December 12, 1994

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This project would: 1) draw from the history and experience of the IEEE and other major engineering societies to assist the IEEE and the ACM in fostering an orientation toward individual responsibility and professionalism among software specialists. It would be directed to software specialists, whether they have been trained in engineering, computer science, another college major, or in companies. 2) study the various technical procedures and standards which have been and are being proposed and tested to determine whether some have been or can be adopted or recommended by professional societies as options for improving quality, reliability, and safety. 3) study the codes of ethics of IEEE, ACM, and other engineering societies to see whether they are adequate or how they might be supplemented to meet the needs of software specialists. (4) study the legal environment in which producers of software operate to see what legal resources presently exist to support the aims of 1), 2), and 3) above and what new measures might be considered. The project will seek ways to overcome any tensions between the approaches of engineering and computer science to training and between the role of technical methods and ethical standards in promoting appropriate standards of care.

Vivian Weil

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Barry Boelin

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