

Call for chapters:
The Code of Conduct
- opportunities and risks

Edited by

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INTRODUCTION

The Code of Conduct is the cornerstone and foundation of any Ethics & Compliance system. It is its “Constitution.” It expresses an organization’s values, mindset, and standards of conduct, as well as its commitment to those values. It sets expectations regarding the behaviour of its members. It is a practical decision-making guide, implemented through policies and processes that provide the details employees and executives need to comply, day by day, with the values and principles defined in the Code.

A well-considered and well-drafted Code is therefore extremely valuable for companies that want a truly effective Compliance system. It enables them to communicate to employees and external stakeholders – such as suppliers, customers, and regulators – how they intend to conduct business and which values guide their decision-making process.

There are many ways codes of conduct are written, meant, and enacted: some are aspirational and short; others clearly describe the values the company and its employees commit to and detail sanctions for code violations. Most regulators require the existence of codes of conduct as a basis for compliance programs to be considered effective, but don't prescribe any content. Codes of conduct are generally considered internal aspirational documents but not legally binding. However, in some cases, court rulings have been based on codes as they define a company's level of fairness and good faith that stakeholders can expect. Hence, "paper" codes can constitute a legal risk for companies as they may be held responsible for not observing their self-imposed values.

SOLICITED CHAPTERS

We welcome chapters related to, but not limited to, the following topics. In case of any questions or suggestions, please contact the editorial team:

- **Changes in global business** impacting compliance programs and codes of conduct
- **Regulatory aspects** for codes of conduct.
- **Forms and varieties** of codes of conduct. What makes a "good" code of conduct? What content should be in a code, and what in specific policies? How should codes be communicated and trained on?
- **Legal versus moral relevance**, investigating which stakeholders can or should be able to base a claim on a code. Further questions include: Do codes make sense even when not legally binding? What are the reputational and/or legal risks for companies of having a "paper code"?
- **Impact mechanisms of codes of conduct**, exploring how they influence the decision-making process in companies. Further questions include: What should be done to enhance the role of the codes in the decision-making process?
- **Specific insights** on the role of code of conduct, either in the form of quantitative, qualitative, or conceptual studies and substantiated position papers, across regions, industries, types of organizations and special situations.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Please submit a 300-word abstract and chapter proposal for the latest by the end of September 15, 2026. Feedback and acceptance notes will be shared by October 1, 2026. Full chapters

are due either before or on December 30, 2026. Final chapters can range anywhere between five and fifteen pages. They should contribute to a better understanding of the situation and/or provide recommendations for more valuable codes of conduct and their importance in the compliance system.

We expect all original chapters to acknowledge sources, ideally with the APA referencing style. Figures and tables can improve readability. They also have to be properly referenced and submitted as separate, editable files, as requested by publishers. Submissions should be in Arial and include a one-paragraph abstract and a one-paragraph bio for the 'About the authors' section. Chapters should include a clear conclusion section with the main insights and takeaways. We plan to publish the book in the PRME book series with Routledge. Please send any inquiries and submissions to Wolfgang Amann at Coach.Wolfgang@outlook.com & amann@hec.fr.