



5th International Biennial Business Banking & Finance Conference: Re-Engineering Growth, Doing Business in the New Global Environment

Financial Crisis, The Call for Ethics and A Way Forward

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Disclaimer¹





Gordon Gekko from Wall Street on YouTube

http://www.voutube.com/watch?v=ONXpaBQnBvE

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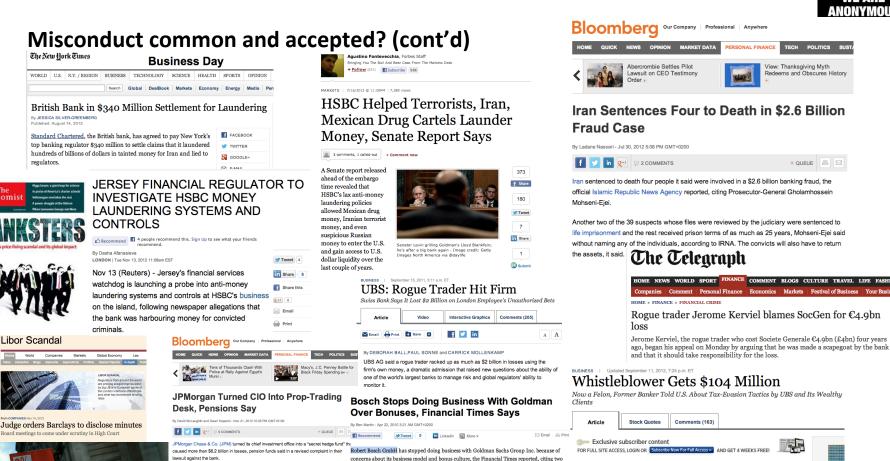
Misconduct common and accepted?

Some results of a Labaton Sucharow survey of 500 senior financial services professionals across the United States and United Kingdom¹

24%	reported a belief that financial services professionals may need to engage in unethical or illegal conduct to be successful
26%	indicated that they had observed or first-hand knowledge of wrongdoing in the workplace
16%	percent reported that they would commit a crime (insider trading) if they could get away with it
39%	reported that their competitors are likely to have engaged in illegal or unethical activity to be successful
30%	reported their compensation or bonus plan created pressure to compromise ethical standards or violate the law, while 23 % reported other pressures that may lead to unethical or illegal conduct
20%	weren't sure of, or had serious doubts about, how employers would handle a report of wrongdoing
94%	would report wrongdoing given the protections and incentives such as those offered by the SEC whistleblower program

It seems that **misconduct is common and accepted**. According to Donaldson², the **biggest problem** the fueling crisis is the **normalization and acceptance of questionable behavior**, which he related to the quote of a former-CEO of Citigroup: "as long as the music is playing, you've got to get up and dance" (herd behaviour)





people familiar with the situation

JPMorgan represented that the office's primary role was managing risk when in fact it was

profits," the plaintiffs said.

JPMorgan Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon "secretiv

transformed the CIO from a risk management unit into a proprietary trading desk whose principal purpose was to engage in speculative, high-risk bets designed to general

engaging in trades to generate profit for the New York-based bank, the funds said in an

mended complaint filed vesterday in Manhattan federal court.



BY LAURA SAUNDERS AND ROBIN SIDEL

Bosch made the decision to sever its business ties with the U.S. firm earlier this year, the

Bloomberg News, Goldman Sachs spokesman Michael DuVally declined to comment



The breakdown of the invisible hand

As Jeffrey Sachs says: capitalism earns its keep through Adam Smith's famous paradox of the invisible hand: self-interest, operating through markets, leads to common good

However, self-interest fails to support the common good in four ways1:

- 1. It fails when market competition breaks down
- 2. It can turn into unacceptable inequality
- 3. It leaves **future generations** at the mercy of today's generation
- Unless part of a larger value system, it is easily transmuted into an addictive form of consumerism

In his mind, in history, successful capitalism has rested on the practice of self-interest, embedded in a larger set of values and that currently, moral strictures have almost vanished and self-interest is no longer embedded in higher values. We need to regain our moral bearings....



