“PRICING AND ACCESS TO DRUGS
IN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLDS”

ABOUT TODAY’S SPEAKERS

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Topic: “Corporate Responsibility and the AIDS Catastrophe in Sub-Saharan Africa”

Abstract: Firms possessing a unique competency to rescue the victims of a human catastrophe have a minimum moral obligation to devote substantial resources toward best efforts to aid the victims. The minimum amount that firms should devote to rescue is the largest sum of their most recent year’s investment in social initiatives, their five-year trend, their industry’s average, or the national average. Financial exigency may justify a lower level of investment. Alternative social investments may be continued if they have an equally compelling rationale. These duties apply to the global pharmaceutical companies in the context of the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

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Dr. Thomas Dunfee is the Joseph Kolodny Professor of Social Responsibility in Business at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Tom is chair of the Legal Studies and Business Ethics Department. He was Vice Dean responsible for the Wharton Undergraduate Division from 2000-2003. Tom served as president of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business (1989-90), was editor-in-chief of the American Business Law Journal (1975-77), and served as president of the Society for Business Ethics (1995-96).

Tom’s current research interests focus on a social contract-based approach to business and professional ethics and global business ethics. He is the author or editor of several books (e.g., Harvard Business School Press, McGraw-Hill, Prentice-Hall, Wiley, and Kluwer) and has published articles in, among others, the Academy of Management Journal, Academy of Management Review, Business Ethics Quarterly, California Law Review, Economics and Philosophy, Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Marketing, Law and Contemporary Problems, and the Northwestern Law Review. Tom has consulted to a variety of clients (e.g., the United Way of America, GlaxoSmithKline, the Independence Standards Board, McGraw-Hill) and has served as an expert witness in several cases (e.g., General Motors, Honda, Georgia Pacific, and Great Adventure).