THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY

VIDHIGYAA LEGAL COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK

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Abstract

The Vidhigyaa Legal Compliance Framework (VLCF) 1.0 describes the manner in which Vidhigyaa (Advocates & Consultancy) approaches a client's legal matter, from the moment it is brought to the firm to the point of its resolution. It sets out four pillars Assess, Resolve, Secure, and Stand that together describe the firm's method of practice across all areas of law it serves, including property and real estate, contracts and agreements, intellectual property, corporate transactions, and cybersecurity and data protection law. The VLCF does not prescribe procedures or instruct how a matter must be handled. Rather, it describes the standard a client can expect and the standard a member of the firm is expected to meet, regardless of the nature, size, or difficulty of the matter at hand.

This document is written for two readers. The first is anyone who works at Vidhigyaa, for whom it describes the standard of practice the firm holds itself to, regardless of role or seniority. The second is any client, prospective client, or partner of the firm, for whom it describes what to expect when a matter is placed in the firm's hands, how it will be looked at, how it will be carried forward, what will be protected, and where the firm will not go, irrespective of what is asked or offered.

Keywords

legal practice methodology; client engagement; real estate compliance; RERA and tribunal advocacy; litigation and claims; contracts and agreements; corporate advisory; mergers and acquisitions; compliance and regulatory services; strategic settlement; cyber and IT law; data protection; Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023; professional ethics; Audience

A Note on This Document

This document does not set out procedures or steps to be followed for any particular matter; those continue to be determined case by case, as they always have been at Vidhigyaa. What follows is a description of how the firm approaches its work, organised under the four pillars. References to law are accurate as of the date of this document and are subject to change as legislation, regulations, and judicial interpretation evolve.

Acknowledgements

The VLCF is the result of internal discussion and reflection on the firm's own practice, drawing on the experience of Vidhigyaa's founding advocate and the day to day work of its associates and consultants. It reflects the firm's own understanding of how it works, arrived at thorough conversation within the firm rather than consultation outside it

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1. Introduction to VLCF - How It Came To Be And Why It Exists

Vidhigyaa (Advocates & Consultancy) was established on the understanding that a client engaging a law firm is not looking for complexity. They are looking for someone who will take their problem seriously, understand it properly, and carry it to a conclusion without unnecessary delay or expense. Over the course of practising across real estate compliance, litigation, corporate advisory, intellectual property, and cyber and IT law, the firm has developed a consistent way of approaching the matters brought to it. This document, the Vidhigyaa Legal Compliance Framework (VLCF), describes that approach.

Ask any advocate at the firm how a matter is handled, and the answer is likely to be remarkably consistent, regardless of whom you ask. That consistency reflects an approach that has remained at the core of the firm's practice since its founding. What has evolved over time is not the methodology, but the breadth of matters to which it is applied.
In recent years, Vidhigyaa has significantly expanded its practice, particularly in the areas of cyber law, information technology law, and data protection—fields that have emerged as critical areas of legal practice and that many firms, including some larger ones, were initially slow to embrace. Alongside this growth, the firm continues to maintain its strong foundation in traditional practice areas, including property disputes, contract law, claims, corporate advisory, and litigation before courts and tribunals.

As that range has grown, so has the value of a clear statement of what holds it all together, something a client can refer to before engaging the firm, and something a new associate can refer to on their first day, regardless of which area of the firm's practice they join. The VLCF is that statement.

Its contents are organised around four pillars, Assess, Resolve, Secure, and Stand. These were not designed separately from the firm's practice and then applied to it. They were drawn directly out of it, reflecting how matters have actually been handled at Vidhigyaa, what has made some engagements work better than others, and what the firm would not do regardless of how a case looked on paper or what was offered in exchange.

The remainder of this document sets out these four pillars in turn. Section 2 introduces the VLCF Core, the structure of categories that each pillar is built from, so that the sections describing each pillar, Sections 3.1 through 3.4, can be read with that structure in mind. The document closes with a short final section, and a final closing appendix that may be useful for reference but are not essential to a first reading.

A reader who wants the short version need not look further than the four pillars themselves. Everything else in this document exists to explain them properly.

2. Introduction to VLCF Core - How The Pillars Are Structured

The VLCF Core is the underlying structure that holds the four pillars together. Each pillar, Assess, Resolve, Secure, and Stand, is broken down further into a small number of categories. A category describes a specific aspect of that pillar's concern, narrow enough to mean something concrete but general enough to apply across the range of matters the firm handles.

