1. Ethics, professional conduct, and regulation

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This chapter begins with a description of how the legal services market has undergone recent change, with the Solicitors Regulation Authority’s (SRA) Principles and Codes of Conduct within the Standards and Regulations replacing the previous outcomes-focused regulation code (OFR Code). It considers what being a member of the profession and a good solicitor means, the Principles, relevant paragraphs of the Codes of Conduct, the Transparency Rules, and the SRA’s Enforcement Strategy currently in force and how this has widened legal services provision and introduced further flexibility into how solicitors and firms justify their compliance with the regulation. It then looks at the practical application of the principles and paragraphs which are most relevant to readers at
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this stage of their legal career as a student (covering practical examples relevant to each core legal practice area) and trainee.

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