

# Ethics Central

News from The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University

SUMMER/FALL 2023

Final Issue – Vol. 26, No. 1

FROM THE DIRECTOR  
MELISSA STIMELL

## *Thank you for Supporting the Ethics Center*

After many years of groundbreaking work, the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life closed its doors on June 30, 2023. Many of its programs moved to a new center at Brandeis University: the Samuels Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation (COMPACT).

There are so many wonderful people, programs, and events connected to the Ethics Center. In our final edition of the *Ethics Central* newsletter, we take this opportunity to recognize a few of the founding members, members of the International Advisory Board, and our retiring staff.

Established 25 years ago through a generous gift from the late Abraham Feinberg, the Ethics Center promoted ethical and innovative ways of understanding and responding to challenges around justice, democracy and peace.

The distinguished leaders and activists who comprised the Ethics Center are many. Director Emeritus Daniel Terris molded the Ethics Center, creating a variety of programs with staff member Cynthia Cohen including the Master's Program in Coexistence, the liberal arts minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation (CAST), and the

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## *A Timeline of Ideals, Interdependence, and Impact* 25 Years of The International Center of Ethics, Justice and Public Life

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University began as an idea and a gift from Abraham Feinberg, an early chair of the Brandeis Board of Trustees. The Center's establishment followed a yearlong planning process funded by Mr. Feinberg and led by Daniel Terris at the request of University President Jehuda Reinharz. A set of dialogues with 27 invited practitioners from diverse fields representing viewpoints from around the globe informed the development of the Center's mission and guiding principles.

The Center was designed from the beginning to be a bridge between scholarship and professional life outside of the academy in a global context. It was also intended, through its focus on issues of ethics and justice, to be a leading element of the University's commitment to contributing to meaningful social change.

In 1998, what came to be known as "The Ethics Center" opened in offices in Ford Hall. When that building was slated for demolition to make space for a new student center, the Ethics Center moved into its own space in the Ridgewood Cottages. When those were scheduled for demolition in 2002, the Ethics Center



*Singing with Jane Wilburn Sapp. From "Seeking Lives of Purpose – Images, Songs and Stories that Challenge and Inspire" – part of 'DEIS Impact 2014*

moved to the Usdan Student Center.

Finally, in 2004, the Ethics Center moved to its true home in the Abraham Shapiro Academic Complex ("ASAC"), a building that had formerly housed the American Jewish Historical Society.

Windows were cut from the concrete walls, entrances and light-filled meeting spaces were added, and the Ethics Center joined an eclectic mix of centers, departments and institutes in this old building made new – a location that was more a nucleus than a workplace – truly a "center" around which global networks and connections revolved and intersected.

By 2023 the Ethics Center's work was organized around four core areas: Campus Programs, ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation,

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## ■ 25 Years of “The Center”

— *continued from page 1*

International Justice and Society, and Peacebuilding and the Arts.

Yet those four categories are not the full picture. Over 25 years the Ethics Center’s work encompassed many programs, initiatives and events of various scale and duration, which evolved, concluded, migrated, and expanded:

Acting Together on the World Stage... The Ad Hoc Tribunals Oral History Project... Arab/Jewish Student Dialogue... The A Way Out of No Way Project... Beyond Nuremberg: The Future of International Criminal Justice... The Brandeis Institute for International Judges... The Brandeis International Fellowship Program... The Brandeis Judicial Colloquia Series...

Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions... CHYME: Community Histories by Youth in the Middle East... The Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation Program... The ‘DEIS Impact “festival of social justice”... The Distinguished Visiting Practitioner Program... Ethical Inquiry... The Ethics Center Leadership Council... Gideon at 50... Global Partnerships for Education... Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence ... Local Action/Global Impact... Louis D. Brandeis 100: Then and Now... The Master’s Program in Coexistence and Conflict... The Newcomers Among Us... A New Public Education... The Responsibility to Protect at 10: the Challenge of Protecting the World’s Most Vulnerable Populations... The Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence, and Coexistence International... The Sorensen Fellowship... The VoteDeis Campus Coalition...

...While each of the Ethics Center’s programs and initiatives had a distinct focus, they regularly collaborated with and informed each other, and all were held together by the vision and promise of the Ethics Center’s mission and guiding principles.

In these pages a photo timeline features some highlights from those years and those programs, and the people of the Ethics Center share their reflections on the major areas of the Center’s work.

In June of 2023 the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University was closed. Some of the Center’s current programs have transitioned to the new Samuels Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation (COMPACT), others have concluded.

Much of the Center’s history, as well as a substantial trove of Ethics Center-generated resources of ongoing value, are archived at Brandeis. Search ScholarWorks for the Ethics Center. Visit the websites of ongoing programs including ENACT and Peacebuilding and the Arts. Explore physical materials held by the Brandeis University Archives.

And reach out to the people of the Ethics Center, whose commitment to and passion for this work continues. (*See page 21 for how to connect.*)

### Mission

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life promotes ethical and innovative ways of understanding and responding to challenges around justice, democracy and peace. The Center generates and disseminates knowledge; brings people together across institutional, disciplinary, and societal boundaries; and builds capacity for community engagement among students, professionals, scholars, and members of diverse and disparate communities.

### Guiding Principles

**Community Engagement at Local, National and Global Levels:** The Center brings people together from communities around the corner and across the world. The Center honors the diversity of these communities and their interdependence.

**The Public Square:** The Center focuses on the significant and emerging challenges of our time and fosters ethical discourse on contested questions.

**A Bridge Between Scholarship and Practice:** The Center operates under the conviction that the current global challenges require the combined expertise of scholars and practitioners working together.

**Across Disciplines:** The Center is committed to involving experts from across the spectrum of the liberal arts. Consideration of our complex challenges belongs not only to the world’s philosophers and scientists, but also to our artists.

## ■ From the Director —

*continued from page 1*

Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts. I was honored to follow in Dan’s footsteps.

Theodore (Ted) Sorensen, policy advisor and speechwriter for President John F. Kennedy, took up the helm as the Founding Chair of the Ethics Center’s International Advisory Board (see page 19). The Sorensen Fellowship was named in his honor. Richard Goldstone followed and was instrumental, along with staff member Leigh Swigart, in creating the Brandeis Institute for International Judges. He

was succeeded by our most recent chair, John Shattuck.

Although the Ethics Center will no longer exist as an entity, you can find Professor Toni Shapiro-Phim as the Assistant Director of Global Community Engagement in COMPACT. I will continue to direct ENACT: the Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation, along with David Weinstein, Assistant Director of ENACT. We look forward to connecting with you in our new roles.

Please join me in acknowledging the tremendous work of our founders, board and staff.

# Letter from the Founding Director – Daniel Terris

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life began with a series of inspired letters from former Brandeis trustee Abraham Feinberg to President Jehuda Reinharz in 1994. Abe Feinberg spoke with urgency about the need to bring biblical values of truth, justice, and moral reflection to the modern world, in a truly global context.

At President Reinharz's request, I initiated a planning process to bring Abe Feinberg's vision to life, eventually working with an advisory board chaired for many years by the distinguished public servant Theodore C. (Ted) Sorensen.

Members of the Ethics Center's International Advisory Board included Congressman Stephen J. Solarz '62, H'92, Senator Paul Simon, actor Liv Ullmann, Justice Richard Goldstone H'04, philosopher and university president Sari Nusseibeh, human rights activist Kerry Kennedy, Ambassador John Shattuck, and many others, including such steadfast alumni supporters of Brandeis University as Jules Bernstein '57, Elaine Reuben '63, and Jay Kaufman '68, MA'73. We were fortunate that Abe Feinberg's daughter Dr. Judith Schneider and her husband, Mr. Norbert Weissberg, rotated turns on the Center's board since its inception.

Over 25 years, the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life made significant and globally recognized contributions in four vital areas:

## International Justice, especially the work of international courts and tribunals

It was an extraordinary achievement for a university without a law school (though with of course a great law name!) to host the world's only regular gathering of judges who serve on international courts and tribunals, with the guidance of Justice Richard Goldstone and the leadership of Leigh Swigart. Publications spun off from these gatherings, including a Brandeis University Press book co-authored by myself, Leigh Swigart, and Cesare Romano on the work of these judges, remain valuable contributions to the discourse around the work of these important and contested institutions.

## Peacebuilding and the Arts

Under the leadership of Cynthia Cohen, the Ethics Center created an extraordinary global network of peacebuilders, artists, community organizers, and academics devoted to understanding and supporting the role of the arts in issues of peace and justice. Along the way, the Center gave birth to the Master's Program in Coexistence and Conflict (transferred with our encouragement to the Heller School many years ago), and also to the undergraduate interdisciplinary minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST), now led by Toni Shapiro-Phim. As with the international justice field, these programs created many valuable publications, including a two-volume series on performance and peacebuilding called *Acting Together*, edited by Cynthia Cohen.