The relationship between ethics and finance

The role of ethics is **not** explicit²:

- In **finance** theory, ethical issues are **constraints**, **externalities** or market failures
- Examination of moral issues form the basis of financial regulation
- Ethics is often seen to be the responsibility of law makers and regulators

In general, unethical behaviour arises because finance is technical and quantitative and not immediately comprehensible for everyone, advantage of others is taken and money is made¹

Finance ethics received little attention - finance people not trained in ethics - ethics people not trained in finance²....

But: ethical concerns have come to the forefront because of the sheer size and **economic impact**

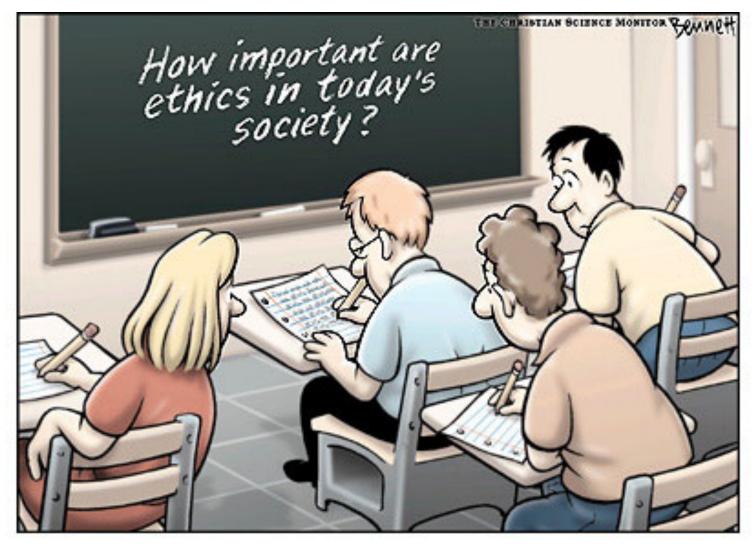
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Four guiding concepts from moral philosophy

- Aristotle described ethics as good actions and virtues, including intentions, which
 means character is important¹. Moral judgment goes beyond following rules.
 Ethical role models play an important part in developing ethical judgment²
- John Locke advocated the idea of rights: humans have rights, ethics is about respecting those rights
- 3. Immanuel Kant argued that intent and consequences are important and that ethics is universal. People cannot be used as a means to an end binding nature of abstract principles on a decision regardless of the consequences (deontology)³. Difficulty arises when two valid principles are opposed⁴
- 4. John Stuart Mill espoused utilitarianism: behavior is ethical as long as overall utility is increased for most people in society. This sacrifices the interests of minorities and individuals in order to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of people³



Ethics is about personal behaviour and needs to practical

- In short¹:
 - Ethics is about how one treats others and involves direct behaviour towards others as well as the indirect impact behaviour has on others
 - Ethics provide moral standards of behaviour that guide the right and wrong treatment of others
- The normative approach of ethics has limited relevance for the actual world.
 These ideals are viewed as independent from the psychological processes within the decision maker and from real-life situations and organizational factors finance professionals face. Knowledge from the field of ethics needs to be practical²
- The problem is the tension between making a reasonable profit and taking advantage – how to resolve the conflict...



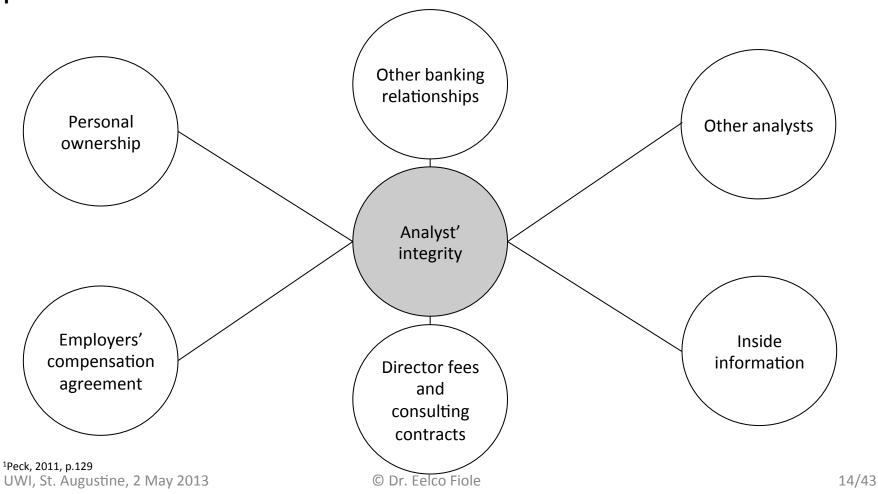
Four ethical principles to be applied in finance

