

THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF GENERAL COUNSELS & SENIOR COMPLIANCE OFFICERS TO THEIR COMPANIES AND THE LEGAL SECTOR

Justice Minister Mike Freer Writes About the Growing Influence of Senior in-house Legal Professionals

As the **Corporate Counsel and Compliance Exchange 2024** gets underway on 15-16 April, one of the UK's leading events bringing together General Counsels (GC) and senior compliance officers from across the UK and Europe, I am eager to spend time networking and sharing ideas with some of the brightest minds in the sector. In advance of this, I would like to take a moment to focus on the critical importance of these professionals to their own companies, as well as the wider legal sector.

As **Minister for Legal Services at the UK Ministry of Justice**, I know that GCs and compliance officers are central to managing a wealth of contractual and regulatory issues, as well as leading their companies' response to emerging challenges around AI, environmental, social and governance (ESG) and sanctions issues. They are a principal pillar in the structure of a business, using their valuable expertise to maintain legal compliance.

Their inclusion in the senior ranks of companies helps to ensure compliance with regulatory demands and contractual obligations, as well as improving decision-making and has clear and tangible economic benefits. As the legal sector continues to develop, with AI and further technological innovation, it is crucial that we have stalwart professionals at the helm of major companies, bringing their expertise and understanding of reputational and legal risk to the decision-making process.

Having the right legal support and frameworks underpinning various key industries couldn't be of more importance.

Mitigating commercial risks and establishing economic benefits for businesses is contingent on choosing the right governing law in contracts. English and Welsh law continues to be the leading and trusted choice for contracts and settling disputes, based on its predictability and reliability.





Through our **GREAT Legal Services campaign**, the UK Government has been hosting a series of events around the world to encourage collaboration between legal professionals and promote the dependability and eminence of English and Welsh law. These activities helped to generate more than £6m in projected business wins for UK lawyers in the last financial year, as well as hundreds of new business connections and online audience of more than over 2.6m in key markets across the world.

This conference provides a brilliant opportunity for a meeting of minds, for GCs and senior compliance officers from across a variety of sectors to be a part of this collaboration. Through the exchange of knowledge and relationships forged at this conference, in-house legal and compliance teams can really strengthen their company's ability to respond to the changes and challenges in the industry. With the right networks and tools at their disposal, they will be able to lead their companies through change and play a pivotal role in safeguarding their future.

I relish the opportunity to connect with a wide range of legal professionals and, following this event, I am keen to continue working closely with the sector to promote and champion UK legal services. The work done by in-house legal experts is a shining example of legal excellence that I am keen to see championed on a global stage.



Corporate Counsel and Compliance Exchange

To understand how General Counsels, Chief Compliance Officers and Legal Teams can aid their businesses to prepare and steer through 2024, join the Corporate Counsel & Compliance Exchange event on **15th-16th April 2024 at Hilton Syon Park, London.**

DOWNLOAD THE AGENDA