## ENACT

Building on its commitment to the engagement of young people in community and political life, the Ethics Center developed ENACT to involve undergraduate students in every state of the U.S. to become involved in the process of legislation at the state level. Under the leadership of Melissa Stimell and David Weinstein and with the guidance of board member Jay Kaufman, ENACT has built a strong domestic component to the Center's overall emphasis on peace and justice in the global context.

## Contributions to the civic life of Brandeis University

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life was the first unit on campus to develop a robust, fully-funded summer internship in a social justice organization, tied strongly to a follow-up course in which students wrote at length about their work in the context of their academic inquiry. (This fellowship was eventually named to honor Ted Sorensen's leadership of the board and his commitment to public service.) Also notable was the Center's establishment of the annual campus-wide 'DEIS Impact festival of social justice, now organized by the Office of Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion. These exceptional programs, led by staff member Marci McPhee, were only the tip of the iceberg of the Center's campus programming, which also drew on the international justice and peacebuilding and the arts programs. It is notable that the Ethics Center nurtured hundreds of well-wrought student publications, many of which remain vitally relevant to the next generation of campus "doers."

Over a quarter-century, the Ethics Center developed a distinctive global vision and presence for Brandeis University. Our work covered many disciplines and geographies, but it was bound together by a series of rock-solid principles.

- We believed strongly in the intimate and unbreakable connections between individual and organizational actions at the local and community level, on the one and global developments and institutions on the other.
- Ideas about peace and justice, we believed, should not be divorced from practical actions to focused on change at every level.
- Our work built on faith in networks of individuals and organizations, sometimes formal, sometimes loose, strands of connection carefully cultivated and curated to honor both collective purpose and diversity of approach.
- We respected expertise and experience in disciplines and practice, but we also believed in the power and effectiveness of fresh eyes and unconventional perspectives.
- Above all, we sought to build and preserve communities of thought and practice – within Brandeis, in global circles devoted to peace and justice, and even within our own tight-knit organization.

Institutionally, the Ethics Center will now make its influence and legacy felt (as, in a way, it always has) throughout Brandeis University and the world beyond.

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## Honoring Two Ethics Center Colleagues on Their Retirement

**A**t the close of the 2022-23 academic year two people retired who shaped the work of the Ethics Center and made immensely impactful contributions to Brandeis and to communities across the globe: Cynthia Cohen and Leigh Swigart.

*“The groundbreaking programs on peacebuilding and the arts and international justice pioneered by Cynthia Cohen and Leigh Swigart demonstrate the Ethics Center’s quarter century of leadership on global engagement by Brandeis students and faculty,” said John Shattuck, Chair of the Center’s International Advisory Board. “Cindy and Leigh have each made an enormous contribution to the Brandeis community.”*

**Cynthia Cohen** joined the Ethics Center in 1997. As Co-Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, she led action/reflection research projects and wrote and taught about work at the nexus of the arts, culture, justice and peace. She directed the Brandeis University/Theatre Without Borders collaboration *Acting Together*, co-edited the *“Acting Together on the World Stage”* anthology and co-created the related documentary and toolkit.

“In so many places I visit, Cindy is mentioned with reverence: artists, policy makers, community organizers, students and scholars admire Cindy and seek to work with and learn from her,” said Toni Shapiro-Phim, Co-Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts. “What a gift Cindy has been to me, Brandeis and all those who are creatively, brilliantly, paving ways to counter injustice and violence of all sorts.”

**Leigh Swigart** joined the Ethics Center in 2002. As Director of Programs in International Justice and Society, she launched and managed the Language, Culture and Justice Hub and wrote and edited the monthly e-newsletter *International Justice in the News*. Leigh is the coauthor, with Ethics Center Director Emeritus Daniel Terris and Cesare Romano, of *“The International Judge: An Introduction to the Men and Women Who Decide the World’s Cases”* (2007, Brandeis University Press and Oxford University Press).

Leigh’s academic work and publications have focused on the challenges of language diversity in international criminal courts and tribunals, language use in postcolonial Africa, and African immigration and refugee resettlement in the United States. Her recent research focuses on how the International Criminal Court is managing the challenges associated with



*Cynthia Cohen and Leigh Swigart facilitating the “Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence” symposium they co-directed in 2011.*

accommodating African-language speakers, and on the experience of multilingual students on monolingual campuses.

“Leigh was instrumental in ensuring that the Brandeis Institutes for International Judges were conducted with honesty, tolerance, and diplomacy” said Linda Carter, Professor of Law Emerita at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. “The Institutes and the published reports are a lasting legacy to Leigh’s extraordinary efforts and work in international justice.”

*Read more about Cynthia Cohen’s and Leigh Swigart’s work and more tributes from Ethics Center colleagues and affiliates: [go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral](https://go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral).*

*To share your own tributes: email [ethics@brandeis.edu](mailto:ethics@brandeis.edu).*

### ■ From Daniel Terris — *continued from page 3*

The CAST program will continue its pathbreaking offerings on peacebuilding and the arts to new generations of Brandeis students. The Master’s Program in Coexistence and Conflict continues to serve practitioners from around the globe at the Heller School. Hundreds of undergraduate students each year follow in the footsteps of the Sorensen Fellowship as they integrate their studies with meaningful work towards social justice in communities near and far. ENACT is engaging faculty and students from every state in the union in understanding and influencing the process of legislation. Alumni of our

international judges programs continue to implement ideas honed in our sessions in their courts. The IMPACT non-governmental organization is sustaining our vital global network of peacebuilders and artists.

Most importantly, our work lives on in the novel ideas, experiences, and practices of the thousands of people who have been engaged with the Ethics Center’s programs and publications, and who are extending our principles every day in communities devoted to justice and peace.

I have found myself, in recent years, continuing some of the strands of the Center’s work in Palestine, where my students, facing the harshness of military occupation, nevertheless seek

change and hope in resistance fueled by a commitment to principles of justice and peace. I like to think that my thoughts and ideas, in partnership with theirs, are bringing new dimensions to the Center’s work and legacy.

On a personal note, I will always feel sustained by the people most deeply engaged in the Ethics Center’s work who have shaped my life so profoundly. Some were judges and artists and activists in far-flung corners of the world. Others were faculty, students, and staff members across the Brandeis University campus. At the core of my experience remains the small band of Center colleagues whose care and friendship sustain and follow me wherever I go.

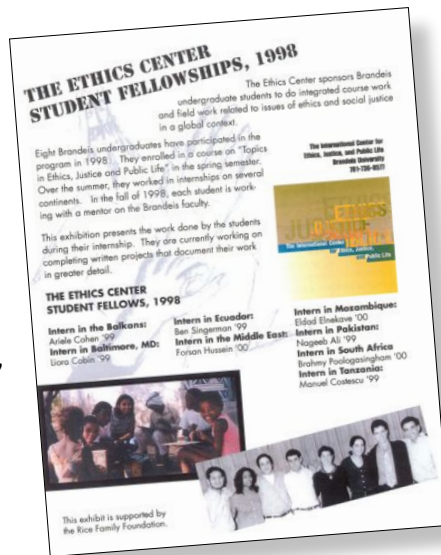
I close this chapter in gratitude and love.

# A History of the Ethics Center in Pictures

This timeline features some highlights and key moments from the 25-year history of the Ethics Center, from its formal dedication March 26th, 1998 to the closing of the Ethics Center on June 30th, 2023.

**November 1996:** Abraham Feinberg pledges a \$13 million gift to launch the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life to be based at Brandeis University. Daniel Terris becomes founding director. Arthur Green is named academic director. [A journey begins:](#)

**1998:** The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life is formally dedicated. The event features remarks by Brandeis International Fellow Naomi Tutu and Michael Sandel '75 in a panel discussion entitled "The Ethics of Building Peace." The undergraduate Ethics Center Student Fellowship, later renamed the Sorensen Fellowship, is launched as one of the new Center's first programs. (Pictured: the cover of the first ECSF anthology.)



1999

**1999:** The Alan B. Slifka Foundation commits a gift to Brandeis over three years to launch a new initiative in intercommunal coexistence, which focuses on undergraduate courses, undergraduate co-curricular activities, and publications.

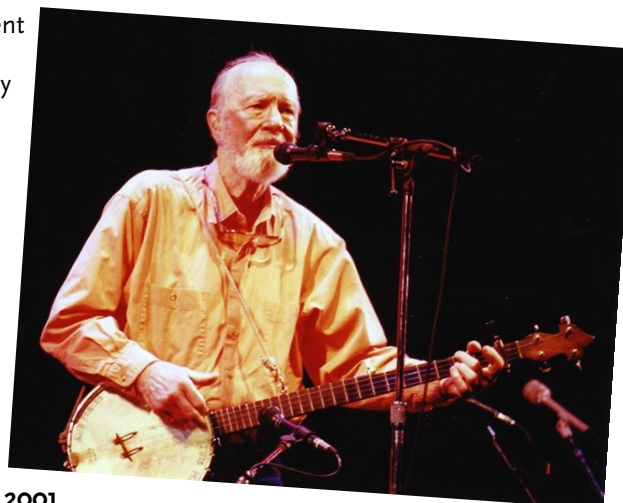
1998



2000

**2000:** The Ethics Center's International Advisory Board meets for the first time in New York City, with Theodore C. Sorensen, former special assistant to President John F. Kennedy, as chair.