To take a simple example: a pillar concerned with understanding a client's situation might include a category focused on a particular aspect of that situation, such as the documents relevant to the matter. Within that category, the firm's work might mean ensuring that all relevant documents have been identified and reviewed, including any the client did not initially think to provide. The pillar names the broad concern, and the category narrows it to a specific aspect that the firm attends to as a matter of course.

This structure exists for two reasons. The first is so that the firm can speak about its own practice with some precision. When an advocate or consultant says that a matter has been properly assessed, that statement can be checked against the specific categories that make up the Assess pillar, rather than left as a general impression. The second reason is so that a client can see what the firm is actually doing on their behalf, in terms that describe their situation rather than internal procedure.

The categories that make up the VLCF Core are not exhaustive in the sense of covering every possible situation a client might bring to the firm. They are general enough to apply across the firm's practice areas, real estate, litigation, corporate advisory, intellectual property, and cyber and IT law alike, while specific enough to mean something concrete. Where a particular matter raises something the Core does not directly address, the four pillars still apply as a way of thinking about the matter, even where no specific category describes it precisely.

The sections that follow describe each pillar in turn. Each section opens with a short description of what the pillar is about, followed by the categories that make it up, described in the same descriptive register as the rest of this document.

3. The Four Pillars - An Overview

The four pillars, Assess, Resolve, Secure, and Stand, are described individually in the sections that follow. Each is given its own section, opening with a short description of what the pillar is concerned with, followed by the categories that make it up. The pillars are presented in the order in which they typically apply to a matter, with one exception: Stand is placed last not because it comes last in practice, but because it applies throughout, from the first conversation with a client to the conclusion of their case. Read together, the four sections that follow describe the firm's approach to a matter from the moment it is taken on to the moment it is resolved, with a constant standard running underneath all of it.

3.1 ASSESS

The first thing the firm does when a matter is brought to it is understand it. Not in the sense of taking a client's account at face value and proceeding on that basis, but in the sense of building an independent picture of the situation from the ground up. A client may not know which documents are relevant, may not have retained everything they should have, or may have taken steps before engaging the firm that have altered the legal landscape they are now operating in. The Assess pillar exists to ensure that none of that goes unexamined.

The assessment of a matter is the firm's responsibility, not the client's. A client is expected to provide what they have and answer what they are asked. Beyond that, the work of understanding the matter fully belongs to the firm.

Situation

Every matter begins with an understanding of where the client actually stands. This means understanding not just what they are asking for but what is giving rise to it, what has happened, what is currently in dispute or at risk, and what the relevant legal framework is. Where a client comes in with an incomplete or mistaken picture of their own situation, that is identified and corrected before any course of action is considered.

Documentation

The firm identifies what documents are relevant to the matter and ensures they are obtained and reviewed. This is not left to the client to determine. A client may not know which contracts, notices, registrations, or correspondence bear on their matter, and in many cases the most significant documents are ones they did not think to mention. The firm's role is to ask the right questions, identify what is missing, and work with what exists rather than what the client assumed would be sufficient.

Exposure

Once the situation and documentation are understood, the firm assesses what is actually at risk. This includes legal liability, procedural deadlines, regulatory exposure, and any complications arising from steps the client took before engaging the firm, whether those steps were well-intentioned, taken on advice from elsewhere, or handled without professional assistance at all. Prior missteps are not treated as obstacles to engagement; they are part of what needs to be understood and, where possible, addressed.

Path

Before any course of action is decided, the firm establishes what options are available. This means identifying the realistic paths forward, what each one involves, what it is likely to achieve, and what it would require of the client. The client is given an honest picture of where they stand and what can be done about it. The decision that follows is made on that basis, not on assumption or convenience.

3.2 Resolve

Once a matter has been properly assessed, the firm's attention turns to bringing it to a conclusion. Resolve is the pillar concerned with how that happens. It is not about the length of the engagement or the complexity of the work involved. It is about the firm's orientation throughout: toward the client's outcome, and toward reaching it by the most direct lawful path available.

A matter that drags without progress is not in the client's interest. The firm operates on that understanding. Where delay is unavoidable, it is explained. Where it is avoidable, it is avoided.

Strategy

The firm identifies the most direct lawful path to the client's desired outcome and pursues it. This does not always mean the simplest path, since some matters are genuinely complex, but it always means the path that is most likely to produce the result the client needs without unnecessary detours. Litigation is pursued where it is warranted. Settlement is pursued where it is the better option. The strategy is determined by what the matter requires, not by what prolongs the engagement.

