

2019

Message from the Editor

Shannon E. French

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/ijel>

 Part of the [Applied Ethics Commons](#), [Business Law, Public Responsibility, and Ethics Commons](#), [Leadership Studies Commons](#), and the [Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

French, Shannon E. (2019) "Message from the Editor," *The International Journal of Ethical Leadership*: Vol. 6 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/ijel/vol6/iss1/1>

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Cross Disciplinary Publications at Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The International Journal of Ethical Leadership by an authorized administrator of Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

Message from the Editor

Shannon E. French

Inamori Professor in Ethics and Director,
Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence,
Case Western Reserve University

2019 will mark another milestone for the Inamori Ethics Prize for outstanding ethical leadership on the global stage. For the first time, we will be honoring a leader from the Arts: actor, director, and producer LeVar Burton. Mr. Burton's powerful starring performance in the role of Kunta Kinte in the original television miniseries *Roots* helped bring Alex Haley's epic work about slavery in America to life, touching minds and hearts in millions of living rooms. As chief engineer Geordi La Forge in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, Mr. Burton provided inspirational representation for minorities and people with disabilities in TV and film. For decades, Mr. Burton has devoted his life to the issue of literacy. This has included his work hosting the outstanding long-running PBS *Reading Rainbow* series and founding a nonprofit promoting children's literacy. Mr. Burton was also the executive producer of the acclaimed documentary *The Science of Peace*, exploring science and technology's role in the pursuit of world peace (or "peace science"). In addition, he has been a successful advocate and fundraiser for AIDS research.

Mr. Burton takes his deserved place among our inspirational cohort of Inamori Ethics Prize recipients since 2008:

- **2018: Dr. Farouk El-Baz**

Egyptian-born geologist Dr. El-Baz played a central role in the NASA Apollo space missions, including helping to select the first lunar landing site. He educated the Apollo astronauts about what they would find on the moon and encouraged them to see all of their efforts as being done not only for the United States, but also for all of humankind. After retiring from NASA, Dr. El-Baz dedicated himself to using the skills he honed at NASA to search for desperately needed resources on the earth. He created a NASA-recognized "Center of Excellence" at Boston University: the Center for Remote Sensing. The center

uses technology originally designed to look for water on the moon and other planets to find critically needed groundwater in arid regions around the globe to try to bring water resources to suffering people and help resolve water-based conflicts in places like Darfur.

- **2017: Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman**

For decades, Marian Wright Edelman has been an advocate for children's rights and the disadvantaged. Under her leadership, the nonprofit Children's Defense Fund, which Mrs. Edelman established in 1973, has become the nation's leading advocacy organization for children and families, championing policies and programs to lift children from poverty, protect them from abuse and neglect, and ensure their access to healthcare and high-quality education.

Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-1960s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. She has received more than one hundred honorary degrees and numerous awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the US's highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award, for her writings.

- **2016: Professor Peter Eigen**

A pioneer of the global fight against corruption, Peter Eigen has developed and led groundbreaking initiatives to improve governance and raise awareness of corruption's devastating effects on economic growth, social welfare, and justice. A lawyer by training, he has worked in economic development for several decades, investigating how abuses of power can undermine the public's trust and cost people their freedom, health, money, and, sometimes, their lives.

Following positions with the World Bank in Latin America and Africa, Professor Eigen founded Transparency International

(TI) in 1993. With chapters in more than one hundred nations, TI has become the leading nongovernmental organization promoting transparency and accountability in development. TI collaborates with governments, businesses, and citizens to stop the abuse of power, bribery, and secret deals. The organization's impact spans the public sector and industries ranging from finance to oil to sport.

- **2015: Prof. Martha C. Nussbaum**

Martha Nussbaum is an American philosopher and one of the world's leading intellectuals, particularly on issues of moral and political theory, education, social equality, emotions, feminism, and ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. She is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, with appointments in the philosophy department and the law school.

Professor Nussbaum's work has been at the forefront of some of the most salient contemporary ethical issues. Alongside economist Amartya Sen, she reoriented conversations of international welfare efforts away from exclusive focus on gross domestic product and toward the capabilities of a nation's individuals. Professor Nussbaum is a Founding President of the Human Development and Capability Association, and she has received prizes and fifty-one honorary degrees from institutions across the globe. In 2016, Professor Nussbaum was awarded the prestigious Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy.

- **2014: Dr. Denis Mukwege**

A deeply committed physician and human rights activist, Denis Mukwege has worked tirelessly with and for women who have suffered excruciatingly traumatic and violent attacks in the name of war. The Panzi Hospital, which he founded in war-torn Bukavu, Congo, and where he serves as manager and chief surgeon, is known worldwide for its treatment of women with severe gynecological problems, predominantly the result of sexual violence. Panzi has become a beacon of hope for thousands of women, including those who cannot afford treatment, for whom it is free.

Dr. Mukwege has persisted in his mission, despite threats and attacks on his life. As a result of his perseverance, he and his hospital colleagues had treated more than forty thousand rape survivors as of the time of his receiving the Inamori Ethics Prize. A longtime outspoken advocate for gender equality and women's rights, he has been recognized by many organizations and institutions for both his medical knowledge and his commitment to ending sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2018, he was presented with the Nobel Peace Prize.

- **2013: Mr. Yvon Chouinard**

The founder of the outdoor clothing and gear company Patagonia, Inc., Yvon Chouinard is one of the most successful and ethical outdoor industry executives alive today. Mr. Chouinard is considered a trailblazer and leader in ecologically responsible corporate operations, to which philosophy he steadfastly adheres even when it is at the expense of Patagonia's bottom line.

Mr. Chouinard's driving objective is to protect the environment, and he has continually demonstrated that this mission does not have to be at odds with a highly successful business.

