

# THE COMPETITIVE PROCESS



## SOCIETAS AWARD FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

**“Good business decisions are rooted in principles at the foundational level ... and a vision of a business as a community of persons.”**

*~ Vocation of the Business Leader (2014)*

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### ***Timetable for the Competition***

- AUGUST ... competition for the biennial award is announced
- APRIL ... entries are due on APRIL 1
- JULY ... entries are judged by an independent panel of experts
- AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ... interviews and videos created for each finalist
- JANUARY ... finalists are announced to the public
- FEBRUARY ... award(s) are presented in February (date TBD) during the luncheon

### ***Entering the Competition***

Companies may be nominated for the SOCIETAS AWARD by anyone contacting the Forum for Ethics in the Workplace and submitting a nomination form (available online here). The Forum will notify any company so nominated and invite submission of an entry to the competition.

### ***Criteria for Evaluation***

Companies competing for the SOCIETAS AWARD will be evaluated on the basis of their work as it relates to three foundational principles of responsible business conduct:

- meeting the needs of the world through the production of goods and services;
- organizing good and productive work; and
- creating sustainable wealth and distributing it justly.

### ***Tool for the Competition***

Companies compete for the SOCIETAS AWARD by submitting a formal entry that includes the following information:

- ✓ page 1 ... the entry **cover sheet** with contact information (*available online here*)
- ✓ page 2 ... an **executive commitment** to responsible conduct in the form of *a letter from the chief executive officer* that quotes directly the company's mission or vision statement
- ✓ pages 3-5 ... a **compelling narrative** of responsible conduct in the form of *"real life" stories* that tell how the company addresses or enacts each of the three foundational business principles (as described below)
- ✓ pages 6-10 (*maximum*) ... any **additional information** that provides *documented support* to the responsible conduct of the company (e.g., awards, testimonials, publications, news stories, customers' letters, etc.)

### ***The "Compelling Narrative"***

The SOCIETAS AWARD encourages companies to tell their own story of responsible business conduct ... *and through this competition to tell that story to others!*

To do so, the company should craft a narrative description of how it addresses or enacts each of the following three principles of responsible business conduct. The narrative can be one master story that includes all three principles, or separate stories for each of the three principles. In either case, the narrative portion of the entry must not exceed three (3) pages.

*NOTE: The narrative may also tell the story through **video(s)**, which must be no longer than ten (10) minutes in total length.*

Each of the following three principles is to be addressed in the narrative portion of the entry. The descriptors listed for each principle are suggested as guides for crafting the story or stories.

(Source: ["Vocation of the Business Leader: A Reflection,"](#) by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2014)

#### **(1) Meeting human NEED**

- ❖ Responsible businesses contribute to the common good by producing goods that are truly good and services that truly serve.
- ❖ Responsible businesses maintain solidarity with the poor by being alert for opportunities to serve deprived and underserved populations and people in need.

#### **(2) Supporting meaningful WORK**

- ❖ Responsible businesses make a contribution to the community by fostering the special dignity of human work.

- ❖ Responsible businesses that embrace subsidiarity provide opportunities for employees to exercise their gifts as they contribute to the mission of the organization.

**(3) Using RESOURCES wisely**

- ❖ Responsible businesses model stewardship of the resources – whether capital, human, or environmental – under their control.
- ❖ Responsible businesses are just in the allocation of benefits to all stakeholders: employees, customers, investors, suppliers, and the community.

***Submission of the Competitive Entry***

Entries for the competition are to be submitted *no later than the day before Thanksgiving*.

Entries should be formatted as a single electronic file (in PDF or WORD format) and submitted via email to:

lore.mcfadden@gmail.com  
 (include “Societas Award” in the subject heading)

Files too large to send by email should be saved to a digital medium (disc or a thumb drive), which should be submitted by mail or delivery service to:

Lore McFadden  
 The Salesian Center for Faith & Culture  
 @ DeSales University  
 2755 Station Avenue  
 Center Valley, PA 18034      610-282-1100 ext. 1244



[www.ethicsforum.org](http://www.ethicsforum.org)

Questions about the competitive process may also be directed to anyone on the Award Committee:

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