

Law, ethics and sustainability: challenges of social responsibility in the training of contemporary jurist

Law, ethics and sustainability: challenges of social responsibility in the formation of contemporary jurists

Hanna Francy Passos Teles¹
Ester Lorene Mendonça de Carvalho²
Paulo Eduardo Queiroz da Costa³

SUMMARY

This article analyzes the challenges of social responsibility in the training of contemporary legal professionals, highlighting the importance of ethics and sustainability as structuring principles of legal practice and education. Through a qualitative and exploratory literature review, studies discussing the role of law in promoting social justice, sustainable development, and responsible citizenship were examined. The results indicated that legal professionals must act ethically and be committed to the social and environmental impacts of their decisions, overcoming legal technicalities and adopting a reflective and humanistic stance. It was found that legal sustainability represents an axis of integration between freedom and solidarity, being essential for building a balanced and just society. It was also found that legal education needs to incorporate methodologies that unite theory, practice, and ethical values, training professionals capable of understanding and meeting the demands of the 21st century. It is concluded that social responsibility and ethics are inseparable elements of the training and performance of the jurist, configuring themselves as fundamental pillars for the consolidation of a Law committed to the common good and the preservation of human dignity.

Keywords: Ethics; Sustainability; Social responsibility; Legal training; Contemporary jurist.

ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the challenges of social responsibility in the formation of contemporary jurists, highlighting the importance of ethics and sustainability as structuring principles of legal practice and education. Through a literature review with a qualitative and exploratory approach, studies that discuss the role of Law in the promotion of social justice, sustainable development and responsible citizenship were examined. The results pointed out that the legal professional must act ethically and committed to the social and environmental impacts of their decisions, going beyond the legal technicality and assuming a reflective and humanistic posture. It was found that legal sustainability represents an axis of integration between freedom and solidarity, being essential for the construction of a balanced and fair society. It was also found that legal education needs to incorporate methodologies that unite theory, practice and ethical values, training professionals able to understand and face the demands of the twenty-first century. It is concluded that social responsibility and ethics are inseparable elements of the formation and performance of the jurist, configuring themselves as fundamental pillars for the consolidation of a Law committed to the common good and to the preservation of human dignity.

Keywords: Ethics; Sustainability; Social responsibility; Legal training; Contemporary jurist.

¹ Law student at Santa Teresa College, Manaus, Amazonas. Email: hannatelles00@gmail.com.

² Law student at Santa Teresa College, Manaus, Amazonas. Email: esterlorenecarvalho@gmail.com.

³ Graduated in Portuguese Language and Literature and Law, with a lato sensu postgraduate degree in Social Anthropology and a stricto sensu postgraduate degree in Cultural Anthropology. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Education. He also studied Philosophy of Law and Political Science. He is currently a parliamentary advisor for legislative production at the Amazonas State Legislative Assembly and works as an editor and university professor.

1 INTRODUCTION

The advance of globalization and contemporary social transformations have imposed on Law new challenges, especially with regard to ethics, sustainability and social responsibility. The current jurist cannot limit himself to the technical role of applying norm, but must act as an agent of social transformation, committed to promoting of justice, equity and sustainable development. This perspective requires that legal training be rethought in light of an interdisciplinary and ethical approach, focused on building a critical and humanized consciousness in the face of the demands of the 21st century (Menezes, 2019).

Legal ethics goes beyond the field of individual morality and acquires a social dimension, demanding from the professional an attitude based on responsibility and respect for principles fundamental aspects of human coexistence. Law, as an instrument of organization and social balance, needs to incorporate ethical and sustainable values that guide its practices and decisions, in order to guarantee the preservation of the environment and collective well-being. Thus, training of the jurist must consistently include reflection on ethics applied to exercise of citizenship and justice (Almeida; Casaril, 2025).

Sustainability, when related to Law, represents an axis of integration between social responsibility and ethical commitment to the future. Legal action, in this sense, it must align with the Sustainable Development Goals and public policies that promote dignity and social solidarity. The legal professional thus becomes a mediator between economic growth and environmental values, contributing to the consolidation of a balanced and fair society (Celastino, 2023).