From launching the organic cotton industry in California because of traditional cotton's terrible environmental impact to giving Patagonia employees financial incentives to work on local environmental projects, Mr. Chouinard has for decades demonstrated an active, unwavering commitment to prioritizing the environment while maintaining—and growing—a flourishing corporation. Distinguished journalist and author Tom Brokaw said of Mr. Chouinard, "He walks the walk more than anyone else I know in American business."

- **2012: Dr. David Suzuki**

Passionate environmentalist and broadcaster David Suzuki is a global leader on issues of sustainable ecology and climate justice. Esteemed around the world for his radio and television programs, documentaries, and publications, Dr. Suzuki is a powerful voice for biodiversity, future generations, and the planet.

A celebrated academic, Dr. Suzuki earned his PhD in zoology from the University of Chicago. He worked for over forty years

as a professor in genetics and at the University of British Columbia's Sustainable Research Development Institute, where he is now professor emeritus.

In 1990, Dr. Suzuki cofounded the David Suzuki Foundation whose main missions are transforming the economy, protecting the climate, reconnecting with nature, and building communities of individuals who live healthier, more fulfilled, and just lives.

- **2011: Advocate Beatrice Mtetwa**

Human rights lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa has spent over twenty-five years defending journalists and resisting government corruption in her home country of Zimbabwe. Born and educated in Swaziland, Advocate Mtetwa was the first member of her family to graduate from college. After earning her law degree, she worked as a prosecutor in Swaziland before moving to Zimbabwe, where her career focus began to shift to family law and human rights.

In her two decades defending domestic journalists, foreign correspondents and victims of human rights violations against Zimbabwe's restrictive government, Advocate Mtetwa has been physically attacked and faced threats against her life. Yet despite such adversity, she continues to fight for freedom and the ideals of democracy. In addition to journalists' rights, Advocate Mtetwa champions a variety of other social causes, including eradicating AIDS and poverty, protecting the rights of women and children, preserving the essential freedoms of peaceful assembly, association and speech, and helping poor farmers wrongfully evicted from their land by the government.

- **2010: Mr. Stan Brock**

Stan Brock's nonprofit organization Remote Area Medical (RAM) delivers free healthcare services to underserved communities in the United States and isolated regions around the world. A humanitarian, conservationist, and former cohost of the TV show *Wild Kingdom*, Mr. Brock founded RAM in 1985. Staffed by volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses, and veterinarians, RAM has served hundreds of thousands of patients at its mobile free

clinics. RAM conducts these medical missions wherever they are needed, regardless of danger or difficult conditions—from the hills of Appalachia near its home base in Tennessee to the mountains of Nepal. Mr. Brock himself drew virtually no salary from RAM and lived frugally, devoting his time and energy exclusively to RAM's mission.

- **2009: The Honorable Mary Robinson**

The former United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, Mary Robinson was the second honoree of the Inamori Prize. Noted for her work as an advocate for global human rights, health care, sustainability, and corporate responsibility, The Honorable Mary Robinson was instrumental in changing the face of Anglo-Irish relations when she was Ireland's first woman president. She is one of twelve world leaders who make up The Elders—an organization formed by Nelson Mandela to contribute wisdom, independent leadership, and integrity to tackling some of the world's greatest challenges. She founded the nonprofit organization Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, which promotes equitable trade, humane practices in the work environment, corporate responsibility, and women's leadership. She has recently been a professor of practice in international affairs at Columbia University, chair of the GAVI Alliance Board to improve children's health around the world, the honorary president of Oxfam International, and honorary chair of the LIVESTRONG Global Cancer Summit.

- **2008: Dr. Francis S. Collins**

The inaugural Inamori Ethics Prize was awarded in 2008 to physician-geneticist Francis S. Collins, who was recognized for his principled leadership of the Human Genome Project. Dr. Collins understood the project's potential for improvement of humankind and fought for those benefits to be shared around the world and not kept secret or controlled by for-profit entities. Noted for his landmark discoveries of disease genes, Dr. Collins serves as the National Human Genome Research Institute Director at the National Institutes for Health, where his laboratory is dedicated to researching rare and common gene-

related diseases. His laboratory has discovered genes responsible for cystic fibrosis, neurofibrosis, Huntington's disease, adult-onset diabetes, and Hutchinson-Gilford syndrome. In 2009, he became the sixteenth director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The process for selecting Inamori Ethics Prize recipients has many layers. Each year, we consider about one hundred nominated candidates for the prize. Researchers at the Inamori Center create short biographies of the candidates, highlighting their accomplishments and the challenges they have overcome. Three committees then intensively review the candidates. When the finalists emerge, they are further reviewed by an ad hoc executive committee and research librarians from Case Western Reserve University's Kelvin Smith Library. A final report is then presented to the university President and Provost, who select the recipient from among the committee's approved finalists. If you would like to nominate someone for the Inamori Ethics Prize, please do so via our website at: <https://case.edu/events/featured-events/inamori-ethics-prize/inamori-ethics-prize-nomination-form>.

As Dr. Kazuo Inamori, whose philosophy guides the mission of the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence, has wisely noted, "Human beings have no higher calling than to serve the greater good of humankind and society." The Inamori Ethics Prize recipients embody the spirit of this message, helping us see what ethical leadership looks like in each of their fields.

Dr. Inamori also reminds us that, "Whether for good or evil, the actions, attitude, and stance of a leader are not limited to that individual alone. They will spread like wildfire throughout the entire group. The group is a mirror reflecting the leader."

Tone comes from the top, and a positive "command climate" is necessary to maintain the values of any organization, from a school to a corporation, to a nation. Please enjoy this issue of the *International Journal of Ethical Leadership*, an annual publication committed to engagement with ethical issues of our day and to the examination and understanding of ethical leadership across cultures.