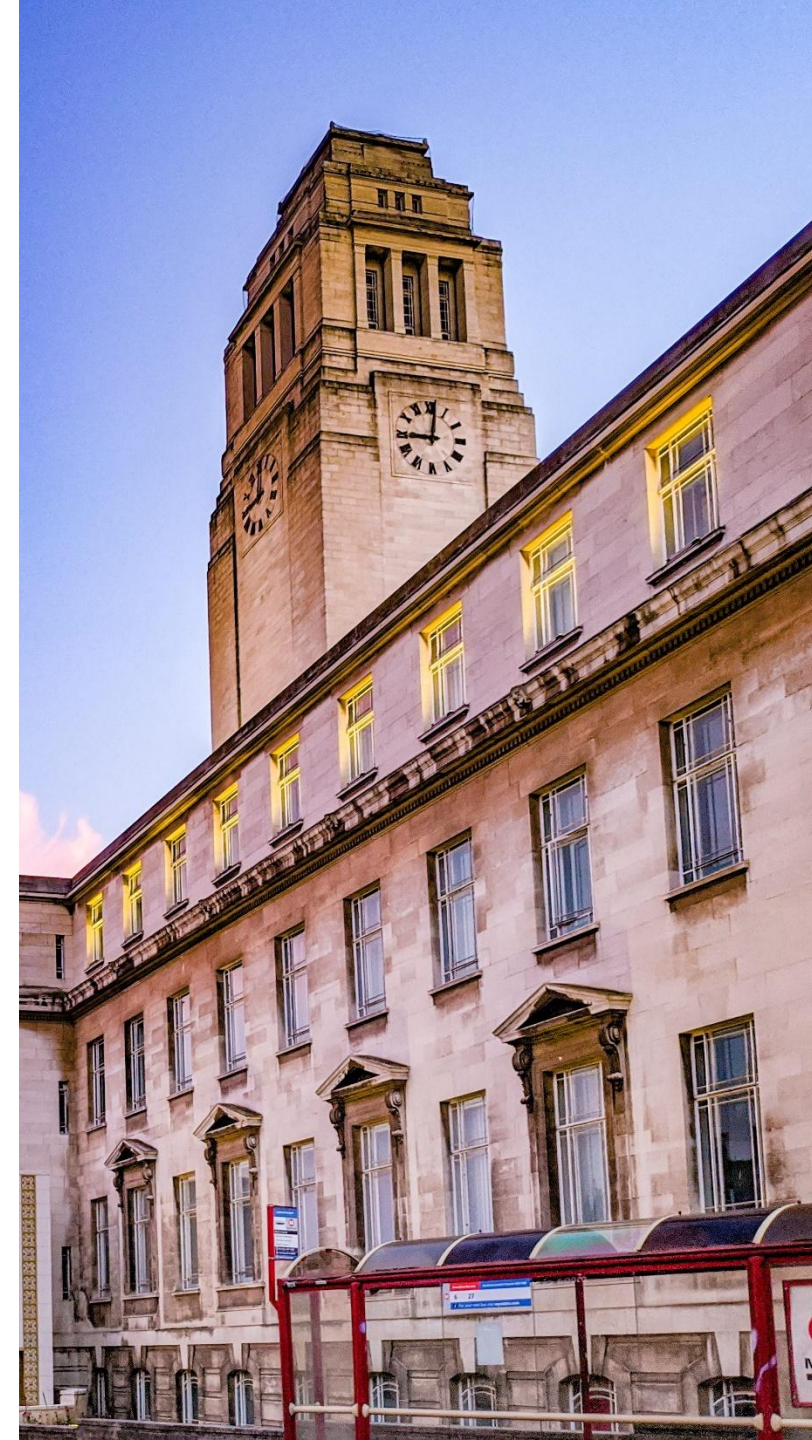
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Commissioned by the Law Society to produce an Ethical Practice Framework for In-House Solicitors



WHY IN-HOUSE SOLICITORS?

A growing (26% of solicitors in England and Wales) and relatively under-examined segment of the profession.

Potentially exposed, vulnerable.

In-house ethics is complex (and interesting!).

Part of the Law Society's professional ethics programme:
Changing Ethical Landscapes.



WHAT DID WE DO?

Three rounds of research:

- Survey
- Expert interviews
- Further interviews and focus groups

Scoping and development phases.