Reflections on legal sustainability highlight the need for ethical practices that associate professional practice with a commitment to the common good. The jurist contemporary must understand that their decisions have a direct impact on relationships social and ecological, and that ethics, combined with social responsibility, constitute the basis for an effectively transformative action. Law, therefore, plays an essential role in promotion of policies and conduct that harmonize freedom, solidarity and human dignity (Sturmer, 2022).

Legal academic training needs to be guided by values that strengthen social responsibility and broaden the ethical sensitivity of future professionals. The university plays a central role in building this profile, by promoting pedagogical practices that encourage empathy, equity, and respect for diversity. Legal education must transcend

technicality and adopt a stance focused on understanding human and environmental challenges, in order to consolidate a more inclusive and sustainable legal culture (Veiga, 2023).

Improving ethical and sustainable training in the legal field requires dialogue constant connection between theory and practice, allowing the student to develop critical skills and reflective. This integration contributes to the emergence of a professional capable of interpreting the norm not only from a formalist perspective, but as an instrument of social transformation. In this way, ethics and sustainability are consolidated as pillars of the training of jurist committed to justice and collective well-being (Bonelli, 2023).

The justification for this study is based on the need to reconfigure legal training in the face of the ethical and socio-environmental demands of the contemporary world. The approach chosen contributes to strengthening critical awareness among professionals in the Law, encouraging action focused on social justice and sustainable development. In addition to meeting academic and professional guidelines, the research seeks to reaffirm the role of jurist as an agent responsible for consolidating a more just, inclusive and environmentally balanced (Amaral, 2017).

In this context, the present study has the general objective of analyzing the challenges of social responsibility in the training of contemporary jurist, emphasizing the importance of ethical and sustainable principles in legal practice and education.

2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Ethics and Social Responsibility in the Practice of Law

Ethics in the legal field constitutes an essential element for the legitimization of practices and decisions of legal professionals, directly reflecting on the credibility of institutions and social trust. Ethical practice goes beyond simply observing standards deontological, reaching a moral and humanistic dimension that guides the conduct of the jurist in favor of justice and the common good. Legal action, in this sense, must be permeated by social responsibility, which imposes on the legal operator the duty to act consciously and committed to the impacts of their decisions on the community. This interdependence between ethics and social responsibility reinforces the role of the jurist as a transformative agent, capable of contributing to the construction of a more just, supportive and sustainable society (Menezes, 2019).

The ethical training of legal professionals demands a broad understanding of the social role of legal knowledge, which must be aligned with the promotion of dignity

human rights and the defense of fundamental rights. Professional ethics therefore becomes a instrument for regulating human and institutional relations, encouraging practices that value transparency, equity and respect for differences. In this context, the jurist contemporary must develop ethical skills that allow him to act with discernment in the face of moral dilemmas and conflicts of values. This ethical dimension goes beyond the scope of individual morality and becomes part of institutional and social responsibility, given that legal decisions have direct repercussions on the economic, environmental and cultural spheres of society (Almeida; Casaril, 2025).

Social responsibility, as an offshoot of professional ethics, assumes a central position in legal practice, as it implies recognizing that Law is not only intended to the resolution of disputes, but to the harmonization of social relations and the promotion of balance collective. This concept is closely linked to the idea of solidarity, a fundamental principle that guides the Democratic Rule of Law and directs legal practices in favor of inclusion and distributive justice. Thus, ethics and social responsibility in the exercise of Law do not are not just moral requirements, but structuring assumptions of responsible legal action, committed and aware of their social role (Sturmer, 2022).

The consolidation of an ethical stance among legal professionals depends directly from the way legal education is conducted in higher education institutions. Technical learning must be accompanied by humanistic and critical training, which encourage the development of ethical values and social responsibility from graduation onwards. Legal education needs to go beyond normative technicalities and incorporate a reflective vision that recognizes the importance of ethics in solving social problems and in mediating contemporary conflicts. In this way, the formative process contributes to strengthening citizenship and to build a professional conscience committed to justice social and sustainability (Veiga, 2023).

