About the Authors

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About the Authors

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Waseem Ahmad is human rights professional, with expertise on issues relating to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Over the course of his career, he has worked with various international humanitarian organizations – including the United Nations, Danish Refugee Council and InterAction – to protect and promote the rights of vulnerable populations.

Ahmad has a Master’s Degree from the Institute of the Management Sciences in Peshawar, Pakistan. He was selected by the U.S. Department of State to be a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at American University Washington College of Law during the 2015-16 academic year. During his fellowship, he continued his research and study of human rights, humanitarianism and International Protection.

Dena S. Davis

Dena S. Davis is Professor Emerita of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law (Cleveland State University) and is currently the Presidential Chair in Health (Humanities & Social Sciences) at Lehigh University. She is co-editor (with Laurie Zoloth) of Notes from a Narrow Ridge: Religion and Bioethics and author of Genetic Dilemmas: Reproductive Technology, Parental Choices, and Children’s Futures, as well as numerous articles in bioethics in, e.g., Hastings Center Report, Journal of Medical Ethics, Journal of Clinical Ethics. She has been a visiting scholar at NIH, Brocher Foundation, Arizona State University, and the Brocher Foundation. Dr. Davis is a five-time Fulbright Scholar, in India, Israel, Italy, Indonesia, and Sweden.

Casey Dowdy

Casey Dowdy graduated cum laude from Seattle University School of Law in May 2017. As a law student, she served as the Associate Director
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Paul T. Menzel, PhD, is Professor of Philosophy emeritus at Pacific Lutheran University. He has published widely on moral questions in health economics and health policy, including Prevention vs. Treatment: What’s the Right Balance? Most recently he has written on several end-of-life issues, including advance directives for dementia and voluntarily stopping eating and drinking. He has been a visiting scholar at the Rockefeller Center-Bellagio, the Brocher Foundation (Geneva), and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and in the fall of 2017 he will be at the Monash Bioethics Centre (Melbourne).

Stephen K. Rice

Stephen K. Rice, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Seattle University. His general research interests focus on cooperation and defiance in individuals’ interactions with the justice system. Toward this end, his work has focused on emotions and crime, radicalization, procedural and restorative justice, racial / ethnic profiling (African Americans, Latinos, Muslim Americans), police / community relations (e.g., police officer as “guardian”), narrative criminology, and social media and criminal justice. His publications have appeared in outlets to include Criminology, Justice Quarterly, Deviant Behavior, Policing, the Journal of Quantitative Criminology, and the Harvard Executive Session on Policing and Public Safety. He is also co-editor of Envisioning

Phyllis Shacter

Phyllis Shacter has been a teacher, business consultant, life coach and public speaker. Today she uses all of her skills to share her personal story as a platform to educate others about expanding their own end of life choices. Her book, Choosing to Die, is both a memoir and a guidebook and is the first personal story ever written about VSED (Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking). It is available on Amazon.com. She is a frequent speaker and educator about this topic. Her website is www.PhyllisShacter.com.

Judith Schwarz

Judith Schwarz is a PhD prepared nurse who has provided end of life consultation to terminally and incurably ill patients and their families for more than 15 years. She is a nationally recognized expert in the option of voluntarily stopping eating and drinking, and currently works for End of Life Choices NY, a not-for-profit end of life advocacy and support organization. She previously was employed by Compassion & Choices.

Dr. Schwarz earned a PhD in nursing research at New York University where her dissertation research explored the experience of nurses who were asked by decisionally capable patients for assistance in dying. She continues to lecture and publish frequently on controversial issues in end of life decision making.