

Board ethics and governance. Is there a plausible link?

It has been suggested by scholars that understanding the cultural dynamics of a board drives improved ethics in governance. People are quickly realizing that it is a fundamental obligation of the board to [oversee the culture](#) and ethics of their organization and for the board itself.

Good governance includes both formal and informal structures and includes processes that establish the framework for a firm's approach to business ethics. It is the board's composition, leadership, and capabilities underpinned by the governance structure that leads a board to make business decisions ethically. The [tone is set at the top](#).

Boards must implement governance structures that strengthen their declared values and behaviors and they must do this through the board's composition and capabilities. This isn't one and done material, as this [Harvard Business Review](#) article suggests. It takes hard work, smart work, and a group of motivated directors.

Great boards come in all shapes and sizes. In my experience, what they have in common is strong leadership, a willingness to change, and the commitment to make a difference in their organizational outcomes- whether profit or service delivery.