Ethical Theory and Business
Tenth Edition

For forty years, successive editions of Ethical Theory and Business have helped to define the field of business ethics. The tenth edition reflects the current, multidisciplinary nature of the field by explicitly embracing a variety of perspectives on business ethics, including philosophy, management, and legal studies. Chapters integrate theoretical readings, case studies, and summaries of key legal cases to guide students to a rich understanding of business ethics, corporate responsibility, and sustainability. The tenth edition has been entirely updated, ensuring that students are exposed to key ethical questions in the current business environment. New chapters cover the ethics of IT, ethical markets, and ethical management and leadership. Coverage includes climate change, sustainability, international business ethics, sexual harassment, diversity, and LGBTQ discrimination. New case studies draw students directly into recent business ethics controversies, such as sexual harassment at Fox News, consumer fraud at Wells Fargo, and business practices at Uber.

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Tom L. Beauchamp holds graduate degrees from Yale University and Johns Hopkins University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1970. He then joined the faculty of the Philosophy Department at Georgetown University, Washington, DC and a joint appointment at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics as Senior Research Scholar. He is the author of Case Studies in Business, Society, and Ethics (2003) and Philosophical Ethics (2001). He is co-author of The Human Use of Animals (2008), Principles of Biomedical Ethics (2012), and A History and Theory of Informed Consent (1986). Many of his articles were republished under the title Standing on Principles: Collected Works.

Norman E. Bowie is the author or editor of eighteen books in business ethics, ethics, and political philosophy. His Business Ethics: A Kantian Perspective (Cambridge, 2017), which has been translated into Japanese and Chinese, has just appeared in a much revised and expanded second edition. Other books include Business Ethics in the 21st Century (2013) and Business Ethics for Dummies (2011). He is past president of the Society for Business Ethics and former Executive Director of the American Philosophical Association. In 2009, the Society for Business Ethics honored him with an award for scholarly achievement. The festschrift Kantian Business Ethics was devoted to his work.
ETHICAL THEORY
AND BUSINESS

Tenth Edition

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Preface

It has been forty years since the publication of the first edition of *Ethical Theory and Business* by Norm Bowie and Tom Beauchamp. At that point in time, the book helped to originate and define the academic field of business ethics. Ethical issues have become even more complex and firm misconduct has not abated; unfortunately, this tenth edition is just as relevant now as it was forty years ago. Subjects covered in the book should be of considerable interest and assistance in addressing the many challenging ethical issues confronted by contemporary business.

In 1979 business ethics was primarily a philosophical field and philosophers were the primary teachers of business ethics courses in colleges and universities. Today, business ethics is a multidisciplinary field with scholars from the social sciences making some of the most important contributions to the field and in the classroom. Social scientists have made particularly important contributions to our understanding of the causes of firm misconduct and to understanding the features of organizational design that hinder or enhance ethical business practices. The tenth edition reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the field by including social scientific as well as philosophical perspectives. The textbook can be readily used by teachers from any field, and will provide students in all majors with cutting edge, multidisciplinary perspectives on the most important ethical issues confronting contemporary business.

With this edition, Cambridge University Press has taken over the publication of the book. As one of the world’s leading academic presses, Cambridge will allow the book to remain focused on the needs of faculty and students. This edition contains over twenty new case studies on the many ethical issues in business that have made headlines since the ninth edition was published. Legal perspectives, which our former publisher had placed online and charged a fee for students to access, reappear in this edition in the physical textbook. The legal perspectives have been transformed by the editors into summaries (rather than the previous, edited excerpts from court decisions) making them even more user friendly for students. The book has been expanded to include new material, including stand-alone chapters on management, leadership, and governance, and on the ethical limits of markets. The book has more material than is likely to be used in a single course, and this feature allows faculty to tailor the course to their own needs. Most of the case studies can be used with multiple readings, and not merely with the readings in the chapters in which they appear. Faculty may wish to assign all of the opening chapter to students, or only excerpts from that chapter, something that is facilitated by major section breaks. The great variety of topics in the book is a reflection both of the complex environments in which businesses operate and the growth of the literature in the field. It is hoped that you enjoy the range and variety of subjects that are covered in the following pages.

Denis G. Arnold