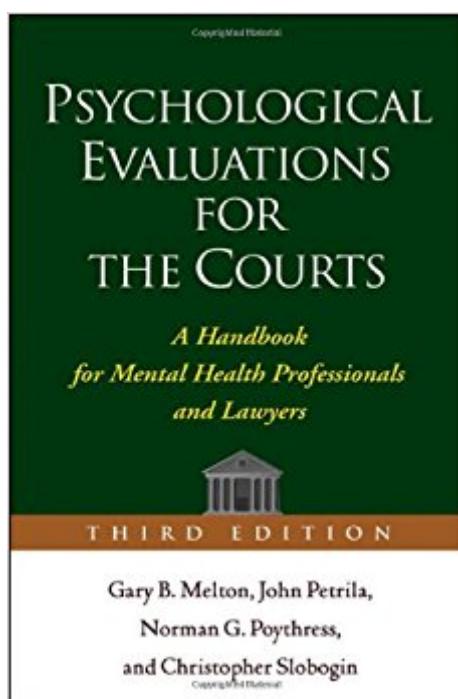


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# Psychological Evaluations For The Courts, Third Edition: A Handbook For Mental Health Professionals And Lawyers



## **Synopsis**

This is the definitive reference and text for both mental health and legal professionals. The authors offer a uniquely comprehensive discussion of the legal and clinical contexts of forensic assessment, along with best-practice guidelines for participating effectively and ethically in a wide range of criminal and civil proceedings. Presented are findings, instruments, and procedures related to criminal and civil competencies, civil commitment, sentencing, personal injury claims, antidiscrimination laws, child custody, juvenile justice, and more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"This is the rarest of psychology books--an encyclopedic synthesis that fully serves both academic and practical interests. The sample reports alone are worth the purchase price to a practitioner, and the case law commentary should stimulate much research. During my testimony, I often disagree that any treatise is authoritative, but Psychological Evaluations for the Courts comes closest to getting my nod."--Manfred F. Greiffenstein, PhD, ABPP-CN, Psychological Systems, Inc., Royal Oak, Michigan

"This outstanding work belongs on every mental health expert's shelf. It is the best forensic assessment book on the market, and the best available text for preparing for board certification examinations."--Paul R. Lees-Haley, PhD, ABPP, private practice, Huntsville, Alabama

"Melton et al. have done it again...and again. This third edition upholds the book's undisputed standing as the single, indispensable reference for forensic mental health examiners, students in forensic training programs, and attorneys. Thoroughly revised, it retains concepts of enduring value to the field while incorporating the most important advances in forensic assessment over the last 10

years."--Thomas Grisso, PhD, Department of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School "One of those rare books for which 'must read' is an understatement. Even more than its predecessors, this edition deserves ovations for combining cutting-edge science, exceptional clinical insight, and outstanding legal acumen. The platinum standard for forensic best practice has just arrived."--John Monahan, PhD, John S. Shannon Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Virginia"As good as the previous editions were, this third edition is even better. Its lucid exposition of legal issues, combined with sophisticated discussion of assessment approaches and ethical concerns, make it an invaluable companion for forensic mental health professionals and trainees of all disciplines. One of the few indispensable references for forensic mental health practice."--Paul S. Appelbaum, MD, Elizabeth K. Dollard Professor of Psychiatry, Medicine, and Law, Columbia University"The release of the third edition of Psychological Evaluations for the Courts will ensure it remains the authoritative reference in the field for years to come. This is a truly indispensable volume that both embodies and establishes the state of the discipline. Its breadth of coverage is unmatched by any other book, and each topic is analyzed critically and in exacting detail. The quality of psycholegal scholarship is, quite simply, awesome. For educators, this book can serve as the single required text for virtually any graduate or postgraduate training program in forensic psychology. It is also an excellent practice guide for those already working in the field."--Stephen D. Hart, PhD, Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University, Canada"An authoritative text in the field of forensic psychology." (International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology 2007-09-20)"A great resource for practicing psychologists and graduate students preparing for mental health practice....This is a highly recommended resource for mental health professionals who will inevitably be in contact with the legal system." (The Master's Advocate 2007-09-20)"This encyclopedic text continues to stand out as an indispensable and authoritative reference work....One of the text's enduring strengths is its dual emphasis on ethics and empiricism....This text serves as a wide-ranging reference tool and a mechanism to survey the broader field, including everything from expert testimony admissibility and outpatient commitment to special education and anti-discrimination laws...Belongs on the bookshelf of every forensic psychology practitioner and mental health lawyer." (National Psychologist 2007-09-20)"Offers a comprehensive discussion of forensic assessment along with best practice guidelines for psychological evaluations in a wide range of criminal and civil proceedings." (Juvenile and Family Court Journal 2007-09-20)"This is an exceptional compendium of issues in forensic psychology....The critical aspects of forensic psychology are covered laudably. With new case law, changing statutes, and innovative research, this third edition is a worthwhile update....4 Stars!"

