



**SOLICITOR'S
GUIDE TO
PROFESSIONAL
CONDUCT**

4th Edition

Issued by the Guidance & Ethics
Committee of the Law Society

www.lawsociety.ie

Ethics & Professional Conduct

08 March 2023

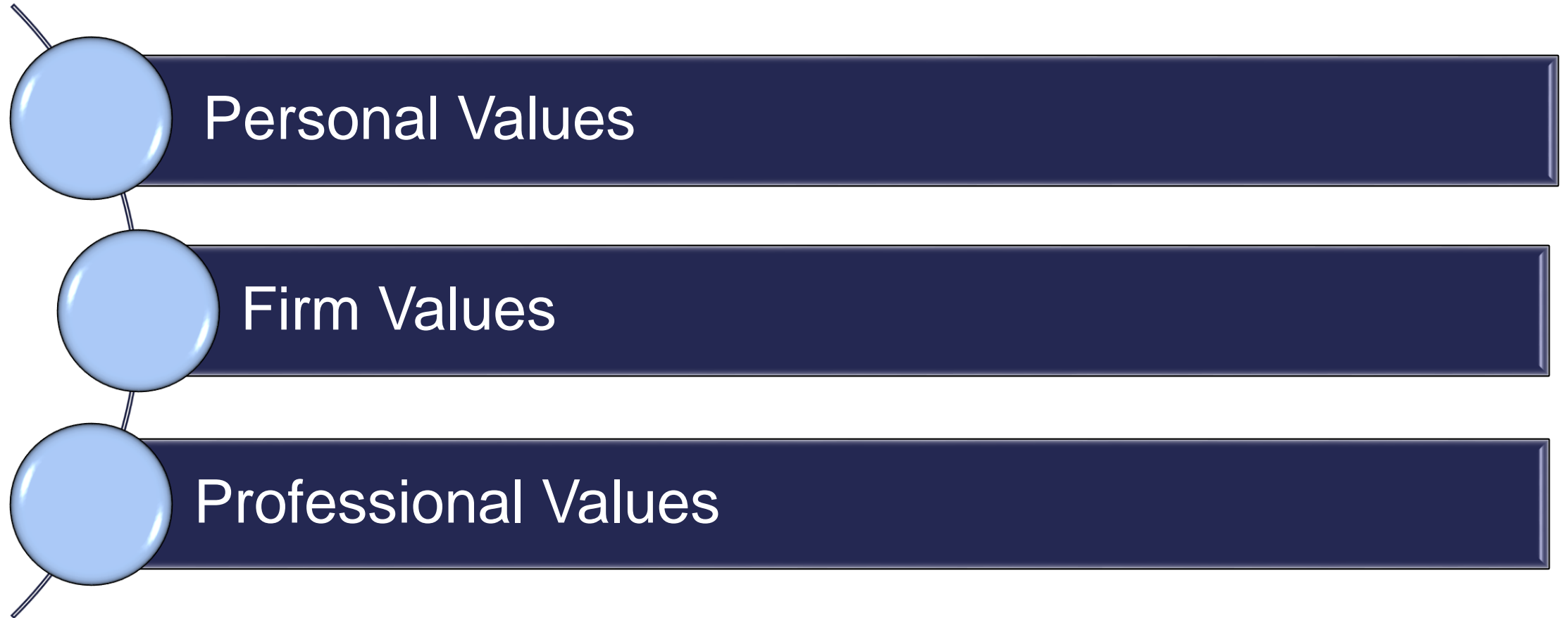
**Robert Baker, Chair Guidance & Ethics Committee
&
Justine Carty, past Chair Guidance & Ethics Committee**

Introduction

- A Value-Based Model of Professional Conduct & Ethics
- Core Values of the Profession
- Solicitors Guide to Professional Conduct
- Where to ask for help if faced with an ethical dilemma



Values Based approach



Core Values of the Profession

Honesty

Integrity

Independence

Confidentiality

Avoidance of Conflict of Interest



SOLICITOR'S GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

4th Edition

Issued by the Guidance & Ethics
Committee of the Law Society

www.lawsociety.ie

- Ethics is personal to each solicitor, and it is for each solicitor to reach their own conclusion on ethical matters.
- For this reason, the Guide is neither a rule book nor a manual, and does not have the force of law.
- It is a source of reference on professional conduct for all solicitors, to be used as an information tool to assist solicitors in their decision-making and in considering the many and varied ethical questions that arise in day-to-day practice for every solicitor.
- The Guide is intended for all solicitors, from those who are beginning their legal career to practitioners who have already accumulated considerable experience.



SOLICITOR'S GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

4th Edition

Issued by the Guidance & Ethics
Committee of the Law Society

www.lawsociety.ie

- The index is detailed, and the Guide has been written with the intention of allowing quick and easy access to the most appropriate sections.
- Certain guidance may be repeated in different chapters if the guidance is relevant to more than one area.
- The Guide represents Law Society policy and recommendations as at the date of publication, and is also the primary source material used for teaching ethics to trainee solicitors.
- You might not find the answers to all ethical queries in the Guide – See Practice Notes



SOLICITOR'S GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

4th Edition

Issued by the Guidance & Ethics
Committee of the Law Society

www.lawsociety.ie

Where to get a copy of the Guide?

One paper copy has been issued to each law firm in the county – Law Society 'Green Agenda'

On the Guidance & Ethics Committee webpage under the Representation section under the 'For Solicitors' on the Law Society website

<https://www.lawsociety.ie/Solicitors/Representation/Committees/Guidance-and-Ethics>

Solicitors have the option to either:- Download a pdf of the Guide Or 'Opt in' to receive a paper copy

There is also a [Guidance & Ethics Resources](#) page where you will have direct access to practice notes and case law referred to in the Guide, they are listed by chapter.

When encountering a difficult situation, help is available via:

- the Guidance and Ethics Committee (tel: 01 672 4800 – ask for the committee secretary);
- the Panel of solicitors to assist those in regulatory difficulty
- the Solicitors' Helpline run by the DSBA (tel: 01 284 8484);
- and through the various committees of the Law Society or the DSBA.

Remember that, if it is necessary to deviate from usual practice or general principles, you should document your decision carefully in the event of a query or complaint arising in the future.



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

