

**Sarah de Gay**  
**General Counsel and Head of Compliance**  
**Slaughter and May**



Sarah established the Compliance department at Slaughter and May after many years as a Corporate/M&A lawyer. She is also the firm's COLP (Compliance Officer for Legal Practice) and a member of its Risk Committee. As such, she has particular responsibility for the full breadth of regulatory issues which affect the firm and plays a key role in risk management more generally.

Sarah has had a significant influence on the modernisation of the regulation of the solicitors' profession. She is regarded by her peers across the City and within the regulator as one of the leading practitioners in compliance. She is a founding and active member of the City of London Law Society's Professional Rules and Regulation Committee (which she chaired until October 2016). She was a member of the SRA's Standards Committee from its formation until 2012, during which time the SRA wrote its first Handbook and introduced outcomes-focussed regulation. In addition, Sarah has long been at the forefront of conflicts reform, working closely with the Law Society when the conflict rules in England and Wales were re-written in 2006. More recently, Sarah has made a significant contribution to the development of the SRA Overseas Practice Rules, enabling a more proportionate and targeted regulation in that area. She is the co-author of *The In-houser*, a practical guide to the SRA Handbook, which has been recommended by the GC100 and referred to by some of its members as their "bible".

Renowned for her proactive and constructive approach to compliance issues, Sarah has been described as an "exceptional Head of Compliance" who "has a deep understanding of the wider commercial implications of regulation for both large law firms and general counsel." Sarah was given the Chief Compliance Officer of the Year award at the Women in Compliance Awards 2015. She was appointed as Slaughter and May's first General Counsel on 1 May 2015.