**2001:** Pete Seeger and Jane Sapp present "Building Community through Songs of Social Justice" as part of Seeger's two-day residency with the Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence.



2001

**2001:** The year-long CHYME (Community Histories by Youth in the Middle East) program begins, designed to create region-wide research projects that will enable Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian teenagers to share digital documentaries of their stories.



2001

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2002

**2002:** A \$5 million gift establishes the Alan B. Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence. The Slifka Program's components (a master's program, increased undergraduate course offerings, and outreach) will emphasize the ethical dimension of coexistence work and highlight the particular contributions of the arts and humanities to peacebuilding. Pictured: Alan Slifka with students at the launch of the Master of Arts in Coexistence and Conflict program.



2003



2004

**2003:** The Center holds its second annual Brandeis Institute for International Judges in Salzburg, Austria, entitled "Authority and Autonomy: Defining the Role of International and Regional Courts."

**2004:** The first cohort of students in the Master's Program in Coexistence and Conflict arrives in September.

**2005:** "Local Action, Global Impact: An Interactive Forum" includes talks, workshops, a concert, and an art-making session to explore the interplay of local action and global change.

**2005:** Brandeis University and Al-Quds University, an Arab institution in Jerusalem, launch a partnership designed to foster cultural understanding through higher education. Pictured: Brandeis faculty, staff and students in conversation with Al-Quds President and Ethics Center Board Member Sari Nusseibeh, during a 2009 visit to Al-Quds.



2005

**2006:** Immediately following the fourth Brandeis Institute for International Judges, the West African Judicial Colloquium takes place in Dakar, Senegal. International judges join with high-court judges from 12 West African nations to discuss interconnections between national and international judiciaries.



2005



2006

**2007:** “Acting Together on the World Stage: Setting the Scene for Peace” explores the contributions of theatre and ritual to coexistence. Acting Together goes on to publish a two-part anthology (pictured) a documentary, and many other resources for this field.

**2008:** Addressing the emergence of coexistence work as a profession, the Master’s Program in Coexistence and Conflict examines the challenges and future of the field. The conference features current and former master’s students and representatives from the UN, NGOs, and government.

**2009:** “TMI: Social Justice in the Age of Facebook” addresses overarching questions such as whether new means of communication and technology such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and texting allow greater access to or further divide individuals and groups.

**2009:** Ethics Center Board Member Justice Richard Goldstone and former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations Dore Gold engage in a pointed, searching discussion of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in Gaza before an audience of Brandeis University students, faculty, members of the general public, and international media, including *The Boston Globe*, *The Jerusalem Post*, Al Jazeera, Israel National News, New England Cable News, YNet, Public Radio International’s “The World,” and Reuters.

**2010:** A new course, “Advocacy for Policy Change” (LGLS 161b), is launched to encourage citizens to bring moral and ethical insights to the process of making and revising laws. It becomes the basis for ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.

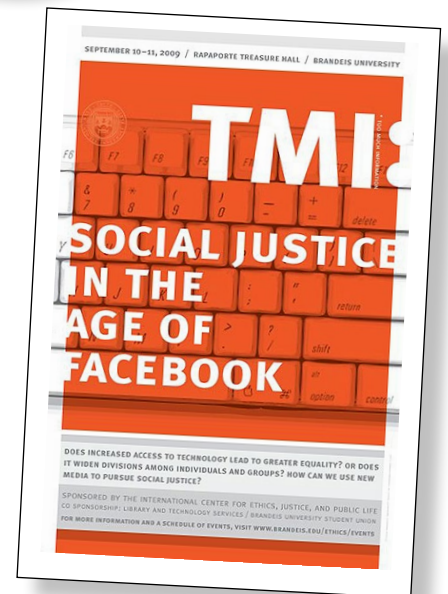
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2007



2008



2009



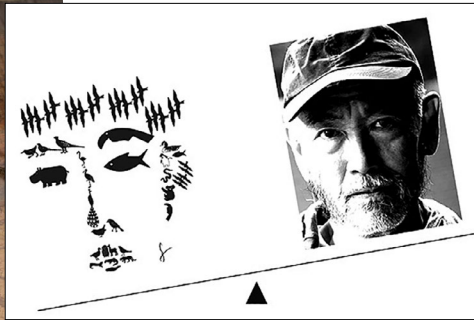
2009



2010



2010



**2010:** Hoseob Yoon, a South Korean graphic artist and professor of visual communication design at Kookmin University in Seoul is the Center's fourth Distinguished Visiting Practitioner. His residency features a gallery talk about artwork, activism, and teaching, and how they interact; a keynote address, "The Green Canvas: The Artist as Environmental Activist; and public artmaking. The Ethics Center follows his visit by hosting "Changing People in a Changing Climate? The Ethical Implications of Climate Disruption."



2011



**2011:** "Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence" explores the performative dimensions of justice-seeking in the aftermath of violence, with a focus on Cambodia, Peru and the United States. Pictured: Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres, President of Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2001-2003).



2012



**2012:** The first weeklong festival of social justice, "DEIS Impact! Exploring Social Justice on Campus and Around the World," includes 27 events planned by 28 different clubs and academic departments, featuring talks, performances, exhibits, discussions, and a keynote by Ruth Messinger, President of American Jewish World Service.

2013



**2013:** Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, Permanent Representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United Nations and an Ethics Center Board Member, delivers the Distinguished Lecture in International Justice and Human Rights: "Beyond Nuremberg: The Future of International Criminal Justice."

**2013:** "Gideon at 50: The Future of the Right to Counsel" marks the 50th anniversary of the historic *Gideon v. Wainwright* decision and features Anthony Lewis, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author of *Gideon's Trumpet*, in his last public appearance, pictured here with fellow panelist William Leahy, Director, New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services.



2013

**2014:** Professor of International Law and Former Nuremberg Prosecutor Benjamin B. Ferencz shares some of what he has come to believe the world now needs, and speaks extensively with Brandeis students.

2014



**2015:** “The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at 10: The Challenge of Protecting the World’s Most Vulnerable Populations” brings together leading scholars and global actors to share ideas and experiences about both philosophical and practical aspects of R2P.

**2015:** A gift from Ethics Center Board Member Norbert Weissberg and his wife, former Board Member Judith Schneider, (pictured with Brandeis Provost Lisa Lynch) enables national expansion of the Advocacy for Policy Change Initiative. The new program is called ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation.

**2016:** Supported by the Center, a new minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation is launched to engage students in interdisciplinary exploration of stories, people, actions and artworks.

**2016:** One hundred years to the day that Brandeis University’s namesake Louis D. Brandeis was nominated to the nation’s highest court, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg speaks about his legacy and continued influence on public discourse and American jurisprudence. Her address kicks off a semester-long centennial celebration of Louis D. Brandeis’ appointment to the Supreme Court.

**2016:** Ethics Center Board Member Germaine Ingram, a civil rights lawyer and jazz tap dancer, illuminates her lives in the law, arts and culture, and the broad civic arena as avenues for advancing fairness, respect, and inclusion in the keynote address of ‘DEIS Impact 2017, “The Law and the Stage: Platforms for Pursuing Social Justice.” Photo: Germaine Ingram with bassist Jacqueline Pickett and violinist Diane Monroe.

**2017:** Kimberlé Crenshaw is recognized as the 2017 Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize Award winner. She delivers a lecture, “Race, Reform, Retrenchment Redux: Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality Beyond Post-Racialism,” participates in a community discussion with MLK Fellows and contributors to student-produced zine “Ebony Axis,” a faculty lunch seminar, a class visit, and the dedication of the Richman/Gittler Goldfarb Library Corner.