- **1. Ethical understanding**: in dealing with others, the finance professional has an obligation to make sure that also **others sufficiently understand** the transaction
- 2. Ethical use of information: financial matters are information driven: the finance professional has an obligation to ensure that he/she and others have access to relevant information and that information is not misused or distorted in the transaction
- 3. Responsible investing: as investments provide financial resources to others, the finance professional has an obligation to ensure that he/she do not knowingly make or recommend investments that support activities that harm others
- **4. Trust and fairness**: as **other people's money** (OPM) is involved, directly or indirectly, the finance professional has an obligation **not to abuse** the trust placed in him/her that others have placed in him/her to treat that fairly, explicitly or implicitly



Every role in finance has ethical challenges

Look at a typical role of a finance professional: the financial analyst, undergoing many **pressures and conflicts**: disclosure is needed



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Are financial actors only rational and self-interested as finance theory assumes¹?

- Preferring more to less, maximization of utility under a budget constraint, individual pursuit of pecuniary wealth. Everything is expressed in monetary terms
- Finance knows: this is **not realistic**, but using methodological simplifications of reality allows financial investigations and creates a useful heuristic
- Friedman: economics is **independent of ethical positions** and normative judgment
- Shiller: finance is technology that works towards reducing inequality



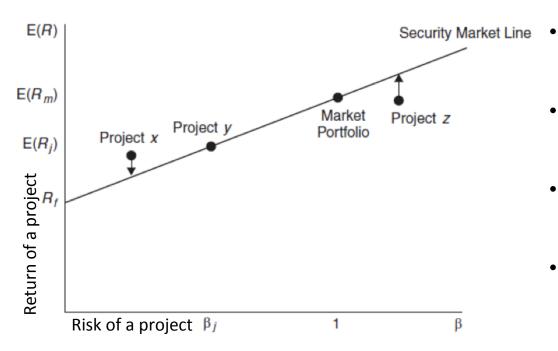
Is the concept of Time Value of Money (TVM)¹ unethical?

- USD 1 received today is worth more than USD 1 received tomorrow in a formula: PV = FV / (1+r)^T with r depending on real rate of return, expected inflation, and the risk of the investment
- This relates directly to the concept of usury, the unethical demand of interest on a loan. Demanding and charging excessive or any interest for a loan is unethical, based on Islamic, Jewish and Roman Catholic traditions
- In finance, interest rates are devoid of moral significance



Is a positive net present value always best?

Net Present Value (NPV) and Corporate Financial Management¹: in which project should be invested? CFO says: project x



- The question if projects
 benefit society is completely irrelevant in finance
- Project y, although hugely beneficial to society, could have been skipped
- Other benefits, could have been part of the analysis, making the NPV positive
- Project z was ignored, although maybe hugely beneficial to society

Do agency theory and stakeholder theory clash? Or are **shareholders served by taking stakeholder's interests into account**? E.g. job creation, tax revenues etc.



Does option pricing theory have ethical components¹?

- For every option there must be a seller and a buyer, it's a zero-sum game
- Black-Scholes: the value of a call option is $C(S,t) = S N(d_1) Ke^{-r(T-t)} N(d_2)$ and based on put-call parity the value of a put option is $P(S,t) = Ke^{-r(T-t)} S + C(S,t)$
- So the **option value** is a function of the stock price (S), the exercise price (K), time until expiration (T-t), risk-free rate of interest (r), and the riskiness of the stock (volatility feeds into d_1 and d_2) the higher the risk, the higher the option value



Does option pricing theory have ethical components¹? (cont'd)

An example¹:

- Assume a firm with one stock and one debt security in its capital structure
- A stockholder can be seen as holding a call option on the value of the firm
- Management can increase the value of the stock by increasing the risk of the firm
- This increase also makes the bonds riskier and worth less
- Wealth gets transferred from bondholders to stockholders

If the firm is operated solely for the benefit of shareholders, managers have a strong incentive to posture as a low-risk firm, issue bonds, and then suddenly increase the risk of the firm

