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## Messages to Professor Nanda from Some Former Students

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## Messages to Professor Nanda from Some Former Students

### Keywords

International Law: History, Sustainable Development, Sovereignty, Criminal Law, War

*Messages to Professor Nanda from Some Former Students*

Ian B. Bird, JD '76  
*DJILP* Managing Editor 1976

Dear Ved,

It is no small task to remind you of the impact you have had on so many lives. One can point to the enormous body of your scholarly work, your influence on decision-makers the world over, or your impact on human rights law, environmental law, and so many other substantive areas of law. Your vision has created and sustained the world class international law program at DU's College of Law where your teaching has informed, and formed, thousands of students over a couple of generations. You founded the *Denver Journal of International Law & Policy*, which has for four decades given voice to scholars, practitioners and students in many areas of international legal practice. And these are but the tip of the iceberg with respect to your global influence.

And yet, these fantastic accomplishments are only part of the story of your impact. Perhaps your most profound influence has been on your students. That is certainly true in my case. Forty years ago, I arrived at DU knowing only that I wanted a career in "international law" without much understanding of what that might mean or how to achieve that goal. Through you I learned about both. Of course, you taught me what I needed to know about the law. But more, you convinced me that it would really be possible for me to spend my life in the international arena. Your encouragement over the years has helped me achieve my goal. Throughout my years at DU, and in the many years since, you have been a mentor, counselor and friend, offering kind words, sound advice and a warm smile through times of personal and professional challenge.

Since returning to Denver after many years away, it has been deeply gratifying to assist you in developing and implementing plans for the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law. In a small way this lets me return some measure of the great gifts you have given me over the years. Your legacies are many, varied and significant. It is truly my honor to be one of many partners in advancing this one.

This milestone anniversary of the *DJILP* is the perfect occasion to celebrate you and your myriad contributions to the global community. It is also the perfect occasion to offer a simple “thank you” for being such a good and great friend.

With the greatest affection, I am

Yours sincerely, Ian

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Sharon K. Black, JD '95  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief, 1994-1995  
 Alumni Excellence Award Recipient, 2010

Most of us -- at one time or another -- have met someone who impressed us and positively impacted our lives. Ved Nanda does that every day -- for many people.

Many of us also know Professor Nanda as someone whose life and work has made a true difference in the world – benefiting all citizens of Earth. Those of us in Denver are fortunate to call him “one of our own,” to be able watch his example daily, and to have the pleasure of learning from him.

I have known Ved for more than 20 years, since 1991, and seen him work his “magic” in international law. As Editor-in-chief of the Denver Journal of International Law and Policy (1994-1995) and a practicing attorney in international telecommunications law in Colorado, here is some of what I have learned from him over the years:

1. Live with a purpose. Ved lives the words: *“Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope... and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”* Robert F. Kennedy
2. Be gracious and treat all with respect. Talk softly and treat everyone you meet with kindness and caring. Ved does this so well. All who know him have experienced it.
3. Live your message. Be proactive and dive into the “tough” stuff. Where the world is unjust, Ved works to change it. When he sees a need, he doesn't wait for other leaders, but rather asks those he knows to join him, person to person, to find an answer. He lives the phrase: *“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”* Mahatma

*Gandhi*. If everyone joined him in fighting injustice we would make real progress toward humanity.