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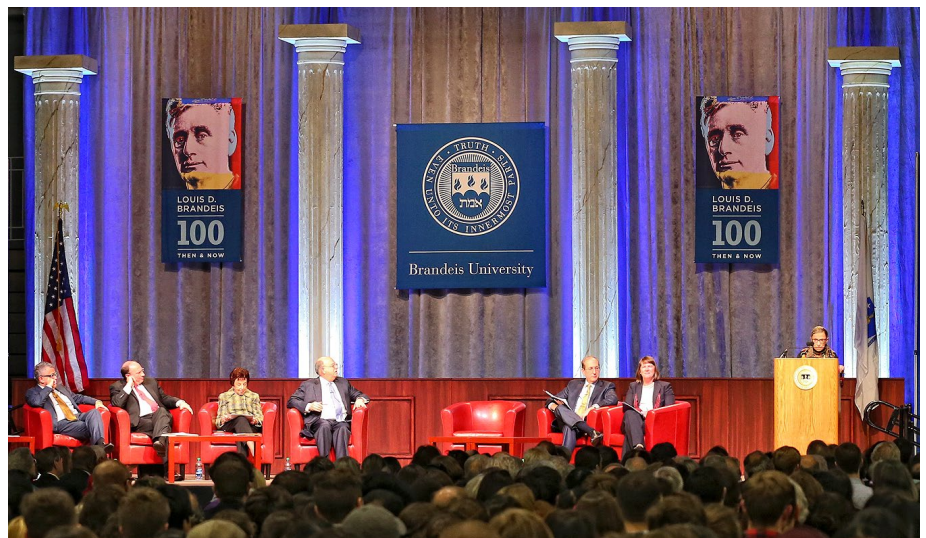
2015



2015



2016



2016



2016



2017



2018

2019



**2018:** The Ethics Center celebrates its 20th anniversary. The celebration includes a symposium, “Democracies in Peril: The Role of the University,” and a performance, “A Powerful Fire: Performances to Energize Our Next 20 Years.” Pictured: OJ Martori, Jane Sapp and Michael Carter in performance.

**2019:** “The ENACT Forum on Women’s Political Engagement” features Massachusetts State Senators Diana DiZoglio and Cindy Friedman and Kentucky State Representative Attica Scott in conversation with the students from ENACT courses around the United States.



2020



**2020:** ENACT and the Office of the Dean of Students partner to create and support the nonpartisan VoteDeis Campus Coalition supporting voter registration and participation. At “Voting and Democracy in 2020 and Beyond,” Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards; Massachusetts State Senator Becca Rausch '01; former Massachusetts State Representative Jay Kaufman '68, MA'73; and Ethics Center Board Chair John Shattuck, professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, discuss voter engagement, access and suppression.

**2021:** ENACT expands to all 50 states with its first virtual institute, followed in 2023 by an in-person convening at Brandeis (pictured).



2021

**2022:** Peacebuilding and the Arts launches IMPACT, Inc., a new non-profit with global reach that will strengthen the field of arts, culture and conflict transformation.

**2023:** Undergraduate student Ji Chen '23 and graduate student Nhi Le '23 join Leigh Swigart to share the findings of their Language, Culture and Justice Hub research study “Multilingual Life on a Monolingual Campus” and present institutional recommendations an audience of Brandeis faculty, staff and students.



2022



2023

**2023:** The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life is closed, and its endowment is directed to the newly-established Samuels Center for Community Partnerships and Civic Transformation (COMPACT). Some Ethics Center programs conclude; others transition to COMPACT.

# The Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts

## *Global Impact at the Nexus of Arts, Culture, Justice and Peace*

Since its inception in 1997 and '98, the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life has been exploring and embodying creative approaches to social justice, conflict transformation, and social change.

In its early years, the Ethics Center hosted the **Brandeis Initiative in Intercommunal Coexistence (BIIC)** which included support for faculty research, on-campus programs, and the cultivation of a campus coexistence team, composed of students, faculty, and staff.

One of the highlights of the BIIC was a concert featuring our close colleague, Jane Wilburn Sapp, along with famed singer and social justice activist Pete Seeger. The concert included performances by Brandeis a cappella groups, a gospel chorus, and other student organizations. Seeger engaged with both students and faculty, exploring cultural work as an approach to social change.

Another highlight of the BIIC was an oral history project of Brandeis staff, lifting up some of the less-heard voices in our campus community through an exhibition of stories and photographs, undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Human Resources. The initiative conducted research into the state of coexistence (especially in terms of religious affiliation and feelings of belonging) at Brandeis itself.

From 2002 to 2004, the Ethics Center hosted a Brandeis International Fellowship Program entitled **Creative Approaches to Reconciliation**. That program involved 10 artists and cultural workers (five two-person teams) from Burundi, Cambodia, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka. This fellowship program produced an online anthology with original theory about arts and reconciliation, and galleries of work from all five regions.

In 2005, working with Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz, the Ethics Center secured a \$5 million endowment to launch the **Master's Program in Coexistence and Conflict**. That program moved to Brandeis University's Heller



School for Social Policy and Management in 2010 and is described here: [heller.brandeis.edu/coexistence](http://heller.brandeis.edu/coexistence).

Also in 2005, the Ethics Center began an official **Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts (PBA)**.

Our first major project was a collaboration with Theatre Without Borders, called **Acting Together on the World Stage**. Over the next six years, the Acting Together initiative produced a two-volume anthology, a documentary film and a tool kit of short videos and print documents focused on the contributions of performance to the creative transformation of conflict across the globe. These resources are still very much in use in education and training programs on almost every continent. With the support of Elaine Reuben '63, the documentary has been translated into many languages, most recently into Ukrainian, Russian, and Khmer. Acting Together resources can be accessed at [atwsresources.com](http://atwsresources.com).

Upon the completion of the Acting Together anthology and documentary, the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts pursued initiatives in two distinct



(Left) Ana Correa of Grupo Cultural Yuyachkani in Peru, performing for her community as encouragement to testify about violence during the civil war. (Top) *Petals of Hope*, Carole Kane, facilitating artist; 1999. An image made from handcrafted paper produced by school students and community volunteers in Northern Ireland as a memorial for those lost to a 1998 bombing. (Above) *Phka Sla*, Sophiline Arts Ensemble; Sophiline Cheam Shapiro, choreographer; Nobuyuki Arai, photographer; 2018. Dancers interpret the testimony of survivors of forced marriage (institutionalized rape), a practice imposed during the years of Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia, as part of a reparations project of the tribunal trying Khmer Rouge leaders for crimes against humanity.

directions: (1) launching an undergraduate minor at Brandeis (Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation) and (2) strengthening work at the nexus of arts, cultural work, social justice and peace; and identifying a *field* of arts, culture and conflict transformation (ACCT).

First, we worked with members of the faculty to design and win approval for an undergraduate interdisciplinary **minor in Creativity, the Arts and Social Transformation, or CAST**. The minor was launched officially in 2016 and now exists under the umbrella of the Division of Arts and Sciences with its own website:

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[brandeis.edu/creativity-arts-social-transformation](https://brandeis.edu/creativity-arts-social-transformation).

CAST continues to thrive under the leadership of Dr. Toni Shapiro-Phim, who has also been co-director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts. Together PBA and CAST have developed and implemented collaborations with individual artists (including Indigenous Canadian multimedia artist Jaime Black and Argentinian visual artist and human rights activist Claudia Bernardi, among others) and with community groups (including the Boston-area Charles River Watershed Association), all of which have resulted in campus and community events and advocacy efforts.

Over the years, CAST and PBA have designed, implemented and reported on numerous **Design Labs**. For instance, in 2017, we completed a design lab on Re-imagining Aleppo, working with Syrian architects, urban designers and cultural heritage specialists to create a vision for building trust across enemy lines, through shared cultural heritage. The report was written by Heller student Hauke Zeissler MA '18, and CAST major Maggie Zeigel '18. It has been used in global cultural heritage programs, including through UNESCO and the Smithsonian.

More recently, in Fall 2022 we created a Design Lab in collaboration with the Brandeis Environmental Studies Program and the Charles River Watershed Association, focused on gathering oral histories from people who live and work along the Charles River. In the spring of 2023, Dr. Toni Shapiro-Phim led a CAST practicum in which, as their capstone projects, students designed vibrant illuminated, standing lanterns, incorporating words and images from the oral history interviews they conducted in the fall. The stories gathered, and the lanterns created, are being used by the Charles River Watershed Association in ongoing education and advocacy efforts.

Realizing that work at the nexus of arts, culture, justice and peace requires more ongoing support to reach its potential, after completing the Acting Together resources, the PBA team worked to identify and create a broad infrastructure for a field of inquiry and

practice. This work was undertaken in part in collaboration with the peacebuilding organization Search for Common Ground, and the United States Institute of Peace.

In 2017, a planning grant was secured from the Mellon Foundation for an 18-month process to design an approach to strengthening this field. An initial collaboration with Juniata College and Kenya's Maseno University resulted in the formation of **IMPACT: the Imagining Together Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation**.

IMPACT pursued dynamic programs (1) to strengthen connectivity among people working in the general field of arts, culture and conflict transformation through (in part) the facilitation of online "Learning Exchanges;" (2) to build capacity of local organizations in, for example, Colombia, Cyprus, and Senegal; and (3) to advocate for the field overall.

In 2022, IMPACT re-formed itself into a nonprofit global NGO, with a strong continuing relationship with the Brandeis Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts. Developments can be found here: [impactart.org](https://impactart.org).

