

CURRICULUM VITAE  
ROGER FIELD



**SUMMARY**

Roger specialises in media law generally and is a known expert in book and magazine publishing, as well as broadcast and film clearance. He advises in particular on pre and post publication/broadcast issues, Intellectual Property, Privacy and Reputation Management.

Before joining New Media Law, Roger was Group Legal Director of The Random House Group (5 years) - where he dealt with everyone from Presidents (Clinton – Roger got him to change his autobiography), via the film trade (Oliver Stone proved remarkably open to suggestions). Along the way he experienced what happens when things go wrong, as they can. He started off the famous – winning! – Dan Brown/Da Vinci Code litigation. Prior to that he was Head of Legal, IPC Magazines and Reed Business Publishing (7 years); broadcast lawyer, TV-am; and publication lawyer, The Daily and Sunday Telegraph.

He offers libel reading services as well as general commercial and legal expertise to clients including Penguin Random House, Macmillan Publishers and John Wiley, as well as authors, agents and TV/film makers.

Roger is a published author and a freelance writer for national newspapers and magazines on a wide variety of topics. He runs his own literary agency. This gives him a breadth of experience of dealing with media problems that must be unique.

Roger now specialises in pre-broadcast/publication clearance. He is also a long- published mainstream author (Hodder) and journalist who is passionate about getting the story 'out there'. But, having also sat in the boardroom, he knows how a story does not get told if it gets sued. It is this near unique USP that he offers his clients. The fact that, before the law, he was a combat soldier also tends to give his advice a certain 'rumbustiousness...'

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## CAREER

1971 Won Army Scholarship

1974 – 1977 Bristol University, BA (Hons) History 2(i)

1974 – 1983 Regular Commission in the Blues and Royals  
Saw active service in Belfast and the Falkland Islands  
Resigned as Captain

1983 – 1985 College of Law, Chancery Lane  
Passed all examinations at first attempt

1985 – 1987 **Farrer & Co – Articles**  
First involvement with media work, mainly libel

1987 – 1989 **Clyde & Co – Solicitor**  
Shipping Litigation Department handling claims and contract disputes for both owner and cargo interests

1989 – 1990 **The Daily Telegraph – Legal Advisor**  
Responsible for clearing written and photographic material before publication. Defending editorial complaints. Advising on copyright, competitions, advertisements and general media law

1990 – 1992 **TV-am – Legal Advisor, Programmes**  
**TV-am (News) – Company Secretary (1991-1992)**  
Responsible for all programme advice, pre and post broadcast. As well as defamation, copyright and contempt this included advising on regulation issues. Handled complaints and litigation. Assisted the Legal Director with general commercial issues, artists' contracts, production and sponsorship deals and, finally, the run down of the company. Stood in as Company Secretary at Main Board meetings.

1992 **Legal Advisor IPC Magazines**  
Ran IPC's legal department with a brief to start providing commercial advice; bring runaway legal costs under control and provide a user-friendly legal service. Responsible for all pre and post publication advice; litigation and asset sales and purchases, including JVs. Responsible for all legal issues with exception of property and employment, although involved in these areas in a strategic role. Heavily involved in evolution and strategy of evolving new media: websites; on-line magazines and regulatory issues.

1993 – 1999 **Promoted Legal Adviser, Reed Publishing Europe**  
IPC Magazines (70 consumer titles including websites); Reed Business Information (80 business titles including on-line services); Reed Regional Newspapers (80+ titles); Reed Telemedia (telephone services) and Marketforce – the distribution arm. Recruited assistant to enable me to develop my commercial role.

1999 – Oct 2004 **Group Legal Director, The Random House Group**  
Headhunted to board level position to set up and run a new legal department across Random House, Transworld and TBS (distribution arm). Responsible for all legal matters whether handled internally or run through outside law firms. Included all pre and post publication work as well as

commercial acquisitions and JVs. Similar role in breadth to RPE except that now in charge of the legal function as against advising what should be done. Responsibilities also involved working directly with high profile authors and their agents as well as dealing with authors/agents and Random's publicity department when certain books caused controversy. Continued to work on strategy to deal with and benefit from the emergence of new technologies, in particular ebooks.

Oct 2004 – current **Consultant (solicitor), New Media Law LLP** (see summary above)

**Other Positions** Chairman, Legal Committee of the Publishers Association  
**Interests & Sports** Writer and photographer for national newspapers and magazines  
Skiing; sailing; fishing