THE CONUNDRUM OF TEACHING BUSINESS ETHICS

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This paper discusses the difficulties in teaching of business ethics to business students. It highlights how the complexity of modern business makes it difficult to focus teaching in the area. Two case studies are used to inform development of policy, that of IG Farben and a recent US Supreme Court ruling regarding ‘honest services’. Drawing upon these cases the paper highlights the importance of students to be able to analyse and understand the environments in which they operate. It also suggests that for organisations, ethics should be treated as a structural issue in that an important part of the organisation should be responsible for the monitoring and promoting of business ethics.