Throughout its life, the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts has cultivated a generative relationship with the noted African-American musician, educator and activist and cultural worker Jane Wilburn Sapp. In addition to leading many workshops and classes on the Brandeis campus over the years, Jane wrote a book of her stories and songs, *Let's Make a Better World: Stories and Songs by Jane Sapp* published by Brandeis University Press. She has written about her work with community groups, the story of her life, and of her approach to cultural work practice. Jane is now hard at work, preparing her materials to be archived at Brandeis University's library. Information about Jane Sapp's work, including a seven-episode podcast, can be found at [janesapp.org](https://janesapp.org)

*Peacebuilding and the Arts Now* is the Program's e-newsletter, which reaches more than 5,000 people worldwide. With contributions from long-time collaborators and new colleagues, the newsletter offers timely updates on pressing issues and situations or conditions around the globe,

as well as interviews and lists of resources and opportunities for those engaged in creatively subverting or otherwise addressing injustices, oppressions, and violence.

Issues of *PBA Now* have focused on complex global concerns, including the climate crisis, migration, the war in Ukraine, as well as on particular art forms like dance and puppetry, and work being done in discrete regions of the world. An archive of these issues of *Peacebuilding and the Arts Now* [can be accessed online](#). *PBA Now* will continue to be edited by Dr. Toni Shapiro-Phim and Armine Avetisyan from their positions in the Global Community Engagement pillar of Brandeis' new Center for Community Partnership and Civic Transformation, COMPACT.

Over the years, PBA has flourished because of the supportive environment created by our colleagues in the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. The students, faculty and staff associated with the Program remain grateful for financial support from Ethics Center International Advisory Board member Elaine Reuben '63, Amy Merrill '69, Naomi Sinnreich P'13, and through The Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice and Ethics Center International Advisory Board member Jules Bernstein '57. In addition, programs within PBA have been supported by the United States Institute of Peace, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, The Max and Sunny Howard Foundation, The Fresh Sound Foundation, The Mellon Foundation, and the Porticus Foundation.

Reports from the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts and Cohen's scholarly publications can be found at [her Brandeis Scholarworks page](#).

Toni Shapiro-Phim can be reached at [tonishapiro@brandeis.edu](mailto:tonishapiro@brandeis.edu) and Armine Avetisyan can be reached at [arminkav@brandeis.edu](mailto:arminkav@brandeis.edu).

Cynthia Cohen will continue her association with Brandeis University as a Lecturer in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation. She can be reached at [cecohen@brandeis.edu](mailto:cecohen@brandeis.edu).

# Programs in International Justice and Society

## Bringing a Multidisciplinary Approach to International Justice

The Ethics Center's Programs in International Justice and Society were created in response to the rapid development of the international justice system in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

During this time, various institutions were established in the wake of serious acts of violence and abuse around the globe, in line with an increased appreciation that some kinds of judicial proceedings – complemented by truth and reconciliation commissions and diverse forms of localized justice – can effectively serve the interests of both victims and the global community.

The Ethics Center went beyond the standard perspective from this field, however, recognizing that neither institutions of justice nor complementary processes take their forms from legal notions alone; they are products of complex social realities and subsequently serve to shape these same realities.

We felt that the field of international justice would benefit from a multidisciplinary perspective that incorporates the insights not only of the law but also of the social sciences and humanities. The Programs in International Justice and Society conceptualized and executed unique programs following this philosophy.

Our centerpiece program was

*“The BIIJ was exceptional in concept, scope, and impact. The confidential, small group sessions contributed to creating a community of international judges, and the interdisciplinary approach enriched the analysis of legal issues.”*

Linda Carter, Professor Emerita, Pacific McGeorge School of Law and BIIJ collaborator



Above: A working session of the 2003 Brandeis Institute for International Judges, in Salzburg, Austria. Left: Judges, Ethics Center staff and Brandeis student interns at the 2013 Brandeis Institute for International Judges, held in Lund, Sweden in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the Lund University Faculty of Law.

the **Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ)**, which provided members of the international judiciary with the opportunity to meet and discuss critical issues concerning the theory and practice of international justice. Between 2002 and 2018, the Center held 12 institutes in localities both near and far, including Austria, Denmark, Malta, Norway, Senegal, Trinidad and the United States.

“The BIIJ was exceptional in concept, scope, and impact,” says longtime BIIJ collaborator Linda Carter, professor emerita of Pacific McGeorge School of Law. “The confidential, small group sessions contributed to creating a community of international judges, and the interdisciplinary approach enriched the analysis of legal issues.”

“In legal circles,” she noted, “judges and lawyers usually congregate in groups that are focused on a particular area of law. From the outset, the BIIJ had a different vision, based on the idea that all judges in international tribunals, regardless of subject area, would have common interests and concerns. It turned out to be a very prescient assumption. Discussions flowed on topics that were pertinent to judges, whether from a criminal court or the law of the sea tribunal, a human rights court or the International Court of Justice. Issues, such as ethics, precedents, amicus briefs, and rule of law cut across highly diverse fields of law.

Another aspect of the BIIJ, again not the norm for legal meetings, was the infusion of interdisciplinary perspectives. Ideas from cultural anthropology,

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linguistics, political science, and history broadened the discussion of legal issues. Judges returned to their courts with an enhanced lens through which to frame and think about judging and international justice.”

The Programs went on to expand its work with international judges by bringing this professional group into conversation with their domestic counterparts through **the Brandeis Judicial Colloquia series**. The colloquia hosted domestic judges from North America, South America, West Africa, and other regions, providing the opportunity for lively dialogue and exploration of how principles of international law might be effectively applied “at home.”

At the same time, director of Programs in International Justice and Society Leigh Swigart had the opportunity to research and write *The International Judge* with Center Director Daniel Terris and colleague Prof. Cesare Romano, a book that introduced the public to the work, lives and perspectives of international judges serving in diverse courts and tribunals.

A close connection with international courts and tribunals led to a project that delved deeply into the experiences and contributions of individuals who helped shape contemporary international justice. **The Ad Hoc Tribunals Oral History Project** sought honest evaluations about the challenges, successes and mistakes of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda – the

so-called “Ad Hoc Tribunals.”

The series of interview transcripts that the Ad Hoc Tribunals Oral History Project produced helps to preserve the voices of those individuals who worked to bring justice to places that had seen horrific violence and struggled to rebuild society in its wake. All the interviewees – be they prosecutors, judges, defense lawyers, investigators, interpreters, or administrators – contributed to the development and “institutionalization” of international criminal law during the early years of the two tribunals. Their impact on successive institutions and processes established to bring about accountability for grave crimes cannot be overestimated.

“We set out not only to create an archive of varied perspectives and experiences of the tribunals, but also to produce primary source material accessible to researchers now and in the future,” says project collaborator David Briand, currently Assistant Director of Brandeis University’s Tauber Center for the Study of European Jewry. “Personal papers, letters, and other forms of written communication and documentation of everyday life are largely out of favor in the digital age. Oral history can help fill that gap – in this case, the recollections of tribunal prosecutors, judges, and others – have been recorded for history.”

Swigart conceptualized and oversaw many more programs and projects during her more than 20 years at the Ethics Center, both on campus and around the globe.

She reached a very broad audience, in particular, through her e-letter *International Justice in the News*. This publication provided to its nearly 2,000 subscribers a monthly selection of news about the people involved in the work of international courts and tribunals, significant developments in international justice, and publications and resources of interest.

“My work at the Ethics Center brought with it great benefits. I was able to see how eminent figures in international law function in their high-profile positions and make decisions that affect us all, whether we have heard of them or not. It was reassuring to understand how seriously most international judges took this responsibility, and to observe how they handled challenges to their thinking and reconsidered long-held views when appropriate,” she said, reflecting on the impact of this work on its participants and herself.

“My experiences with participants in our various programs and projects also led to my own research on issues of language and culture in processes of international criminal justice, a project which allowed me to integrate my original training in linguistic anthropology.”

Swigart also created, in recent years, an online platform called **the Language, Culture and Justice Hub** which aimed to promote inquiry and share knowledge about the full complexity of justice and its processes.

Reports from the Center’s past judicial events and references to Swigart’s own scholarly publications can be found at [her Brandeis Scholarworks page](#).

Transcripts from the Ad Hoc Tribunals Oral History Project can be accessed at [the Brandeis University’s Distinctive Collections](#).



# ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation

## *Fostering Civic Engagement in a Time of Challenge for Democracy*



### **ENACT Expands to All 50 States: Welcomes Faculty from Across the US to Brandeis**

In June, ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation welcomed 22 faculty members from colleges and universities across the United States to Brandeis for the third in-person ENACT Institute. Each is an ENACT Faculty Fellow, teaching their version of “Advocacy for Policy Change,” the ENACT course that forms the basis of the program, developed and taught at Brandeis by ENACT Director Prof. Melissa

Stimell, Professor of the Practice in Legal Studies and Chair of the Social Justice and Social Policy Program.