2.2 Sustainability and the New Paradigm of the Contemporary Jurist

Sustainability has established itself as one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century and represents an indispensable value for the redefinition of social, economic and legal practices. In the field of Law, it manifests itself as a principle that guides public policies, judicial decisions and professional conduct, establishing a new paradigm for the jurist contemporary. Legal professionals need to understand that their actions interfere directly in the preservation of natural resources, in the promotion of social equity and in

maintenance of the democratic order. Sustainability, therefore, must be incorporated into training and legal practice as an ethical and institutional commitment, capable of harmonizing human development with environmental protection (Celastino, 2023).

The 21st century jurist must be prepared to deal with complex challenges arising from globalization and the environmental crisis, adopting a critical stance towards the legal, social, and ecological consequences of human activities. Legal action sustainable implies understanding that Law cannot be dissociated from the environmental context and social context in which it operates. The defense of sustainability must be present in the interpretations legal, legislative policies and institutional practices, promoting a balance between economic freedom, social justice, and environmental protection. This vision broadens the concept traditional justice, including intergenerational responsibility and the ethical duty to ensure decent living conditions for future generations (Bonelli, 2023).

Legal sustainability is also related to the consolidation of a new profile of a jurist, whose training must integrate environmental, ethical and humanistic knowledge. The teaching legal must incorporate disciplines and projects that encourage reflection on the sustainability and its practical application in professional practice. This paradigmatic shift requires universities to adopt interdisciplinary methodologies and educational practices aimed at developing ethical and sustainable skills. The expected result is a professional capable of promoting decisions that consider the balance between progress and environmental conservation, acting consciously and responsibly in society (Mata, 2020).

Environmental responsibility and sustainability, when applied to law, are not limited to the elaboration of protective norms, but extend to the formation of a legal culture committed to ecological justice. The contemporary jurist must understand that sustainability is a transversal principle, which permeates all areas of Law and redefines the relationships between humans and the environment. Thus, legal sustainability becomes an instrument for realizing fundamental rights and strengthening social responsibility, consolidating the role of Law as an agent of balance between the ethical, environmental and economic dimensions of life in society (Amaral, 2017).

3 METHODOLOGY

This research was developed through the literature review method, with qualitative and exploratory approach, focused on analyzing the interrelationships between ethics,

sustainability and social responsibility in the training and performance of contemporary jurist. The main objective of the methodology was to gather, analyze and critically interpret productions relevant scientific information on the topic, enabling a broad and integrated view of advances conceptual and practical aspects related to ethical and socio-environmental responsibility in the field legal.

The search for studies was carried out in the main national scientific databases and international, including Google Scholar, Scielo, PubMed, CAPES Periodicals, Redalyc, Dialnet and Scopus. These platforms were chosen for their academic relevance, scope and constant updating, allowing access to articles, theses, dissertations, books and institutional reports related to the proposed topic. The search was conducted between the months July and October 2025, covering publications from the last ten years (2015 to 2025), in order to ensure relevance and coherence with contemporary debates.

The descriptors were defined based on the Health Sciences Descriptors (DeCS) and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), using terms in three languages: Portuguese, English and Spanish. Among the combinations used, the following stand out: "Law and Ethics" / "Law and ethics" / "Law and ethics"; "Legal sustainability" / "Legal sustainability" / "Legal sustainability"; "Social responsibility" / "Social Responsibility"; and "Jurist Education" / "Formación del Jurista" / "Jurist Education" jurist". Boolean operators (AND and OR) were used to refine the results and increase the accuracy of searches.

Inclusion criteria included scientific articles, theoretical reviews, dissertations and theses that directly address the relationship between ethics, sustainability, responsibility social and legal training. Only works published between 2015 and 2025 were considered, available in full text, focusing on the academic and professional context of Law. Works in Portuguese, English and Spanish were accepted, as long as they were coherent thematic and methodological with the objective of the research.