Progression

The matter moves forward under the active management of the Lead Consultant. The firm mandates a bi-weekly (every 14 calendar days) status update to the client, eliminating the need for client follow-ups. Case progression metrics are logged internally. Client intervention is restricted solely to material verifications, formal affidavits, or statutory signatures, keeping the administrative burden on the client to an absolute minimum.

Settlement

Where a negotiated resolution is available and genuinely serves the client's interests, it is considered seriously before any other path is pursued. Strategic settlement is not a concession or a shortcut. In many matters it is the most intelligent outcome available, producing a result faster, at lower cost, and with less exposure than litigation would. The firm approaches settlement with the same rigour it brings to any other strategy, and does not recommend it as a convenience.

Conclusion

Every matter is carried to an actual end point. When that point is reached, the client understands what has been achieved, what it means for their position going forward, and whether anything remains to be done. A matter is not considered concluded simply because activity has stopped. It is concluded when the client's situation has been resolved to the extent the law and the facts allow, and they have been told so clearly.

3.3 Secure

Not every legal matter arrives at the firm in the form of a dispute. Many clients come to Vidhigyaa not because something has gone wrong but because they want to ensure it does not. The Secure pillar covers the firm's work in identifying and protecting what a client stands to lose, whether that is property, intellectual property, a contractual position, or data and digital information. It applies equally to clients who are already in a dispute and need their interests protected while it is resolved, and to clients who are taking steps to ensure they are not exposed in the first place.
Protection is most effective before it is needed. The firm approaches Secure on that basis.

Rights & Assets
A client's ownership interests, property rights, and physical assets are identified and their legal standing confirmed. Where those interests are at risk of loss, encroachment, or dispute, the firm works to establish and protect them through the appropriate legal channels. This includes matters arising under property law and real estate compliance, including proceedings before the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, where a client's rights as a buyer, seller, or developer require formal protection or enforcement.

Intellectual Property
A client's trademarks, creative works, and other intellectual property are among the assets most commonly overlooked until they are at risk. The firm identifies what IP a client holds, confirms that it is properly registered or otherwise protected where registration is available, and acts where those rights are being or are likely to be infringed. Where a client is in a dispute involving IP, the firm ensures their position is clearly established before that dispute progresses.

Contracts
A client's contractual position is reviewed to identify what obligations they are bound by, what rights they hold, and where the balance of risk in an agreement lies. This applies to existing agreements, proposed agreements the client is considering entering, and situations where a contract has been breached or is in dispute. The firm does not treat a signed contract as the end of the inquiry. It treats it as the starting point for understanding what the client is actually committed to and what protection they actually have.

Data & Cybersecurity
The firm advises on the protection of a client's digital information and the legal obligations that attend it. This includes compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, which has introduced enforceable obligations around the collection, storage, and processing of personal data that many individuals and organisations are not yet fully aware of or prepared for. Where a client's data practices carry legal exposure, that exposure is identified and addressed. Where a client has experienced or is at risk of a cybersecurity incident, the firm advises on the legal dimensions of that situation, including notification obligations, liability, and remediation.

3.4 Stand

The four pillars of the VLCF are not of equal character. Assess, Resolve, and Secure each describe a phase or area of the firm's work. Stand is different. It is not a phase and it is not an area. It is the standard against which everything else is measured, present at every stage of every matter the firm handles, from the first conversation with a client to the conclusion of their case.

It is placed last not because it is least important but because it is the filter through which the other three are applied. A matter that has been thoroughly assessed, efficiently resolved, and carefully secured still fails the firm's standard if it was handled without integrity, inconsistently, or in a manner the firm would not be willing to account for. Stand is what prevents that.

Integrity

The firm does not take positions it does not believe, make representations it cannot support, or pursue strategies it considers dishonest. This applies in dealings with clients, with opposing parties, and with courts and tribunals. Where the firm's honest assessment of a matter is unfavourable to the client, that assessment is given clearly and without softening. A client is better served by an accurate picture of where they stand than by one that has been adjusted to be more comfortable.

Conduct

Every matter the firm handles receives the same standard of professional attention regardless of its size, its complexity, or the profile of the client. A matter involving a small sum is not treated as less worthy of care than one involving a large one. A client who is unfamiliar with legal process is not treated as less deserving of a clear explanation than one who is experienced with it. The standard does not vary.

Boundaries

There are things the firm will not do. This is not a function of risk appetite or commercial calculation. It is a function of what the firm considers professionally and ethically acceptable. Those boundaries do not move in response to instruction, to the apparent strength of a case, or to what is being offered in exchange. A client who asks the firm to act outside them will be told so directly. The engagement does not continue on those terms.

