

# Preface

I completed a wonderful 20 years as the Elmer L Andersen Chair of Corporate Responsibility at the University of Minnesota in 2009. As I retired from a permanent appointment, I completed 41 years of teaching in higher education. Some part-time teaching through 2012 has added another 3 years. It is now time to move on.

When I left the University of Delaware to join the faculty of a PhD granting institution in philosophy and in management, I finally had the opportunity to mentor doctoral students, one of the real joys of my life. My own research in this field has benefited greatly from my work with them. Denis Arnold has gone on to be President of the Society for Business Ethics and Editor-in-Chief of *Business Ethics Quarterly*. Jared Harris, University of Virginia; Scott Reynolds, University of Washington; and Jeffrey Smith, University of Redlands are supporting Denis as members of the BEQ editorial board.

I am proud to be one of the founders of the Society for Business Ethics (SBE). SBE is everything a scholarly organization should be and more. The organization is small enough for the annual meetings to be intellectually stimulating and yet enjoyable. The members of SBE cooperate with one another to advance research in business ethics. It is what John Rawls would call a social union. I have many close personal friends in this organization and I have benefited from my conversations with them over the years and have enjoyed their company. Fear of leaving someone out prevents me from naming them all, but you know who you are.

I want to give readers of this book some idea of what to expect. Many readers will associate me with the application of Kant's ethical theory to business ethics. They may be familiar with *Business Ethics: A Kantian Perspective* and with several articles (some co-authored with former students) that apply Kantian ethics to a particular business ethics issue. However, this is **not** a book on Kantian business ethics. Only one of the 12 chapters is devoted to that theme. Chapter 4 in this volume reflects my latest thinking on the application of Kant's ethical theory to business ethics. Business ethics is a rich field with many important issues to be discussed. As I have watched the issues in business ethics that get attention change over the years, I wanted to write about some things that now seem to be getting attention in the first quarter of the twenty-first century and that I have not written much about in

the past. These include ethical issues at the macro-level of the economy and more discussion of international issues. The chapters on these topics are being published for the first time. In some cases, I am revising earlier articles that remain relevant in the early twenty-first century but where my opinions have changed—often in response to the criticism of colleagues. What I am attempting to do is to give the reader a snapshot of what I believe the driving issues in business ethics are in the early part of this century.

I also want to say something about the style in which some chapters are written. It is much more informal than found in standard scholarly works. In several chapters, I try to provide some historical context to the chapters and explain why my thinking has evolved as it has. In some cases, my thinking has been strongly influenced by experience in research and in the classroom. This is particularly true of the chapter on teaching. I hope readers will not be put off by these instances of informality but will see them as providing some personal reflections on the part of one of the founders of SBE on the evolution of research and teaching in business ethics.

Two chapters are reprinted in their entirety. I wish to thank Emilio D’Orazio and *Politeia* for permission to reprint “Economics: Friend or Foe of Ethics” that was published in *Politeia* (2008) 89 13–26. I also wish to thank George Brenkert, Tom L Beauchamp and Oxford University Press for permission to reprint “Organizational Integrity and Moral Climates” that appeared in *Oxford Handbook of Business Ethics* (2009) 701–724. Two chapters are greatly revised versions of earlier published articles. The early version of “Fair Markets” appeared in *Journal of Business Ethics* (1988) 7 89–98. The early version of “Money Morality and Motor Cars Revisited” appeared in *Business Ethics and the Environment*, edited by W Michael Hoffman, Robert Frederick and Edward S Petry Jr (1990) Quorum Books, 89–97. I wish to thank W. Michael Hoffman and the Center for Business Ethics at Bentley College for permission to reprint those portions of “Money, Morality and Motor Cars” that I retained in “Money, Morality and Motor Cars Revisited.” I am also grateful to Springer publishers for their policy of allowing their authors to reprint articles or portions of articles that they have published in Springer publications. This policy applied to “Fair Markets” and to some material in “The Limitations of Pragmatism as a Theory of Business” which originally appeared in a paper entitled “Business Ethics, Postmodernism, and Solidarity” in *Applied Ethics in a Troubled World*, Eds. Edgar Marscher and Otto Neumaier, Kluwer Academic Publishers. pp. 179–193 Chap. 9 is a joint collaboration with my long-time friend and colleague Ronald Duska. That chapter and all the remaining chapters have not been published elsewhere, although some paragraphs from “A Reply to My Critics” were published in *Kantian Business Ethics: Critical Perspectives* edited by Denis and Jared Harris Edward Elgar Publishing (2012). This material will be found in Chap. 4. Again I wish to thank Denis Arnold, Jared Harris and Edward Elgar Publishing for permission to reprint those paragraphs. A few paragraphs from my review of *Stakeholder Theory: The State of the Art* from the January 2012 issue of *Business Ethics Quarterly* are incorporated into Chap. 5. I wish to thank *Business Ethics Quarterly* for permission to use that material. A version of Chap. 7 was presented at a 2001 meeting of Social Issues in Management at The Academy of Management and still later at the

University of California-Riverside. An early version of Chap. 10 was read at the 2006 Transatlantic Business Ethics Conference at the Wharton School. I am indebted for the many helpful comments I received on those occasions.

Finally I want to thank the two anonymous reviewers who provided helpful comments and made this a better book. I want to thank Neil Olivier, Senior Editor, Philosophy of Law and Ethics, Springer Science and Business Media B.V. and Professors Wim Dubbink and Mollie Painter-Moreland, general editors of the Business in Ethics Series of which this book is a part, for their guidance and their support. Special thanks go to Diana Nijenhuijzen and Sunil Padman from Springer who helped me get this manuscript into the right format for publication. Also I wish to thank my wife Maureen for her support and encouragement during this long process.

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