The following debate topic is adapted from *Ethics for the Information Age*, 2nd edition, by Michael J. Quinn.

**Work and Wealth**

A multinational corporation has an office in Palo Alto, California and an office in Bangalore, India. A 21-year-old American computer science graduate works as a software tester at the Palo Alto office. A 21-year-old Indian computer science graduate has an identical position at the Bangalore office. The American earns $65,000 per year in salary and benefits; the Indian earns $15,000 per year in salary and benefits.

Pro Group: Argue that this arrangement is appropriate, ethical, and necessary in today’s business environment, and it would be unethical to pay both employees the same salary.

Con Group: Argue that this arrangement is not ethical, and that the ethical action is for the company to give equal pay and benefits for equal work.

Jury: Decide which group, Pro or Con, has the most persuasive *ethical* argument. Base your evaluation in terms of how well the group has determined and explained:

1. The risks, issues, problems, and consequences of the decision
2. Who the people and organizations involved are (the stakeholders)
3. The rights of the stakeholders, and how the decision will affect them
4. The consequences, risks, benefits, harms, and costs of the decision
5. Sections from the Software Engineering or ACM Code of Ethics that apply to this situation.
6. The decision as ethically obligatory, ethically prohibited, or ethically acceptable, according to the guidelines from the Codes.