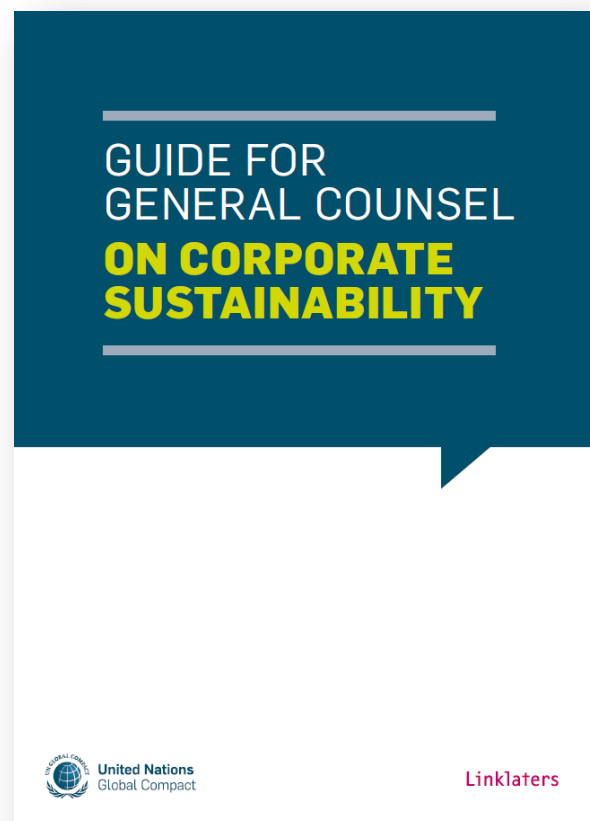


GUIDE FOR GENERAL COUNSEL ON CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

"Our view is clear. General Counsel are better placed, better equipped and increasingly able to drive change and deliver value to their companies through an increased focus on corporate sustainability."

The *Guide for General Counsel on Corporate Sustainability* provides guidance to in-house counsel in their emerging role as key change agents to advance corporate sustainability issues within their respective organizations. The Guide seeks to raise the profile of General Counsel regarding the efforts they are making, and to inspire and encourage other General Counsel, Boards, senior executives and management to take action and deliver long-term value.

By providing a solid analysis of the evolving landscape, the key drivers and themes that General Counsel come across, the Guide reinforces the fact that General Counsel can drive change and deliver value through corporate sustainability and will motivate in-house lawyers to use corporate sustainability to their own, their company's and society's advantage.



Find the Guide for General Counsel on Corporate Sustainability at
<https://www.unglobalcompact.org/library/1351>



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Maximizing Benefits: The Case for General Counsel Engaging in Corporate Sustainability

As a result of significant changes to the commercial, legal and societal landscape, expectations of companies are placing a greater emphasis on concepts like governance, oversight, accountability, transparency, compliance and earning a “social license to operate”. This emerging landscape means that General Counsel are being called upon to effectively address these issues, not only by providing advice on what is legally permissible, but also on what is socially responsible.

This evolution of the role of General Counsel beyond legal compliance and towards corporate sustainability is premised on building a business capable of delivering long-term value to a diverse group of stakeholders in a responsible way. This gives General Counsel a tremendous opportunity to be agents of change and rearticulate their value proposition within companies, while contributing to the company’s overall commercial success.

Methodology

To develop the Guide, Linklaters and the United Nations Global Compact conducted interviews with over 40 General Counsel under the “Chatham House” Rule, with comments only being attributed with permission of the interviewee.

Accompanied with in-depth analysis of secondary sources, the Guide presents a robust and balanced view of the current landscape for General Counsel and the ways in which it is shifting.

Some Observations



The role of General Counsel is evolving, which means an increased focus on not only what is legal, but also what is “right”



The convergence of financial, environmental, social and ethical issues to achieve long-term value is driving engagement in corporate sustainability



General Counsel are increasingly using corporate sustainability to articulate the value proposition of the in-house lawyer



A focus on corporate sustainability enables General Counsel to leverage their role as trusted advisors in proactively driving positive change



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