4. Start now – even if you don’t feel you are ready. Ved lives that: “*Nobody needs to wait a single moment to start improving the world.*” *Anne Frank*, and that: “*There is no time like the present and no present like the time.*” - *James Durst*.
5. Know that everyone can contribute – in both large and small ways. Ved teaches that: “*The world is moved more by the aggregate of each honest worker than the actions of large forces.*” He states that: “*I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.*” He knows that great opportunities do not always come, but small ones surround us every day. These are powerful for all who know him.
6. Use your unique skills. In Ved’s opinion, talent, intelligence, and wisdom are worthwhile only if used for good.
7. Be a teacher in whatever you do. Open doors for those who come behind you. Don’t just share your strengths, but help others to learn their own strengths. Ved believes that sharing never decreases one’s impact.
8. Acknowledge those who help and support you in your work. None of us succeeds alone. Katharine and Anjali Nanda and many others walk with Ved in his work, and each of us has our own families and colleagues who sustain us.
9. Don’t expect always to be recognized or paid for what you do. Ved states that: “*Real joy does not come from the praise of others, but from doing something worthwhile.*” Ved has made a living, lovingly supporting his family in a responsible way, but the fuller measure of his wealth is in what he has given to the world. It is a good lesson for all.
10. Be joyful. Focus on the positive and generous -- not on the deficits. When a snapshot of Ved’s life is taken, eternity will remember him smiling.
11. Work for good in the future; even though you know you will never see the result. Ved encourages us to live life working toward something that will outlast us – to “*plant trees, under whose shade we do not expect to sit.*”

Such great lessons -- Thank you Professor Ved Nanda!

Steven A. Christensen, JD '79  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief 1979

As a former Editor-in-Chief of the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*, it is a great honor to have an opportunity to recall my association with Professor Nanda. Ved Nanda had a literally life-changing hand in my pursuit of a legal career. Ved was not only an excellent professor, but he used his personal time to help direct and tutor students under his supervision. His patience in explaining how to organize the law journal, deal with publishers, engage in soliciting new articles, and deal with occasional "unruly" staff members, was invaluable assistance. During my third year I had to take turns with my wife in watching our baby daughter, Stephanie. Accordingly, Stephanie was present at numerous law school functions, including Myers S. McDougal Distinguished Lectures. Upon my graduation, Professor Nanda had a special diploma printed for Stephanie as an honorary graduate for all of her time spent at the law school. Professor Nanda even took the time to meet and interact with my entire family, including my wife, children, my parents and even my in-laws. In fact, after moving from Colorado, I attempted to keep in contact with Professor Nanda, who was always very obliging, and who made me feel as welcome as if it had only been yesterday that we had seen each other.

My experience with Professor Nanda was so exceptional that I spoke highly of him to my family. Based upon Ved's presence at DU, subsequent to my daughter's graduation from college, as she was exploring different law school options, I made an appointment with Ved and introduced him to my daughter, Karissa Christensen Young. Meeting Ved was sufficient to sway her decision into attending the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. This in itself is not that extraordinary, but, due to my and my daughter's interactions with Professor Nanda, my son, Zachary Christensen, decided to attend DU, and graduated from the Sturm College of Law in 2009. Following Zachary and Karissa's experiences at DU with Professor Nanda, their younger brother, Zane Christensen, also decided to attend the Sturm College of Law, and is currently a 2L. He, too, has enjoyed extended interaction with Professor Nanda.

All hail Ved Nanda!

Ralph B. Lake, JD '73  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief 1972-1973

The *Journal*, like so much of the University of Denver's best, was the brainchild of Ved Nanda. He encouraged, muscled and ordered a group of his acolytes, myself included, to produce the first few issues with money he had scrounged from generous Denverites. These people had no connection with the University other than the kind of personal devotion to Professor Nanda which virtually everyone he touches quickly develops. Our quarters were a section of the basement of the now twice removed law school building. The "walls" were stacks of cardboard boxes from which late night editorial sessions were sometimes interrupted by the unmistakable sounds of rodent scratching. The *Journal* became the most enjoyable aspect of my law school experience. It is a joy to see how it has flourished into a respected and authoritative source of international legal scholarship.

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Katharine K. Nanda, JD '81 & Anjali D. Nanda, JD/MBA '11

We congratulate the *Denver Journal of International Law & Policy* on its 40th Anniversary volume, the first three issues of which are collected in this book. Our husband and father (and yes, our professor), Ved Nanda, has given tirelessly to his students for so many years, in the spirit of his own mentor, Professor Myres S. McDougal. The *Journal* is a testament to his personal impact upon the international lawyers of tomorrow, and this *Festschrift* is a fitting tribute to his passionate commitment to their education and to the cause of world peace and the rule of law.