Faculty Fellows traveled from as near as Connecticut and Maine to as far as Alaska and Arizona. This third cohort of ENACT Faculty Fellows brings the non-partisan ENACT program to all 50 states.

During the three-day institute new and

experienced Faculty Fellows delved deeply into the ENACT model as they developed their courses, and they shared their own expertise. Discussion topics included how to teach an ENACT course in challenging political environments, how to empower students, and how to work with community



*Students in the Brandeis ENACT course, “Advocacy for Policy Change” meet with Massachusetts state legislators in the Senate Reading Room of the Massachusetts State House in February.*

partners. They were joined by special guests including Massachusetts State Senator Becca Rausch '01.

Brandeis students can enroll in “Advocacy for Policy Change” (LGLS 161b) in the spring semester. More about ENACT: [enactnetwork.org](http://enactnetwork.org)

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*ENACT Faculty Fellows during the ENACT Institute in June. Left to right: Albert Celoza (Phoenix College, Arizona), Peter Gess (Hendrix College, Arkansas), Jennifer Seelig (Utah State University, Utah) and Tamara Bland (Dominican University, Illinois).*

## ENACT Staff Update

ENACT is excited to welcome Charlotte Powley, who will be joining ENACT in January as Assistant Director of Research,



back to Brandeis! Powley completed her PhD in Social Policy in 2020 at the Heller School for Policy and Research, where her doctoral work focused on menstrual management and

students' experiences of menstruation in US public schools. Most recently Powley was an Assistant Teaching Professor at Simmons University in their public health department. Powley knows ENACT well: she supported ENACT research initiatives during her graduate work, and served as a teaching assistant for the Brandeis ENACT course in 2020 and 2021. Powley will be teaching ENACT-related courses and supporting ENACT research.

## ENACT Educate and Advocate Grants

ENACT: The Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation is pleased to announce a grant opportunity for Brandeis University undergraduate students.

ENACT Educate and Advocate Grants will provide up to \$1,000 to support events planned for the 2023-24 academic year.

ENACT Educate and Advocate Grants are designed to provide support for student-organized events that focus on educating the Brandeis community and advocating for positive change on important current public policy issues, such as healthcare equity, reproductive justice, immigration reform, criminal justice, voting rights, and a multitude of other concerns.

For example, P.A.D.: Period Activists

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### In Print

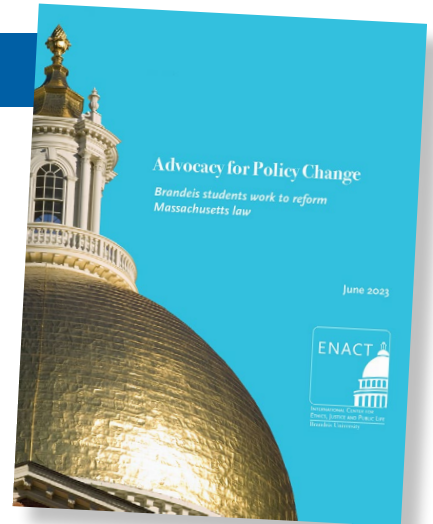
#### ***Advocacy for Policy Change 2023: Brandeis Students Work to reform Massachusetts Law***

Student work from the spring 2023 Brandeis ENACT course. View or download the PDF: [go.brandeis.edu/ENACT](http://go.brandeis.edu/ENACT)

### Coming Soon

#### ***ENACTing Change: A Handbook on Teaching Advocacy and Civic Engagement***

Melissa Stimell is managing editor for the volume, which will be published by Brandeis University Press in 2025. *ENACTing Change* will feature ENACT Faculty Fellows sharing the ENACT model and their experiences teaching it, further expanding the impact of ENACT to additional classrooms around the United States.



Deis might educate the Brandeis community on menstrual equity with the help of a guest speaker and/or Brandeis professor, distribute free period products, and coordinate a letter writing campaign for the I AM Bill. Students supporting gun violence prevention could educate the Brandeis and local communities on the problem of “ghost guns” at the national and state levels and invite Massachusetts Senator Jamie Eldridge to speak about his anti-“ghost gun” bill.

The selection committee encourages proposals to:

- incorporate both academic and activist perspectives in meaningful ways
- involve our campus as part of the event and be free to all members of the Brandeis community
- include significant participation by Brandeis students, faculty, and/or staff; participation of invited off-campus

guests and community organizations also is encouraged

- value collaboration between student organizations, and/or between undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff
- inform and/or link to ongoing initiatives that enable the proposed event to contribute to an enduring activist impact on our campus and/or in broader communities.

**To Apply:** [go.brandeis.edu/ENACTEducateAdvocateGrant](http://go.brandeis.edu/ENACTEducateAdvocateGrant)

**Deadlines:** Applications will be accepted until 9:00 pm on October 4, 2023 for the fall deadline and February 12, 2024 for the spring deadline.

**Questions?** Email Melissa Stimell, ENACT Director: [stimell@brandeis.edu](mailto:stimell@brandeis.edu).



## ENACT Your Vote!

**Join ENACT Your Vote** – a non-partisan, web-based initiative to encourage voter participation and civic engagement at Brandeis. Earn points, win prizes and encourage others to take action. Sign up now and you will get updates and reminders automatically! [enactyourvote.link/brandeis](http://enactyourvote.link/brandeis)

**Join the VoteDeis Campus Coalition** – a nonpartisan group of students, faculty and staff supporting voting and voter registration at Brandeis: [go.brandeis.edu/VoteDeis](http://go.brandeis.edu/VoteDeis)



# The Ethics Center's Brandeis Campus Programs: *Knowledge, Action and Reflection for the Next Generation*

From the founding of the Ethics Center a core focus was to serve the Brandeis community, with a particular emphasis on students. The Ethics Center's campus programs were designed to equip students with the tools they need to become social justice change agents.

Through fellowships, events, coursework and research projects, the Center provided experiences in "real world" settings, at the intersection of knowledge and action. Center staff encouraged intensive critical thinking and inquiry that considered a range of perspectives in a global context and emphasized a core of respect.

The Ethics Center supported students as they explored the world, encouraging a climate of balanced consideration, creative response, and ethical reflection.

"It's not enough to teach students about social justice," said Marci McPhee, who retired as Director of Campus Programs for the Ethics Center in 2018. "It's not even enough to give them opportunities to put social justice into practice. It's essential to teach students to be self-reflective about their motives and intentions, honest about their skills and areas where they need to grow, and hyper-aware of their social positioning. Then, as they become social justice change agents from wherever they stand, both as students and future leaders, they have the power of self-awareness as well as enthusiasm and strength."

The Center sought to strengthen and invigorate the Brandeis University social justice tradition – and innovate within it. We added greater clarity and intellectual depth to the conversation about the meaning of social justice and its place at Brandeis, encouraging debate and reflection, and we built community among social justice-minded individuals on campus.

This happened in the Ethics Center's



work with individual students, and in our engagement with the greater community as we built 'DEIS Impact, Brandeis University's annual "festival of social justice," and as we supported events and initiatives in collaboration with other centers and institutes, academic departments, and student groups.

"The Ethics Center has been an important campus home for generations of students, faculty and staff who shared

the Center's commitment to promoting ethical and innovative ways of understanding and responding to challenges around justice, democracy and peace," reflected David Weinstein, Director of ENACT and Communications. "The Center has been a catalyst for students figuring out how to live their values in the world, and it has been a connector bringing students, scholars, and practitioners together to collaborate in new ways. Like so many others I too found a home and an expanded community at the Ethics Center, which I will

always carry with me."

#### Over 25 years the Ethics Center:

- **organized and sponsored** dozens of events each year showcasing a range of perspectives: multi-day conferences and symposia, intimate conversations, and workshops;
- **created and ran** the undergraduate Sorensen Fellowship supporting

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Every year the undergraduate "DEIS Impactors" worked with the Center and the Student Union to make the annual "festival of social justice" a success. Pictured: The "DEIS Impactors" with Kweku Mandela-Amuah and Ndaba Mandela (front row, third and fourth from the left) before they delivered their 2014 keynote address, "Africa Rising: The Mandela Legacy @ the Next Generation of African Leadership," only two months after their grandfather Nelson Mandela's passing. 2013 'DEIS Impact keynote speakers Judy Dushku, founder of THRIVE Gulu, and her daughter Eliza Dushku (front row, first and second from the right) who spoke on "Uganda by Way of Boston @ Hollywood: A Social Justice Journey" the previous year, returned to Brandeis for the talk.