Transparency

The client is kept informed of the verifiable status of their matter throughout. Material developments, particularly adverse judicial orders, regulatory non-compliance discoveries, or unfavorable risk escalations, must be formally disclosed to the client in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of occurrence. The firm manages expectations by providing real-time data and formal case risk assessments at every procedural stage

4. Closing Note

Summary

The Vidhigyaa Legal Compliance Framework describes four things: how the firm understands a matter before acting on it, how it carries that matter to a conclusion, how it identifies and protects what a client stands to lose, and the standard it holds itself to throughout. These are not aspirations. They describe how the firm has operated and how it continues to operate across every matter it handles, regardless of the area of law involved or the complexity of the situation.

The four pillars, Assess, Resolve, Secure, and Stand, are the spine of that description. Everything else in this document exists to explain them properly.

4.1 For Client

If you have engaged Vidhigyaa, or are considering doing so, what this document describes is what you can expect. Your matter will be understood properly before anything is done about it. It will be carried forward by the firm without placing an unnecessary burden on you to drive it. Your rights and interests will be identified and protected. And the firm will be honest with you throughout, including when honesty is not what you were hoping for.

You are not expected to know the law. You are not expected to know which documents matter, which deadlines apply, or which strategy is most likely to serve your interests. That is the firm's responsibility. Yours is to provide what you have, answer what you are asked, and trust that the matter is being handled.

If at any point that trust feels misplaced, you should say so. The firm's standard of transparency runs in both directions.

4.2 For Associate

If you are joining Vidhigyaa, or are new to the firm, this document describes the standard you are joining. It is not a procedures manual and it does not tell you how to handle any specific matter. What it tells you is what the firm considers non-negotiable: that every matter is understood before it is acted on, that every client's outcome is treated as the firm's responsibility, that what is at risk for a client is taken seriously and protected, and that none of that changes depending on the size of the matter or the difficulty of the client.

The four pillars apply to every matter you will work on here. They are not a checklist to be completed and set aside. They are the way the firm works, and by extension, the way you are expected to work while you are part of it. If you find yourself uncertain about how to approach something, they are a reasonable place to start.

Appendix: Glossary

Category

A subdivision of a pillar. Each pillar in the VLCF is broken down into a small number of categories, each of which addresses a specific aspect of that pillar's concern. Categories are described in Sections 3.1 through 3.4.

Cybersecurity

The protection of digital systems, networks, and information against unauthorised access, damage, or disruption. In the context of the VLCF, cybersecurity refers to the legal dimensions of a client's digital security posture, including exposure arising from incidents, breaches, and non-compliance with applicable law.

Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 (DPDP Act)

An Act of the Parliament of India that establishes enforceable obligations on entities that collect, store, or process personal data. It introduces rights for individuals whose data is being processed and obligations for those processing it, with penalties for non-compliance. The firm advises clients on compliance with the DPDP Act and on legal exposure arising from data practices that do not meet its requirements.

Intellectual Property

Legal rights that attach to creative works, inventions, and identifying marks, including trademarks, copyright, and related rights. In the context of the VLCF, intellectual property refers to the intangible assets a client holds that require identification, registration where available, and protection against infringement.

Pillar

One of the four principal areas of the VLCF: Assess, Resolve, Secure, and Stand. Each pillar describes a broad area of the firm's approach to handling a matter and is broken down into categories.

Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)

A statutory body established under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 to regulate the real estate sector and protect the interests of buyers, sellers, and developers. The firm represents clients in proceedings before RERA and advises on compliance with its requirements.

Strategic Settlement

A negotiated resolution of a matter, pursued where it represents the most intelligent outcome available to the client. Strategic settlement is not treated as a concession or a fallback. It is considered on its merits alongside other available paths and recommended where it is likely to produce a better result for the client than litigation would.

VLCF (Vidhigyaa Legal Compliance Framework)

The framework described in this document. It sets out the firm's approach to handling legal matters across all of its practice areas, organised around four pillars: Assess, Resolve, Secure, and Stand.

VLCF Core

The underlying structure of the VLCF, comprising the four pillars and the categories within each pillars, The VLCF Core is introduced in Section 2.

References to law are accurate as of the date of this document. This framework is subject to mandatory annual review every December, or immediate interim revision within thirty (30) days of any major gazetted legislative amendments or shifting judicial precedents affecting our core practice areas

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