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William K. Olivier, JD '74  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief 1973

As a world-renowned scholar and expert on international law, Professor Ved P. Nanda is a treasure of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Yet, for all his lofty accomplishments, he is a most humble individual who cares deeply about his students. It was a pleasure to learn international law from Professor Nanda and to work with him on the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*. The thing I remember most about him is, when anyone referred to the *Journal* as the "Denver Journal of International Law" in his presence, he always would add emphatically

"and Policy." Every time I think of or refer to the *Journal*, I always hesitate near the end, smile, emphasize "and Policy," and think about Professor Nanda.

Thanks, Ved. You are the best. I wish you and the *Journal* a long continued life.

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John G. Powell, JD '88  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief, 1987-1988

*Ved's Help*

Since I First Met Ved,

The Berlin wall came down  
 And Ved helped;  
 Bloody tyrants have lost impunity  
 And Ved helped;  
 R2P grows into customary law  
 And Ved helped;  
 A throng learned to work for peace  
 And Ved helped;  
 My grandsons live in a safer world  
 And Ved helped;  
 Thank you so much for your help  
 And, Ved, please keep helping.

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Connie Cox Price, JD '78  
 Benefactor of the Ved Nanda Center for  
 International and Comparative Law

While traveling in India I feel that Ved is everywhere. As I learn more about the history, the culture and Hinduism, I can more fully understand his commitment to education, service and peace. Good thoughts, good words and good deeds: that seems to sum up the basic philosophy. He introduced me to meditation and it is what keeps me grounded, centered and grateful as I navigate life. Ved was the most important person to Jon [Cox, JD 1971, MA 1970] after his father. I feel blessed that our family has had the long and rich relationship with Ved that we have.



Nicole C. Salamander, JD '08  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief, 2007-2008

When deciding where to go to law school, I called the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and inquired about the international law opportunities. The operator transferred me to Professor Nanda's office. I recall talking just briefly with his administrative assistant, who told me that Professor Nanda ran the international law program at DU. When I asked more about Professor Nanda, she said, "well, why don't you talk with him, he's right here." Professor Nanda picked up the phone, and as you can imagine, where I would attend law school was a done deal. Professor Nanda was so informative in that humble and persuasive way that is uniquely his, and so very personable and warm, that I had no chance of resistance. DU it would be!

I am so grateful for that very first conversation with Professor Nanda, and the countless conversations with him that followed. I credit Professor Nanda with laying the foundation for all that is international at DU, including the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*, the Philip C. Jessup International Law moot court team, the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration team, a chapter of Amnesty International, the International Law Society, and of course, the esteemed named lectures and symposia initiated and sustained by Professor Nanda over the years. It is his passion and inspiration that made (and continue to make) these wonderful opportunities possible, and it is his ambition and dedication that have created such a premier international law program at the University of Denver.

The *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*, established by Professor Nanda forty years ago, continues to lead the study and practice of international law with relevant and timely analysis. Some of my best memories from law school come from participating on the DJILP staff: finding sanctuary in the DJILP office, late nights with my best friend (the Bluebook), thought-provoking conversation with other staffers stimulated by an article in review, and hosting our guest lecturers, which was a wonderful way to meet practitioners and leaders in the international legal community. I loved my law school experience, and DU's international law program made all of the difference.

Over the years, I have heard Professor Nanda emphasize the strength and gravity of symbolism. He would pound on the podium and shout, "sym-

bols matter!” And they do. We have flags, mascots, religious icons, gestures, and some would say, certain treaties and international organizations. Symbols communicate, represent, and inspire. This book is a symbol of Professor Nanda’s devotion, intelligence, foresight, and uncanny ability to bring people together. Thank you, Professor Nanda, for who you are and all that you do. Your legacy will far outlast all of us, and your work will continue to guide and encourage students, alumni, practitioners, and scholars throughout the world for many years to come. Through your care and motivation, DU is a meaningful symbol of excellence in all that is international.