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Reputational risk materialized in banking

The financial crisis: along with financial damage has come **substantial reputational damage** for the financial services industry, intermediaries and individuals¹

- CEO of Deutsche Bank and Chairman of the IIF: the industry was guilty of poor risk
 management with serious overreliance on flawed models, inadequate stresstesting, recurring conflicts of interest, lack of common sense, as well as irrational
 compensation practices not linked to long-term profitability with a growing
 perception by the public of "clever crooks and greedy fools" (April, 2008)
- Chairman of UBS: we can't pretend that there has been no reputational damage.
 UBS, the world's largest private bank, faced enormous private client withdrawals and lost it's no. 1 position (April, 2008)
- And many more...



What influences the value of reputation?

Reputation is the opinion (social evaluation) of the public toward a person, a group or organization. Reputation helps drive the excess value of a firm¹

Reputational capital gains or looses when the following changes		Symptoms of loss of reputational capital include ¹
Cumulative reputation	→	Client flight and loss of market share
Economic performance	→	Investor flight and increase of the cost of capital
Stakeholder interface	→	Talent flight
Legal interface	\rightarrow	Increasing contracting cost

Reputation risk is related to the strategic positioning and execution of a firm, exploitation of conflicts of interest, individual professional conduct, compliance and incentive systems, leadership and the prevailing corporate culture

So it's much more a focus on management processes than on discrete risk events...



Is valuation of reputational risk difficult?

Let's take a reputation-sensitive situation at a firm f involving losses from¹:

- 1. Client defections and **revenue erosion** (E(R_t))
- 2. Increases in **monetary costs** of an event (e.g. write-offs, compliance costs, regulatory fines, legal settlements, indirect costs such as opportunity costs) ($E(C_t)$)
- 3. Increases in firm-specific risk assigned by the market as a result of an event (α_t)

Or, in a formula:
$$NPV_f = \sum_{t=0}^{n} (E(R_t) - E(C_t)) / (1 + i_t + \alpha_t)^t$$



How difficult is it to run into reputational risks?

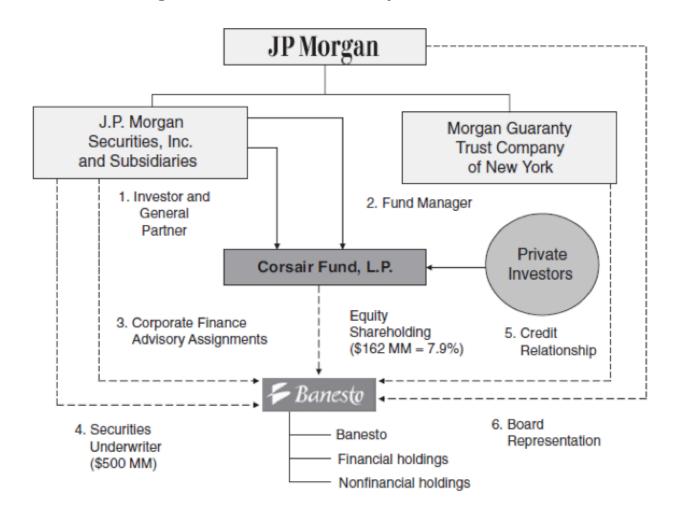
Example¹:

- In 1993, the a central bank took control of a local bank citing mismanagement and reckless lending
- Shares of an investment bank, which was closely involved with the local bank, declined dramatically (loss of market cap was USD 1,5 bn)
- This reaction was inconsistent with market rationality, given that the accounting loss for the investment bank was trivial (< USD 10 mn)

The investment bank was involved with the local bank in various ways, in no way violating legal or regulatory constraints....



Conflicts of interest damage trust and leads to reputational risk events





The broader the range of activities¹, the more difficult to manage

- The greater the likelihood that the financial firm will encounter exploitable conflicts of interest and reputational risk exposure
- 2. The **higher** will be the potential **agency costs** facing its **clients**
- The more difficult and costly will be the safeguards necessary to protect the value of the business



Citigroup into a gigantic financial supermarket only to see the bank nearly sollapse during the 2008 crisis after his departure, told CNBC's Squawk Box Wednesday morning that he is in favor of breaking up the biggest banks, and would like to see the U.S. be a leader in the cause.

