



Engineering Ethics: An Industrial Perspective

By Gail Baura

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Engineering Ethics is the application of philosophical and moral systems to the proper judgment and behavior by engineers in conducting their work, including the products and systems they design and the consulting services they provide. In light of the work environment that inspired the new Sarbanes/Oxley federal legislation on “whistle-blowing” protections, a clear understanding of Engineering Ethics is needed like never before.

Beginning with a concise overview of various approaches to engineering ethics, the real heart of the book will be some 13 detailed case studies, delving into the history behind each one, the official outcome and the “real story” behind what happened. Using a consistent format and organization for each one--giving background, historical summary, news media effects, outcome and interpretation--these case histories will be used to clearly illustrate the ethics issues at play and what should or should not have been done by the engineers, scientists and managers involved in each instance.

- Covers importance and practical benefits of systematic ethical behavior in any engineering work environment
- Only book to explain implications of the Sarbanes/Oxley "Whistle-Blowing" federal legislation
- 13 actual case histories, plus 10 additional "anonymous" case histories--in consistent format--will clearly demonstrate the relevance of ethics in the outcomes of each one
- Offers actual investigative reports, with evidentiary material, legal proceedings, outcome and follow-up analysis
- Appendix offers copies of the National Society of Professional Engineers Code of Ethics for Engineers and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Code of Ethics

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is a most extraordinary book. Its contents range from valuable reference material on Sarbanes-Oxley and US engineering codes of conduct to some folksy, almost sentimental, personal case histories. But, remarkably, the author's own personal commitment and integrity shine through on every page." **--John Turnbull, The Chemical Engineer, August 2006**

"At first glance, this book looks like most other recent volumes on this topic. But where other books often written in whole or part by philosophers and academics - can be tedious for engineers who are not conversant with ethical theory, Baura definitely approaches from an industrial perspective. She also addresses the subject with a concrete problem-solving approach and with more elegant prose and a better organization than I find in other treatments." **--Gael Ulrich, Chemical Engineering 2006**

"Despite the US focus, the examples are presented with a level of detail that will enable engineers anywhere to understand the underlying technical and behavioral issues. It will be welcomed by those teaching engineering ethics modules, especially with the up-to-date examples we all remember from the news." **--Julia King, Materials Today, March 2007**

From the Back Cover

Technology: Engineering. General

Engineering Ethics, An Industrial Perspective

Gail Baura

Vice President, Research Cardio Dynamics Corporation, San Diego, CA, USA

KEY FEATURES

Only book to explain implications of the Sarbanes/Oxley Whistle-Blowing federal legislation

13 actual case histories, plus 10 additional anonymous case histories-in consistent format- with evidentiary material, legal proceedings, outcome, and follow-up analysis

Will help to satisfy ABET EC2000 outcome requirements with regard to the "understanding of professional and ethical responsibility" as well as "knowledge of contemporary issues."

Arising out of a perceived need to address the growing number of highly publicized breaches in engineering conduct in recent years, this text was designed to offer students and professionals alike a clear, pragmatic introduction to Engineering Ethics. The text offers a decidedly practical, industry-based perspective on how ethics actually work in the real world, and shows how ethical problems and decisions can affect the entire professional careers of engineers, scientists and others involved with technology and industry. With the authors precept that an engineer must understand the importance of integrating your professional life with personal convictions, in order to maintain your moral integrity, the book presents actual case studies to help the reader better prepare for entry into the real-world industrial environment.

The book begins with a concise overview of various approaches to engineering ethics, and the philosophical/moral basis for each one. Detailed case studies illustrate those abstract concepts, with in-depth

background, historical summary, news media effects, outcome and interpretation. The book then discusses the particular ethics issues at play and what should or should not have been done by the engineers, scientists and managers involved in each instance.

Contents: A Personal Engineering Ethics Threshold; Options for Action When an Engineering Ethics Threshold is Reached; National Case Studies; Individual Case Studies; 16 Anonymous Industrial Engineering Ethics Cases

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About the Author

Dr. Baura received her BS Electrical Engineering degree from Loyola Marymount University, her MS Electrical Engineering and MS Biomedical Engineering degrees from Drexel University, and her PhD Bioengineering degree from the University of Washington. Between her graduate degrees, she worked as a loop transmission systems engineer at AT&T Bell Laboratories. She then spent 13 years in the medical device industry conducting medical device research and managing research and product development at several companies. She holds 20 U.S. patents. In her last industry position, Dr. Baura was Vice President, Research and Chief Scientist at CardioDynamics. In 2006, she returned to academia as a Professor of Medical Devices at Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences, which is one of the Claremont Colleges.

Throughout her career, Dr. Baura has championed engineering curriculum excellence. She has written four engineering textbooks, three of which are medical device textbooks. She is an ABET Engineering Accreditation Commissioner. In her new position as Director of Engineering Science at Loyola, she is constructing a general engineering curriculum that incorporates substantial industry input and prepares new engineering graduates for positions in the medical device, semiconductor, and wastewater treatment industries.

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