



The Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.
Center for Leadership and Ethics

“ The thinking on ethics in business schools has evolved rapidly in the past decade. [No longer just focusing on the lessons of ‘not to do bad,’](#) ethics has migrated to the role of leadership and governance for the [promotion of ‘doing good,’](#) be it environmentalism, fairness in governance, or social responsibility. Rapid advances in research show that people are not isolated but are hardwired to be engaged, and that shared social values create economic value. In a time of challenges to the viability of the public firm, competitive sustainability is renewed through a modern and ethical conception of corporate behavior.”

— Bruce Kogut
Center Director;
Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. Professor of
Leadership and Ethics

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The Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. Center for Leadership and Ethics is a globally recognized vanguard in the promotion of ethics in business school curricula and the development of innovative research and programming on business ethics, leadership, and governance.

Engaging students, faculty members, alumni, and the greater Columbia community, the Bernstein Center aims to equip current and next-generation leaders with the tools and frameworks necessary to think critically about conflicts in order to develop ethical business practices.

The Bernstein Center engages in collaborative efforts to integrate ethics into the curriculum via the Individual, Business, and Society Curriculum; provides research opportunities and funding for case studies; and coordinates premier speaker series, which focus on real-life ethical issues surrounding the topics of leadership and governance in business.

In the Classroom

The Bernstein Center oversees the Individual, Business, and Society (IBS) Curriculum, which emphasizes the dilemmas of choice and explores the connection between decision makers and the consequences of their choices. The IBS Curriculum is introduced to students during orientation and follows them throughout the duration of their education at Columbia Business School. The curriculum has a strong emphasis on three broad themes: corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, and values-based leadership.

Premier Speaker Series

The Botwinick Prizes in Business Ethics and Ethical Practice in the Professions recognize outstanding leaders and companies that exhibit the highest standard of ethical conduct in business. The recipient inaugurates each academic year with a keynote address to the Columbia community.

The Paul M. Montrone Seminar Series on Ethics is a series of intimate roundtable discussions among students and business leaders about real-life ethical issues and the consequences of decisions. The private setting encourages inclusive dialogue and provides a forum for bringing assumed values into the open, where they can be challenged and honed.

The Student Experience

MBA and Executive MBA students are selected to the Student Leadership and Ethics Board, which works closely with the Bernstein Center to foster a culture and safeguard a tradition of principled leadership at Columbia Business School. The Student Leadership and Ethics Board coordinates programming, speaker series, and interactive workshops that cultivate leadership, build character, and promote ethical executive decision making, including the annual Leadership and Ethics Week.

The KPMG Peat Marwick / Stanley R. Klion Forum invites business and policy leaders to share their experiences resolving the major ethical, social, and economic challenges of our time. The forum allows the Columbia Business School community to enter into vibrant public discussion about ethical business solutions to national and global issues.

The Bernstein Debates invite faculty and staff members and PhD students to a salon-style event in which distinguished speakers discuss a timely and relevant issue, to elicit participation and increase dialogue in an engaging business ethics debate.