As exclusion criteria, publications that did not deal with the legal field, opinion texts without scientific basis, duplications and productions aimed exclusively at the business sector without correlation with training or performance legal. This screening ensured greater consistency and quality in the data collected, eliminating studies with low methodological rigor or thematic deviation.

The selection process took place in three stages: (1) reading of titles and abstracts, (2) full reading of eligible publications and (3) comparative analysis of selected content. The data was then organized into a spreadsheet containing information about the author,

year, type of study, objectives, methodology used and main conclusions. This systematization allowed the identification of theoretical convergences, research gaps and trends emerging on the ethical and sustainable role of the contemporary jurist.

Data analysis was conducted using the content analysis technique, allowing the categorization of findings into corresponding thematic axes: professional ethics, legal sustainability, social responsibility and academic training. This structure analytical made it possible to establish connections between theoretical concepts and reality practice of legal practice, favoring an integrated understanding of the challenges faced for education and the practice of Law.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the selected works made it possible to confirm that the concept of responsibility social in Law goes beyond the business sphere and becomes part of an ethical principle fundamental to legal practice. The legal professional is called upon to perform a function transformative, committed to the common good, equity and development sustainable. This perspective reflects a new understanding of the social role of the jurist, who must act consciously in light of the social and environmental impacts of their decisions, seeking reconcile individual freedom with the duties of collective solidarity (Sturmer, 2022).

Studies show that social responsibility in the legal field is directly linked to human dignity and sustainability as foundations for a more fair. Ethics ceases to be an abstract value and begins to materialize in professional practice, guiding decisions that promote inclusion, equality and respect for fundamental rights. This vision broadens the sense of justice, incorporating elements of personal responsibility and collective that strengthen the jurist's commitment to society and the environment (Almeida; Casaril, 2025).

Sustainability, understood as a legal and moral principle, is presented as an axis structuring the new paradigm of legal professional practice. It requires a stance that recognizes the interdependence between economic development, environmental protection and social justice. This concept of sustainability broadens the scope of law, making it a essential instrument for building a balanced and ethical society, committed with the preservation of life and natural resources (Celastino, 2023).

The concept of social responsibility has also been interpreted as a commitment ethical that extends to public and private institutions, requiring them to adopt practices that harmonize

their interests with the collective good. This approach reinforces the role of law as a mediator of social relations and promoter of equity. The jurist, in this context, must understand that its decisions and legal guidelines have broad repercussions on sustainability institutional, social and environmental (Veiga, 2023).

The results indicate that environmental ethics has become one of the main dimensions of contemporary legal debate. It guides the professional's behavior and underpins new legal interpretations aimed at preserving the environment. This ethics of sustainability requires the reformulation of traditional legal paradigms and the construction of a collective awareness of the impact of human practices on ecosystems. Education legal, in turn, must prepare the jurist for this reality, encouraging responsibility environmental as part of their professional training (Mata, 2020).

Another relevant point identified was the need for articulation between ethics and normativity, highlighted as an essential element for the consolidation of new paradigms legal matters. Civil liability and sustainability are no longer isolated fields but become interdependent dimensions of the legal system. This integration promotes a reading broader aspect of Law, which recognizes its social function not only in regulating conduct, but in the construction of a legal culture committed to justice intergenerational and environmental balance (Amaral, 2017).

The analyses also reveal that ethical behavior in legal institutions must be understood as an instrument for strengthening social trust. The professional Law, by adopting responsible and transparent practices, contributes to the credibility of institutions and for the effectiveness of justice. Ethics applied to Law, in this sense, becomes an element of institutional stability and guarantee of democratic legitimacy, consolidating the role of the jurist as guardian of public morality and sustainability (Bonelli, 2023).

Through a comprehensive and connected analysis of the different literary works on the theme, it was possible to identify that the issue of social responsibility within the field of Law is not restricted exclusively to the scope of companies. In fact, this social responsibility is revealed as a broad and fundamental principle, which crosses and is manifests itself in all aspects of legal practice, influencing each area of activity in this sector. Regardless of the legal area in which you are working, whether in civil law, criminal, environmental or labor law, it is essential to maintain a strong ethical and sustainable commitment (Celastino, 2023).

