

HELLO! SO NICE TO SEE YOU!

For nearly 60 years, Professor Nanda served the University of Denver Sturm College of Law community in immeasurable ways. He was one of the first faculty advisors for the *Denver Law Review*. He founded and advised the *Denver Journal for International Law & Policy* until his passing. He established the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law and the International Legal Studies program, putting a landlocked, Denver-based law school on the map in the field of international law. He contributed prolifically to legal scholarship, authoring and co-authoring over 24 full-length books and 225 book chapters and law review articles. Perhaps more impressive, Professor Nanda taught countless courses relating to international law and international human rights, inspiring the minds of generations.

Throughout his career, Professor Nanda constantly referred to his love for learning alongside his students. And, truly, learning *alongside* his students was his primary teaching style. On the first day of each course Professor Nanda taught, he would tell students they were entering into a contract. He, as the professor, would do the work to understand the material, and they, as the students, would read the assigned material. He did not expect students to memorize facts or perfectly analyze intricately applied law. Rather, he expected students to embrace their curiosity—to come to class armed with questions, a willingness to share, and a desire to reflect on their own related life experiences. His classes were just as much focused on learning from one another as learning about the law.

Both in and outside of the classroom, Professor Nanda embodied community. He prioritized getting to know his students on a personal level, always asking about their families, their backgrounds, and their hopes and dreams for their careers. Many of Professor Nanda's students have similar memories of barging into his office with carefully crafted paper ideas, ready to jump right into a conversation about some complexity of international law. But his reaction was always the same. He would smile, listen for a moment, tell them to sit down, and ask about their lives: "How are you today? How is your family? We have all the time in the world to talk about your paper, I want to hear about you."

Only after Professor Nanda felt that he had a sufficient understanding of who you were as a person, not simply a student, would he allow the conversation to transition towards the academic. He would listen intently, nodding along as you explained your idea or question. He withheld direct criticism, instead favoring questions that inspired new lines of analysis and revealed overlooked nuances in your argument. He provided guidance while simultaneously encouraging you to progress down your own train of thought and independent research trails.

With Professor Nanda's subtle guidance, countless students found confidence in the fact that their voices mattered. Professor Nanda wanted his students to *contribute* to international law, not merely summarize it. As a result, his students wrote papers that often contributed new and diverse perspectives to the field of international law. Conversations with Professor Nanda left students feeling proud of how much they knew, not smaller for how much they still had to learn. He truly believed that the unique experiences of his students deserved platforms. Platforms that he spent the vast majority of his career building to be as solid and sturdy as possible.

Professor Nanda never failed to bring lightness and humor to a conversation. On one occasion, a student asked how he planned to grade their papers, and he responded, "I think I will throw the stack of papers down the stairs. Whoever's paper gets to the floor first gets the A!" He often joked about the elitism surrounding international law, coining the phrase "world peace over wine and cheese" to tease the fancy events hosted in beautiful cities where the international law community made decisions with monumental human rights implications.

Professor Nanda was a fierce protector of human rights and advocated for an international rule of law. He held onto hope as his guiding light and encouraged his students to do the same. He never shied away from seeing conflicts or hardships for what they were, but was also the first to squash pessimistic and unproductive conversations. He helped students refocus how they looked at problems—to not only look at the now, but also at the progress that has been made and just how much more the world is capable of. And he helped students identify their role in the development of a more inclusive and just global community.

Professor Nanda's legacy and contributions to the world will persist for generations—through his scholarship, his students, his friends, his family, and in how we choose to honor him. To know Professor Nanda was to be enthusiastically welcomed. His kindness knew no bounds, extending to people all over the globe. His hope for a better world never faltered. To honor him as we progress in our lives and careers, we must welcome community; we must be kind, be curious, be open; we must laugh and never take life too seriously; and most importantly, we must embrace our voice and fiercely hold on to the hope that, together, we too can leave the world a bit better than how we found it.

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