***“I was exposed to cutting-edge theories – and could see them actualized at a center for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. My relationships there and the Ethics Center’s support and mentorship inspired me to think outside the box and innovate on social change. This led to my career as a social entrepreneur – and furthered my growth as a human being, opening my mind and heart in ways that I had previously not imagined possible.” — Andrew Slack ’02, Sorensen Fellowship alum***

Andrew Slack is pictured (back row, center) with the 2000, 2001, and 2002 Sorensen Fellows (then the Ethics Center Student Fellows) at the 2001 Fellowship awards ceremony. Andrew is now Senior Advisor with Avaaz, which seeks “to close the gap between the world we have and the world most people everywhere want” and is Co-Founder and Founding Executive Director of the non-profit organization the Harry Potter Alliance, “an army of fans, activists, nerdfighters, teenagers, wizards and muggles dedicated to fighting for social justice with the greatest weapon we have – love.”

## WHERE TO FIND RESOURCES

• **Master's in Coexistence and Conflict:**  
[brandeis.edu/coexistence](http://brandeis.edu/coexistence)

• **'DEIS Impact:**  
[brandeis.edu/diversity/deis-impact](http://brandeis.edu/diversity/deis-impact)  
 The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion now hosts and facilitates 'DEIS Impact:

• **The Gittler Prize, The Richman Fellowship, the Karpf and Hahn Peace Awards:**

[brandeis.edu/compact/awards](http://brandeis.edu/compact/awards)  
 The Gittler Prize and the Richman Fellowship are now being hosted by COMPACT on behalf of the Office of the President and the Provost, and the Karpf and Hahn prizes are being administered by COMPACT.

• **Sorensen Fellowship publications:**  
[go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral](http://go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral)

The Sorensen Fellowship anthologies are available online. It is a collection of deeply thoughtful, insightful, and critical writing by the 121 alumni of the Sorensen Fellowship.

- students before, during and after social justice-focused summer internships;
- **created and hosted** 'DEIS Impact, an annual weeklong “festival of social justice” organized with the undergraduate Student Union;
- **published** “Ethical Inquiry,” an online series presenting a range of opinions on vexing ethical questions, researched and written by Brandeis undergraduates, graduate students and alumni;
- **provided** student leadership opportunities on an events advisory committee and the Ethics Center Leadership Council;
- **created** a YouTube channel featuring Center events, original interviews with leading thinkers and practitioners from around the globe and more;
- **provided** mentorship and community for the undergraduate Slifka, Malkin, and Silverman scholars;
- **created** the Distinguished Visiting Practitioner program that brought respected practitioners in a range of fields to campus for a multi-day residency to examine the ethical challenges and dilemmas of their field;
- **hosted** two University-wide awards on behalf of the Office of the President: The Joseph B. and Toby Gittler Prize and the Richman Distinguished Fellowship in Public Life;
- **administered** the Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf and Ari Hahn Peace Awards and the Davis Peace Prize;
- **created** the Master’s Program in Conflict Resolution and Coexistence, later moved to the Heller School for Social Policy and Management;
- **supported** courses for undergraduates and graduate students on topics related to the Center’s mission, including courses offered by the Peace, Conflict and Coexistence Studies Program (PAX), “The Immigrant Experience in Waltham: A Service-based Practicum,” “Advocacy for Policy Change,” and the Brandeis in the Hague summer program;
- **maintained** a network of Brandeis alumni across the globe...and much more.

The legacy of the Ethics Center’s on-campus presence at Brandeis will continue to be felt in the programs that continue and in the lives of the people and institutions that were impacted.

## The International Advisory Board: An Appreciation

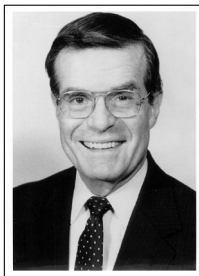
The distinguished leaders and activists who comprised the International Advisory Board of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life were charged with shaping the Center's work.

Representing politics, law, scholarship, activism, the arts and other fields, the board members' extraordinary diversity of experience provided the Center a unique opportunity to develop ideas that crossed usual professional and disciplinary boundaries.

We gratefully thank all who have served on the Ethics Center's Board since it was first convened in 2000. The Ethics Center and its partners around the globe benefited greatly from your wise counsel, your innovative ideas, your support and friendship, and your principled commitment to the mission of the Center.

The full list of past members of the International Advisory Board can be found here: [go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral](http://go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral)

## A Tribute to the Founding Board Chair, Theodore "Ted" Sorensen



Theodore C. "Ted" Sorensen (1928-2010) served the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life for 10 years as founding chair of the center's International Advisory Board. Sorensen, most famous as a counselor and speechwriter for President John F. Kennedy, made Brandeis University and the Ethics Center one of his most significant commitments in the final decade of his life.

In 1999, President Jehuda Reinharz and Center Director Daniel Terris visited Ted Sorensen at his office at Paul, Weiss in New York to ask him if he would become the first chair of the advisory board for the newly formed center. Persuaded of the University's commitment to building strong bridges between academic and professional life, he agreed to an initial commitment of four years; eventually, he served as board chair until 2009.

Sorensen brought to the Ethics Center the wisdom and practical experience of a man engaged in public life for a half-century. His reputation and extensive network of friends and colleagues also helped attract many other leading national and international figures to the center's board, including Kerry Kennedy, Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights; and Diego Arria of Venezuela and Kishore Mahbubani of Singapore, both of whom represented their countries as ambassadors to the United Nations.

The Ethics Center's flagship undergraduate fellowship was renamed the Sorensen Fellowship in 2009, when Sorensen stepped down as chair of the board. Since its beginning, the Center supported Brandeis undergraduates to work overseas during the summer in organizations committed to issues of peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and democracy. Naming the fellowship for Ted Sorensen was meant to be a permanent tribute to a man who was passionately committed to the ideal of public service.

Sorensen's wife Gillian Sorensen, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations, shared his commitment to the Ethics Center, contributing greatly to the Center in her service as a Board Member as well.

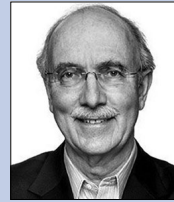
"For Ted," she recalled recently, "the Ethics Center was an important effort to make a better world, and he deeply valued the opportunity to be part of that work."

Remembering Ted Sorensen: [go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral](http://go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral)

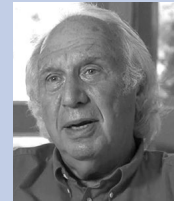
*"For Ted, the Ethics Center was an important effort to make a better world, and he deeply valued the opportunity to be part of that work."*

Gillian Sorensen

## International Advisory Board



**John Shattuck, Chair**  
Professor of Practice in Diplomacy, The Fletcher School, Tufts University; Senior Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, Massachusetts



**Jules Bernstein '57**  
Labor Lawyer  
Washington, DC



**Germaine Ingram**  
Cultural Strategist, Performance Artist and Vocal/Dance Improviser  
Pennsylvania



**Jay Kaufman '68, MA '73**  
Founding Director, Beacon Leadership Collaborative  
Massachusetts



**Jamie Metz**  
Nonresident Senior Fellow for Technology and National Security, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council  
New York



**Ángela María Pérez Mejía**  
Chief Cultural Manager, Banco de la República  
Colombia



**Elaine Reuben '63**  
Academic and Philanthropist  
Washington, DC



**Norbert Weissberg**  
Chairman, Package Research Laboratory and Stapling Machines Co.  
New York

## A Reflection from Board Chair John Shattuck

The Ethics Center has been a major resource for Brandeis University for 25 years. The Center was founded “to develop responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.”

To implement this mission, the Center developed innovative and far-reaching programs on international justice; faculty and student civic engagement with state legislatures; and teaching, learning and performative programs on peacebuilding and the arts.

Since its founding, the Ethics Center has inspired thousands of Brandeis students and scores of faculty to design and carry out programs in the community, the nation, and the world that have become defining features of a Brandeis education “to prepare students for full participation in a changing society, capable of promoting their own welfare, yet deeply concerned about the welfare of others,” in the words of the University’s mission statement.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Ethics Center’s Advisory Board, and to succeed the renowned jurist and

champion of international justice Richard Goldstone as board chair. The Center has been built on the visionary example of its founding chair Ted Sorensen; and the extraordinary work of its founding director Dan Terris, its longtime program leaders Leigh Swigart and Cynthia Cohen, its current executive director Melissa Stimell, and its core program staff Toni Shapiro-Phim and David Weinstein.

Over the years the Center has broadened its reach in the Brandeis community, deepened its commitment to civic engagement, and strengthened the bridge between teaching and research and the world of practical learning and ethical advocacy.

In 2021 the University administration announced a plan for a new Brandeis initiative on civic engagement to be funded in part by the Center’s endowment. The advisory board expressed concern about the impact that this new initiative would have on Ethics Center programs and funding.