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Douglas G. Scrivner, JD '77  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief 1976  
Founding Benefactor of the Ved Nanda Center

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the *Denver Journal of International Law & Policy*, which I had the honor of serving as Editor-in-Chief in the mid-1970s, it is appropriate to reflect on the myriad contributions of its founder and mentor, Ved Nanda, not only to the *Journal* and the Sturm College of Law and the University of Denver but also to international legal studies in the US and around the world.

I had the pleasure of working with Ved throughout my three years at the DU law school from 1974 to 1977, as his student in several classes, as an editor of the *Journal*, as his research assistant, as conference coordinator for a regional meeting of the American Society of International Law he organized in Denver in 1977, and in other capacities over the years.

It was a great pleasure for my wife and me to help create and fund the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law, to institutionalize and perpetuate the influence Ved has had for so long.

To think about Ved's contributions in the traditional academic framework of teaching, scholarship and service is to risk missing much of his impact. But as a teacher, he has touched not only thousands of DU students over almost 45 years but has also, as a visitor and lecturer at institutions and organizations all over the world, brought his excitement and commitment to international law to thousands of others. As a scholar and writer, he has been prolific and wide-ranging, with a portfolio of work that is truly awesome. His service to the law school and to the University (including his stint as Vice Provost for Internationalization, as a result of which DU is a leader in creating international experiences for its undergraduates) are more than matched by his commitment to service through countless societies, as-

sociations, and organizations throughout the world. He has also been a wonderful popularizer and explainer of complex issues to the general public through his periodic columns in the *Denver Post* and elsewhere for many years. And an extraordinary and gracious friend to many.

To the DJILP on its 40th anniversary, congratulations, and to its guiding hand and spirit, our dear friend, Ved Nanda, thank you for *all* you have done for all of us.

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Clayton E. Wire, JD '09  
*DJILP* Editor-in-Chief 2008-2009

The Honor was Kindly Mine

As many other University of Denver Sturm College of Law students, I came to DU because of its excellent International Law curriculum. Of course, there really is no way to mention DU and international law without in the same breath mentioning Ved Nanda. In addition to his wide range of articles, participation in internationally significant events and impact on the evolution of international law as we now know it, Professor Nanda was able to establish and maintain a globally recognized International Law program in Denver, Colorado, of all places. The *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy* and the Nanda Center are truly a testament to the hard work and dedication of Professor Nanda.

During my time at DU I was privileged to serve as the Editor-In-Chief of the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy*. Through my experiences with this excellent and ever evolving journal I was able to gain a much deeper appreciation for all the things Professor Nanda has contributed to our legal community. A poignant example of this is the collection of editorial board pictures in the *Journal's* office, each one portraying Professor Nanda smiling warmly next to a dozen or so young law students. When you look back at the faces of generations of lawyers that Professor Nanda has imbued with a passion for International Law, you realize that he has helped to shape the way that International Law is viewed not only within DU, but also within the American legal community as a whole.

In addition to my time on the *Journal* I was also privileged to enroll in the Capitals of Europe study abroad program at which Professor Nanda taught. During this program we travelled throughout Western Europe visiting various international tribunals and important sites in international law. It was during this trip that I truly became aware of the significant impact that Professor Nanda has had on International Law throughout

the globe. I distinctly remember Professor Nanda being greeted by judges and dignitaries wherever we went. After you see Professor Nanda warmly greeted by yet another Justice from the ICC, you begin to realize that his impact extends far beyond the walls of the Sturm College of Law.

The experiences that I had at the *Denver Journal of International Law and Policy* have and will continue to influence me for the rest of my career. Professor Nanda's respect for life, human rights and peace has left a lasting impression on me. Therefore, on this the 40th Anniversary of the *Journal*, I would like to say to Professor Nanda that "the honor was kindly mine."

Clayton E. Wire

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#### Acknowledgement

The editors pay tribute to and honor the editorial board and staff of the Denver Journal of International Law & Policy, who were so dedicated and who worked so tirelessly to make this anniversary book more than just a reality, but a top quality academic publication. We also acknowledge with deep gratitude the assistance of Ms. Joan Pope, Computer Support, and Ms. Karlyn Shorb, Administrative Director of the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law.