

Lawyers as Leaders:

The Essential Role of Legal Counsel in the Corporate Sustainability Agenda

Within the world of legal counsel, corporate sustainability remains, in many ways, an emerging field. To increase awareness of the legal issues associated with corporate sustainability, the **United Nations Global Compact** and the **International Bar Association (IBA)**, with the generous support of **LexisNexis**, are producing **Lawyers as Leaders: The Essential Role of Legal Counsel in the Corporate Sustainability Agenda**. Envisioned as a video “training manual”, Lawyers as Leaders will consist of four separate modules – one each on human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption – which will feature profiles of prominent legal experts as well as general counsel who are leaders within their companies on sustainability issues.

The goal of Lawyers as Leaders is to emphasize the value of corporate counsel in the design and management of corporate sustainability-related policies and practices. Lawyers, in other words, can help their clients to minimize risk while also capitalizing on opportunities in the sustainability field.

The video is directed primarily at in-house counsel. However, as an introduction to the Global Compact’s ten principles and issues of corporate responsibility generally, Lawyers as Leaders will hold value for *any* lawyer or student of the law interested in corporate sustainability, as well as for those interested in these issues from civil society and other organizations.

The United Nations Global Compact and the International Bar Association are proud to present **Lawyers as Leaders – Human Rights**, the first of the four modules of Lawyers as Leaders. This inaugural module features:

- Introduction by the **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay**
- Analysis and commentary by **Caroline Rees**, Director of the Governance and Accountability Program of the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government
- Insightful interviews with:
 - **Professor John Ruggie** *Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on business and human rights*
 - **Mr Mark Nordstrom** *Senior Labor & Employment Counsel, General Electric Company*
 - **Ms Debra Valentine** *Group executive, Legal & Executive Affairs, Rio Tinto Group*

Supplemental material will accompany each individual module, including extended interviews and the opportunity to discuss issues raised by the video in online fora on the International Bar Association website and martindale.com® Connected. Additional material will also be released over the course of the coming weeks and months.

Upcoming Modules of Lawyers as Leaders*:

- Anti-Corruption (*expected launch date, Q3 2010*)
- Environment (*expected launch date, Q4 2010*)
- Labour (*expected launch date, Q1 2011*)

* *Launch dates are subject to change*

Additional Resources:

For a list of additional resources produced, organized by type of management practice (including risk and impact assessment tools), see: www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/Tools_and_Guidance_Materials.html

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the global voice of
the legal profession



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Lawyers as Leaders – Human Rights

Available at:

[www.unglobalcompact.org/issues/
human_rights/lawyers_as_leaders.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/issues/human_rights/lawyers_as_leaders.html)

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