

# The changing face of lawyering



How has the changing face of lawyering affected teaching of law?

Northumbria University are the only university in the UK to offer a 5 year Solicitor's Full Qualification programme enabling students to graduate as fully qualified solicitors.

The Law Society has set up the Junior Lawyers Division website to help students, and trainees with support and advice.

Programmes like these have changed teaching of law – practising lawyers acquire skills that transcend the purely academic.

Are there different “types” of lawyer?  
ADVERSARIAL ADVOCATE – traditional approach, highlight a lawyer's duty to the client within the law. Governed by legality not morality.

RESPONSIBLE LAWYER – overriding duty to court and legal system (personal moral beliefs are irrelevant)

MORAL ACTIVIST – following own ethical standards about justice above a duty to the client.

ETHICS OF CARE – concerned with preserving or restoring relationships and avoiding harm.

*Hyams R; "On teaching students to 'act like a lawyer': What sort of lawyer?" IJCLE Dec. 2008*

Solicitors have acquired or can acquire more rights of audience making courts much more accessible to clients.

£400 million of pro bono work was estimated to have been given in 2008/09 according to The Law Society website.

Solicitors need to be taught more advocacy skills than ever before, changing the face of the legal profession dramatically.

Solicitors are more than ever pushed by firms into clocking billable hours but balancing that with pro bono work to portray the profession in a better light.