Costs for reputational risk mitigation can easily offset the realization of economies of scope (revenue synergies) and scale (cost synergies)

As a result of **conflict exploitation**, the **firm may win** and clients may lose in the **first instance**, but subsequent **reputational and regulatory consequences** and cost of complexity can be considered **diseconomies of scope** (incl. opportunity cost)

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Leadership is the key¹

Unethical or **ethically neutral leadership facilitates** an **unethical business culture**³ and it is ethically mature leaders which need to be in charge²

Leaders, on all levels, play a central role in establishing an ethical organizational culture

- Formally, e.g. by formulating official codes of ethics, and
- Informally, e.g. by acting as a role model or by the ethics implicit in their decisions

For leaders this means that an understanding of the stages in ethical decision-making needs to be developed¹:

- 1. Identify an ethical dilemma: this is easier for people at higher stages of individual cognitive moral development
- 2. Judge what is ethical: what should be done to resolve a dilemma ethically
- 3. Intend to act ethically: put moral concerns ahead of other concerns or mitigate
- **4. Act ethically**: follow the intent



Judging leaders on all levels1

Criteria for judging existing or **proposed leaders** would be how their **reputation and past actions compare with ethics**, e.g.:

- Do they have a reputation for honesty, fair dealing, openness, transparency, consideration for stakeholders and leadership in ethical matters
- Have they been involved in any unethical or questionable actions or activities
- Have they been forthcoming with past auditors and board audit committees
- Do they have an understanding of the approaches to ethical analysis



Evidence of an ethical culture is needed¹

The following types of evidence in the evaluation of an ethical culture should be shown

- Is there a comprehensive code of ethics, presented with repeated training
- Do senior executives support ethical behavior and the code of conduct visibly
- Is the code integrated in strategy and the operating model
- Is there a credible champion in senior management supported by a team
- Is performance in accordance with the code monitored (incl. rewards and penalties)
 and is this reported periodically
- Is there an effective whistleblowing program in place with regular reports to senior management and audit/governance committees
- Is there an **annual review by the board, of ethics policies** etc. as well as its leadership and resource framework



Code of ethics is already standard in professional associations

Corporations, professional associations and educational institutions develop a **code of ethics**¹ to **guide the actions** of their members and to **formalize a set of standards** indicating the sort of **behavior expected** of their members













In many cases these ethical obligations become the **basis for a moral community** among finance professionals



Code of ethics are obliging¹

Professionals take on **moral duties** for two reasons:

- They possess expert knowledge, which enables their clients to depend upon them for reliable guidance. The professional has a heightened duty of care on the basis of the vulnerability of the client and the asymmetry of the information
- 2. They undertake their **role as an expert advisor** on a **voluntary basis** (i.e. membership in the professional organization)

Most codes of ethics governing the various areas of the finance professions have **two elements**:

- **1. Principles**: aspirational characteristics that lay out general principles professionals should follow
- **2. Rules**: specifying principles, which promote or prohibit specific activities



Seven principles are core to a code of ethics¹

- 1. Integrity: moral self-governance, a super virtue, which includes individual autonomy, togetherness, loyalty, congeniality, cooperation, trustworthiness and the quality to be introspective and to be able to give an honest reckoning of own strengths and weaknesses
- 2. Objectivity: the finance professional's obligation to subordinate his own interests to the needs of the client this deals with perceptual biases and conflicts of interest
- 3. Competence: professionalism starts with technical competence, a high level of knowledge and skills, difficult to attain, not held by the general public. It is however information asymmetry that creates the conflicts of interest. Also: is the client capable of assessing whether the professional is acting in the client's best interest?



Seven principles are core to a code of ethics¹ (cont'd)

- **4. Fairness**: revolves around principle of **equality** (treating like things alike), the **Golden Rule** (treat clients like finance professionals like to be treated themselves) and the **obligation** to give each person that which is due to them
- **5. Confidentiality**: professionals possess sensitive information, warranting a **duty** of confidentiality for 4 reasons: **respect for personal autonomy** and for obligations entailed in relationships, clients' vulnerability, and serving the common good
- **6. Professionalism**: code of ethics require finance professionals to treat all persons with **respect and consideration**, act in a way that brings **dignity to the profession**, and work toward **improving the quality of services** provided to the public
- 7. Diligence: services are delivered reasonably prompt, thorough and with due care (avoiding moral hazard). And with an obligation that their support staff conducts themselves professionally



Action is easy: the integrity action list of the CFA-Institute¹

The CFA Institute Integrity List is a collection of 50 tangible steps that investment professionals can take to restore trust in the industry. The list was inspired by "real-world" ideas from CFA charterholders and members.