WHAT IS THE ETHICAL PRACTICE FRAMEWORK?

Not regulation. Complementary to the SRA's guidance for in-house solicitors.

Supporting in-house solicitors in meeting their ethical challenges.

Helping them balance **influence** and **independence**.

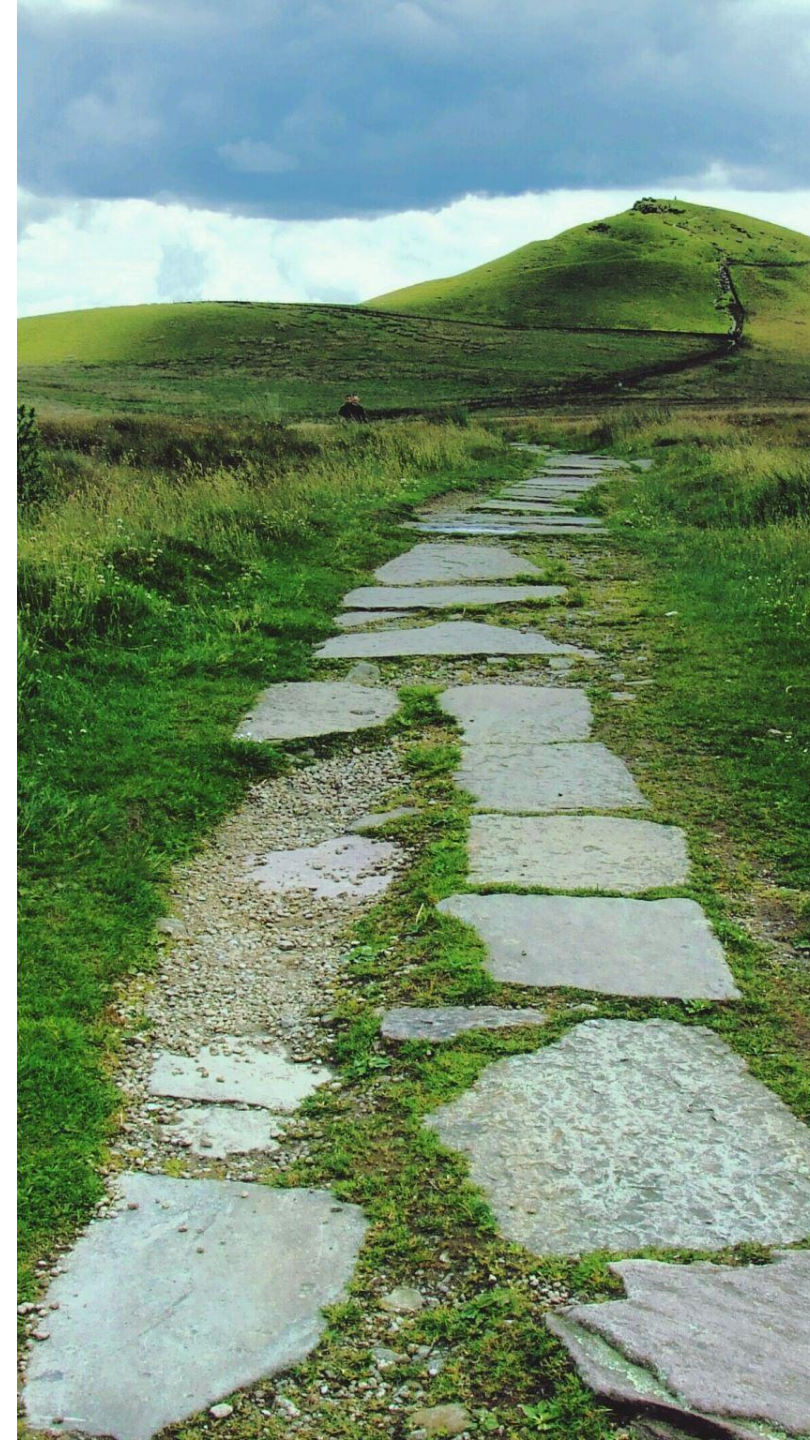
Three levels of support:

- Individual understanding and skills.
- Strengthening the position of in-house solicitors in organisations.
- Professional support and solidarity.

WHAT NEXT?

Launching soon in beta/consultation phase (date tbc).

Feedback from Law Society members to be reflected in final version.





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