

Ethics Viewpoint

Balancing Personal & Professional Ethics

IIA Fiji
Guiding the Way

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Ethics

The analysis and application of fundamental values and normative principles to significant problems with a view toward making reasoned, unbiased and fair-minded decisions about what ought to be done.

There's no accounting for people



Ethics Warm-ups

If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who already had 8 children, three who were deaf, two who were blind, one mentally retarded and she had syphilis, would you recommend she have an abortion?

Ethics Warm Ups

If you chose yes, she should have an abortion
there would have been no:



Beethoven

Lord Acton , 1887

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Where did it all begin?

- ▶ The concept of the **public trust and ethics** goes back to the origins of democratic government and the notion that within the public lies the true power and future of a society; therefore, whatever *trust* the public places in its officials must be respected.

Challenges in Ethics today

- ▶ Things are not always what they seem
- ▶ I personally may value certain things differently than someone else based upon my background, morals, beliefs & upbringing.
- ▶ The Code of Ethics in essence should suggest that it will distinguish for us, what the corporate/professional stance will be.

Going Back in Time



New York, March 2, 2004

- ▶ Martha Stewart, World Com's Scott Sullivan, Tyco's Dennis Kozlowski and Mark Swartz and Adelphia's John Rigas were being prosecuted within two blocks of each other.
- ▶ On the same day Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the indictment of Bernard Ebbers, Chief Executive of World Com.

Ethical Accountability

What does it take?

1. Leadership
2. Workplace Conduct
3. Management
4. Teamwork

Ethics Values

Defines core values and beliefs

- ▶ Are everyone's core values and beliefs the same?
- ▶ How do you get everyone on the same page?

Ethical Ground Rules Change

- ▶ What do we do with situations where what was once ethical is now considered unethical?

How do Ethics help?

- ▶ Show us the right thing to do.
- ▶ Allows us undertake those actions
- ▶ Actions justified based on criteria
- ▶ Protection from ethical impropriety

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Ethical Traits in Leadership

- ▶ 1. Leadership: promoting courage, commitment, and moral responsibility
- ▶ 2. Workplace conduct: building an ethical environment on individual behavior
- ▶ 3. Management: leading employees by example in daily situations
- ▶ 4. Teamwork: fostering group behavior that reflects the company's moral outlook

Ethical Corporations

- ▶ Know what the “right thing to do” is.
- ▶ Undertake those actions
- ▶ Justify actions based on professional criteria
- ▶ Protect themselves from ethical impropriety

Post Enron Ethical Breaches

Yahoo

Madoff

Best Buy

Yahoo

- »» Yahoo CEO Scott Thompson lasted just four months before revelations of résumé padding forced him to resign

Bernie Madoff

- »» Ponzi Scheme considered to be the largest financial fraud in U.S. history

Best buy

- »» Best Buy Chairman and founder Richard Schulze exited after directors determined he used poor judgment for failing to disclose CEO Brian Dunn's personal relationship with a young subordinate, a violation of company ethics that led to Dunn's departure .

»» In the post-Enron era of corporate meltdowns, companies are required to disclose more information that's easily dispersed on the Internet.

Emmanuel Kant said:

In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so.

What Are You Willing to Do for \$10 Million?

- ▶ 25% or one in 4 people would abandon their entire family or abandon their church.
- ▶ 23% would turn to prostitution for a week
- ▶ 16% would give up their American citizenship
- ▶ 16% would leave their spouses
- ▶ 10% would withhold testimony and let a murderer go free

What Are You Willing to Do for \$10 Million?

- ▶ 7% would kill a stranger
- ▶ 6% would change their race
- ▶ 4% would change their sex
- ▶ 3% would put their children up for adoption

From The Day America Told the Truth Survey of 2000
Americans across the country/1800 questions
about beliefs

Betrayal – at the crux of it



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