As a result of the Center’s longtime success, two of its flagship programs – student engagement with state legislatures, and peacebuilding and the arts – were designated as the core of the new Brandeis initiative. Members of the

advisory board were disappointed that the administration chose not to continue the Center’s programs on international justice, and advocated for the development of new international programs to support global engagement by the Brandeis community.

In addition, the advisory board urged the administration to preserve and commemorate the legacy of the Center’s quarter century of achievements and activities defining and carrying out the role of a university in ethical civic engagement. The advisory board has requested the University to assure that the rich archival legacy of the Ethics Center is maintained and made fully accessible to the Brandeis community and the general public.

The Ethics Center has been more than a collection of successful programs. It is an expanding community of scholars and practitioners committed to human rights and democracy at a time of increasing challenge to the foundations of ethical values on which Brandeis was founded. It has been an honor to serve as chair of the Ethics Center advisory board, to work with the Center’s staff to defend and promote these values, and to preserve and extend the Center’s legacy to the larger Brandeis community and the public.

## A Reflection from Former Board Chair Richard Goldstone H'04

It was a distinct privilege to serve for some years on the Ethics Center Advisory Board. The issues we discussed and the views we exchanged were always challenging and ranged from American politics, the role of the arts in peace building to the role of international criminal law. There was a common thread to all those discussion: respect for ethical behavior and respect for the often divergent views of colleagues. Above all it made for friendships that have continued for many years.

The membership of the Board has been diverse and its members, from a number of countries around the world, brought their wide experience and expertise to the discussions of, and advice given by, the Board to the Ethics Center. It was rewarding to its members that the Advisory

Board had a positive impact on the programs of the Center.

The highlight of my tenure on the Board was to serve under its first chair, Ted Sorensen. Ted was an outstanding and inspiring leader who brought out the best in those with whom he worked. It was a daunting challenge to take over from Ted the leadership of the Board. This responsibility was eased by the advice and friendship I received from the then Director of the Center, Dan Terris. Another bonus was the wisdom that Ted’s wife Gillian Sorensen brought to the Board when she joined its ranks.

It was hugely rewarding to direct or co-direct 14 Brandeis Institutes for International Judges. The majority were co-directed by Linda Carter and it was a joy to work with her. Those Institutes, held

in many regions of the world, provided international judges, civil and criminal, the unique opportunity to meet to discuss issues of mutual interest. Dan Terris and Leigh Swigart devoted huge amounts of their time, energy and expertise that ensured the success of these extraordinary meetings. The reports that followed each Institute bear testimony to their importance and success.

At the expiration of my of term as chair of the Advisory Board, I was delighted to hand the reins to John Shattuck, with whom I had worked closely during the years we respectively occupied positions that related to international justice.

The Ethics Center contributed in meaningful and positive ways to the life of Brandeis University and to the wider community of the United States and internationally. It was my great fortune to have been involved in that endeavor.

## *Insight, Counsel and Advocacy: The Campus Advisory Committee*

The Ethics Center's Campus Advisory Committee contributed intellectually and substantively to programs and activities and helped the Center generate ideas for mutually beneficial campus collaborations. Made up of faculty, staff and students from across the University, the committee met regularly with Center staff and consulted with the Center on an ongoing basis.

"My own work with the Center for German and European Studies benefited greatly from productive cooperation with the Center, most recently with Cindy Cohen's powerful international arts initiative (which reunited me with my brilliant and beloved former colleague, [International Advisory Board Member] Ángela María Pérez Mejía) and Leigh Swigart's fascinating work on language justice," said Campus Advisory Committee member Prof. Sabine von Mering, speaking to the power of the Ethics Center's collaborations on campus. "The Ethics Center's closure is a tremendous loss for me and my work. I will most miss all those who made the Center happen, and who never shied away from engaging productively with the thorniest issues, international controversies and conflicts – always from a place of hope and reconciliation."

The Ethics Center has benefited from the insights, counsel and advocacy of all who have served on the Campus Advisory Committee, and thanks them for their service, with particular thanks to the members of the final committee:

**John W. Ballantine Jr.**, Senior Lecturer in the Brandeis International Business School; **Kaitie Chakoian**, PhD candidate, Heller School; **Susan P. Curnan**, Florence G. Heller Associate Professor of the Practice; **Timothy J. Hickey**, Professor of Computer Science; **Richard Levitt**, Associate Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations; **Janet McIntosh**, Professor of Anthropology; **Victoria Sanchez**, BA '22; **Sabine von Mering**, Professor of German, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Director of the Center for German and European Studies; and **Isaiah Matthew Wooden**, Assistant Professor of Theater Arts.

## **Thank You!**

**Thank you to the students, alumni, campus partners and community partners of the Ethics Center.**

You were the reason for our work, the catalysts for our work, and essential collaborators in our work.

The Center family extended far beyond a handful of offices on the Upper Campus of Brandeis University. You will always be members of the Ethics Center family, and your continued impact in communities small and large continues to be one of the most important legacies of the Center.

**Thank you to the staff of the Ethics Center.** The staff were the true heart of the Ethics Center. Some were a part of the Center for a year, some for decades. Each made valued contributions, which became interwoven into the knowledge and action of the Center. As the Center closes its doors, we thank everyone who has embodied the Ethics Center.



*Marci McPhee, Daniel Terris, Cynthia Cohen, Barbara Strauss, Leigh Swigart, and David Weinstein (l-r) at the Ethics Center's 20th anniversary celebration.*

## **Connect!**

**The resources created by the Ethics Center's people can still be accessed:**

Search ScholarWorks for the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life or for individual people and programs, and contact the Brandeis University Archives for other materials and resources.

**ScholarWorks:** [scholarworks.brandeis.edu](https://scholarworks.brandeis.edu)

**Brandeis University Archives:** [brandeis.edu/library/archives](https://brandeis.edu/library/archives)

**Cynthia Cohen** has a courtesy appointment to the faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences at Brandeis University as Lecturer in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) through the 2023-24 academic year: [cecohen@brandeis.edu](mailto:cecohen@brandeis.edu)

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INTERNATIONAL CENTER for  
ETHICS, JUSTICE, and PUBLIC LIFE  
Brandeis University

*Mission: To develop effective responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.*

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## Announcing the Justice Brandeis Practitioner-in-Residence Series

*Celebrating the Impact and Legacy of the Ethics Center*

**The newly announced Justice Brandeis Practitioner-in-Residence Series will highlight the knowledge and experience developed by the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, and will expose the Brandeis campus community to spheres of activity that have only become more critical to our interconnected world over recent years.**

This limited series will be hosted from the 2025-26 academic year through the 2028-29 academic year. Each year on or around Justice Brandeis' birthday of November 13, the COMPACT and ENACT will host a practitioner whose life and work exemplifies Justice Louis Brandeis' values of justice and truth as applied to community engagement activities, global or local. Practitioners will receive a \$10,000 honorarium.

During their one-day residency, the visiting practitioner will interact with students, faculty and staff through class visits, workshops, lectures, and other opportunities. Each residency also will produce an output which can be shared afterwards, for example a written document, short documentary film, a podcast, or an exhibit.

The series is hosted by COMPACT and ENACT in celebration of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life. It will be administered by the staff of ENACT, with the support of a selection committee.

**To nominate a practitioner whose work engages with communities or for more information:**

[go.brandeis.edu/JusticeBrandeisPractitionerSeries](https://go.brandeis.edu/JusticeBrandeisPractitionerSeries)

**Deadline for nominations for the inaugural residency: February 4, 2024**

## FROM THE EDITOR – DAVID J. WEINSTEIN

**A**s editor of *Ethics Central* since 2010 I have had the challenging task of capturing the most recent and upcoming work of the Ethics Center's staff, students, and partners in a few printed pages.

I want to thank my colleagues for their partnership as we produced a record of the Center that has gone beyond lists of events and publications to share and promote reflection, inquiry, learning and action.

I also want to thank my predecessors as *Ethics Central* editors: Melissa Holmes Blanchard, Christopher Moore, and Lewis Rice '86, who established a publication I have been proud to grow and evolve.

With this issue of *Ethics Central* I faced an even more daunting task: summarize 25 years of the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life, and convey the impact and enduring legacy of all that my colleagues and I have tried to do with the collaboration and support of so many

others in that time.

This issue does not do that. It cannot. Instead, I hope this final issue of *Ethics Central* serves as a tribute to everyone who has been a part of this quarter century journey, and as a guide to how you can continue to access resources produced by the Ethics Center, how you can engage with ongoing programs, projects and initiatives of the Ethics Center, and how you can connect with the people of the Ethics Center.

Thank you for being a part of that journey, and please continue to be in touch. The mission and guiding principles of the Ethics Center endure, as do the progress and relationships nurtured by the Center.

**The complete set of back issues of *Ethics Central* can be accessed here:**  
[go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral](https://go.brandeis.edu/EthicsCentral)