1 Commit to a gold standard code of ethics and professional conduct [See CFA Institute Code of

	. Commit to a gold standard code of ethios and professional conduct [occ of A mistitute code of
	Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct].
į 2	Require training on ethical decision-making for yourself and your firm.
ͺ 3	Place the client's interests before your own.
[4	Name and shame unethical behavior.
5	Recommend products with transparent payoffs, costs, and risks.
6	6. Help clients focus on risk as much as they do on performance.
7	. Disclose your educational achievements and how you improve professional competence.
∫8	Strive for a conflict-free business model.
9	Advocate for stronger regulations that protect investors.
10	. Act with integrity 24/7 – not just at the office.

- Be transparent with clients when something goes wrong.
- Actively disclose all compensation arrangements to clients.

Encourage young professionals to have the courage to disagree.

- 15. Lead by example with your firm and colleagues.
- 16. Write articles and speak publicly about ethics.
- 17. Act with fairness and prudence with every decision.
- Present analysis based on facts and client needs.
- Always be honest with clients.

Keep client fees fair.

- Never overlook unethical behavior because you're better served by ignorance.
- Never engage in misleading sales promotions.
- Mentor future investment industry professionals.
- Vocally demand that your firm does what is right for clients.
- 24. Tip the balance between competing interests in favor of clients.
- Outline exactly how you are managing a client's funds.

Disseminate transparent, accurate and timely information.

Be clear about situational influences in your environment.

Base investment recommendations on strong analysis.

Adhere to high standards even if they are not required in your country.

Elevate the importance of integrity in the hiring process.

Disclose information in ways even novice investors can understand.

Adopt Global Investment Performance Standards.

Maintain regular contact with clients.

Openly share bad news with all who are affected.

Listen to clients' concerns and fears.

Promote the concept of earning money rather than making money.

Create an ethical work culture that allows constructive criticism.

Bring an ethical dimension to discussions of business strategy.

Adopt the CFA Institute Asset Manager Code of Professional Conduct.

Remind junior associates that reputations are hard earned and easily lost.

Take responsibility for the actions of your team.

Use social media to comment about the values you uphold.

Act as an expert resource for journalists.

Refuse to associate with anyone who takes advantage of clients.

Bring to justice those who take part in irresponsible and illegal activities.

Recommend companies with fair practices and good corporate governance.

Advocate for technology that makes the industry more transparent.

Engage and build relationships with local regulators and policy makers.

Serve on committees that advocate for regulatory reform.

Become a member of CFA Institute and sign the required annual ethics statement.



Alternatively: men just leave it to women¹....

- In an experiment involving hypothetical job descriptions
- women showed lower interest in companies described as choosing profits over ethics
- than in firms that favored ethics (average of 3.56 versus 4.97 on a 1-to-7 scale), an
 effect that didn't show up in men
- women also showed stronger implicit associations between business and immorality than did men....

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Finance, both academic and applied, is facing a **crisis of trust**, but, and with modesty, we understand enough of the fields of finance and ethics **conceptually**, and

Have **concrete analytical frameworks** and tools in terms of principles, leadership and actionability, to

Be able to **restore trust**, and continue to work on **developing our understanding**, so that **finance** can serve and remain the important and integral **part of society** it is

Barclays CEO: Employees To Be Paid In Part On Whether They Are Good Citizens

Reuters | Posted: 09/24/2012 4:34 pm Updated: 09/24/2012 5:32 pm



* Executives to be measured by "balanced scorecard"

* Metrics may tie environmental goals to profit targets

* "Citizenship" already part of scorecard in retail division

By Jed Horowitz

NEW YORK, Sept 24 (Reuters) - Barclays Plc's new chief executive said he will pay employees based in part on whether they are good citizens, as the British bank tries to restore its tarnished reputation.

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