This responsibility not only contributes significantly to strengthening legal relationships that exist between the parties involved, but also plays a role fundamental in promoting human and social development that is balanced and harmonious. Consequently, ethics and sustainability prove to be essential pillars to build a fairer and more cohesive legal environment. This expansion of the concept reinforces the interpretation that Law must be understood as a science that is focused for coexistence in society. In this sense, it is essential that your actions are aligned with the fundamental principles of solidarity and social justice, which are essential pillars for a harmonious and equitable community life, as pointed out by (Celastino, 2023).

The results obtained also show that education in the field of Law, in nowadays, it plays an essential role in preparing professionals who are ethical and who have a significant social commitment. This responsibility, which is widely recognized, is crucial for the performance of these individuals in the job market and in society as a whole. Higher education institutions, that is, universities, have the responsibility to implement methodologies that incorporate not only the ethical dimension, but also environmental and social concerns, integrating these aspects effectively to the academic curriculum (Almeida; Casaril, 2025).

In this way, they must promote a learning environment that stimulates development of students' critical thinking, in addition to encouraging commitment and adherence to humanist values, fundamental for the formation of conscious citizens and engaged with relevant issues of contemporary society. This training, which encompasses several dimensions enables the emergence of a jurist who is able to understand the complexity of the interactions that exist between human beings, the legal system and the environment around you. This deep understanding strengthens not only the culture of sustainability, but also the relevance of professional ethics in the practice of law and legal functions in general (Almeida; Casaril, 2025).

Finally, it was found that the solidification of ethical and sustainability principles, which are now seen as essential for social responsibility within the legal framework, translates into notable progress in both the theoretical and applied spheres of Law contemporary. This evolution reflects an important transformation that can influence legal practices and approaches more broadly (Sturmer, 2022).

The jurist, by adopting a stance that is ethical and at the same time responsible, performs a fundamental role in the realization of human rights, in addition to acting in favor of preserving the environment and promoting social justice. This attitude not only reflects



your professional seriousness, as well as demonstrating your commitment to the cause that is relevant to society in general. Therefore, their conscious action becomes essential so that values such as respect and dignity are effectively respected and practiced in various spheres of social life. In this way, ethical and sustainable education focused on professional in the field of Law is not just a requirement to be achieved in the academic environment, but rather as a commitment that proves to be absolutely essential for the effective construction of a society that is more just, supportive and that has a sharper environmental awareness (Sturmer, 2022).

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The research showed that contemporary law requires a reformulation of paradigms, in which ethics, sustainability and social responsibility become principles structuring elements of legal practice. The modern jurist must transcend the technical role of enforcer of the standard, assuming a critical, reflective and committed stance towards the good common. This change in perspective reinforces the need for legal training focused not only to the mastery of dogmatic knowledge, but also to the construction of a ethical and sustainable awareness capable of guiding fair and balanced decisions.

It became evident that ethics and social responsibility are inseparable dimensions of legal practice, functioning as foundations for the preservation of human dignity and for the consolidation of social justice. The jurist's actions must be guided by integrity, solidarity and the search for balance between development and environmental protection. Ethics, in this context, it ceases to be an individual virtue and becomes an obligation collective, the observance of which guarantees legitimacy and trust in legal institutions.

Sustainability, in turn, imposes on Law the challenge of responding to new global demands, reconciling economic progress with environmental preservation and equity social. Legal professionals must understand that their decisions have a direct impact in social and ecological dynamics, becoming an active agent in promoting sustainable development. Therefore, ethical and socio-environmental commitment is essential for the effectiveness of justice and for the strengthening of a legal culture based on intergenerational responsibility.

Finally, the research reaffirms that the training of contemporary jurists needs to be based on ethical, critical and humanistic values, capable of preparing professionals for the complex challenges of today's society. Legal education must promote integration between

theory, practice and social values, stimulating reflection on the role of Law in transformation of reality. Strengthening social responsibility and sustainability in legal training represents not only an academic requirement, but a path necessary to build a more just, supportive and balanced future.

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