

Westminster Legal Policy Forum keynote seminar:

Next steps for legal professional ethics - regulation, responsibilities, culture and the impact of AI

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 3rd April 2025

Taking Place Online



WESTMINSTER
LEGAL POLICY
FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **'The Legal Services Board's consultation on professional ethics – implications for policy, regulation and best practice'**
Craig Westwood, Chief Executive, Legal Services Board
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **AI in the legal profession - developing role, impact and ethical innovation**
Akber Dattoo, CEO and Founder, D2 Legal Technology; and Co-Chair, Technology and Law Committee, Law Society for England and Wales
- 9.40 **Priorities for addressing key ethical challenges for the legal profession**
priorities for the upcoming LSB consultation | best practice for handling NDAs and mitigating SLAPP misuse | ethical standards in litigation conduct | upholding client confidentiality and public trust amid increased scrutiny | developing transparency and accountability mechanisms | misconduct reporting and disciplinary procedures | Law Society and SRA guidance on AI and ethical practice | tackling bias, confidentiality, transparency, liability and misuse | cross-sector collaboration and the role of regulators in ensuring coherent standards
Susan Coughtrie, Director, Foreign Policy Centre; and Co-Founder, UK Anti-Slapp Coalition
John-Paul Macnamara, Senior Lecturer, City, University of London
Senior representative, law firm
Senior representative, legal services user
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 **The impact of national policy developments and key considerations for the legal profession**
assessing the developing regulatory landscape and implications for legal practice | tackling greenwashing and ensuring responsible corporate governance advice | professional independence in sensitive cases | managing conflicts between corporate and national interests | maintaining independence in politically sensitive cases and complex corporate environments | implications of increased regulatory and public scrutiny | governance and leadership
Shruti Ajitsaria, Head, Fuse, A&O Sherman
Senior academic
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Next steps for developing ethical cultures in the legal sector and supporting legal professionals**
EDI best practice and addressing challenges for implementation | addressing bullying and harassment | tackling barriers to entry and progression for underrepresented groups | supporting mental health and wellbeing initiatives for practitioners and clients | roles and responsibilities for leadership | building inclusive workplace cultures that adapt to technological and regulatory change | SRA transparency rules and BSB disciplinary procedures | consistent enforcement and unified national standards for legal ethics | aligning legal services regulation with other sectoral frameworks | implications of rapid regulatory changes
Lucinda Soon, Trustee, LawCare
Joel Woolf, Consultant, Joel Woolf Rural Consultancy
Ijeoma Omambala KC, Vice-Chair, Employment Law Bar Association
Senior representative, ESG
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.15 **Policy moving forward for regulating legal professional ethics**
Juliet Oliver, General Counsel, Solicitors Regulation Authority
Henry Fingerhut, Policy Manager, Technology and Innovation, Bar Standards Board
Senior speaker confirmed from the **Legal Services Board**
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Legal Policy Forum