(Doody's Review Service 2007-09-20)"If you perform forensic evaluations for a living, you need this book." (Journal of Psychiatric Practice 2007-09-20)

Gary B. Melton, PhD, is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life at Clemson University, and a fellow in the Centre for Psychology and Law at the University of the Free State in South Africa. He is a past president of Childwatch International, the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the American Psychology–Law Society, and the American Psychological Association (APA) Division of Child, Youth, and Family Services. He is the recipient of three APA Distinguished Scientific Contribution Awards (for Psychology in the Public Interest, Public Service, and International Advancement of Psychology), among many other honors for his research and public service. The author of more than 300 publications, Dr. Melton has traveled in more than 40 countries, in most cases for research, consultation, or lecturing; his work has been cited by U.S. courts at all levels; and he has been an advisor to the U.S. Attorney General and the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child. Dr. Melton served as vice-chair of the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect and as national vice-president of Parents Anonymous, and he was a member of panels of the National Academy of Sciences on mistreatment of older adults and on training of health professionals about family violence. John Petrila, JD, LLM, is a professor in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy at the University of South Florida. He served as chair of the Department from 1992 to 2004. He has also been General Counsel to the New York State Office of Mental Health and Director of Forensic Services in the Missouri Department of Mental Hygiene. Mr. Petrila is past president of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services and a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mandated Community Treatment. He has published widely on mental health law and policy issues. He is the coeditor of the journal Behavioral Sciences and the Law, the coeditor of Mental Health Services: A Public Health Perspective, and a coauthor of The Effectiveness of Involuntary Outpatient Treatment, the RAND Institute's study on the effectiveness of outpatient civil commitment. Norman G. Poythress, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy at the University of South Florida. He is a past president of the American Psychology–Law Society and was the 1990 recipient of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Forensic Psychology. Dr. Poythress has served as a consultant to two MacArthur Foundation Research Networks, and his own research has been funded by the MacArthur Foundation and the National Institute of Mental Health. He previously served as an expert panelist in the development of a benchbook for

psychological evidence, a project of the American Bar Association's Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law, and he recently served on a committee of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, that developed recommendations regarding ethical guidelines for research involving prisoners as participants. Christopher Slobogin, JD, LLM, is the Milton Underwood Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University Law School. In the early 1980s Mr. Slobogin helped establish Virginia's outpatient forensic evaluation system as Director of the University of Virginia's Forensic Evaluation Center and also directed a legal aid program at a state mental hospital. Coauthor of *Law and the Mental Health System*, the leading law school textbook on mental health law, he has authored over 40 articles and books on that subject. He has served as chair of the Law and Mental Disability Section of the American Association of Law Schools, reporter for the American Bar Association's Standards on the Insanity Defense, coreporter for the ABA's Resolution on Mental Disability and the Death Penalty, and editor/reviewer for several professional journals. Phillip M. Lyons, Jr., JD, PhD, is Professor of Criminal Justice and an affiliate faculty member with the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at Sam Houston State University. He is also the Executive Director of the Texas Regional Center for Public Safety Innovation. Before graduate and law school, Dr. Lyons worked as a peace officer in the Houston area. When he left full-time law enforcement, he was a detective specializing in crimes involving children. His academic interests lie largely in the areas of public policy that affect children and law enforcement policy, with the aim of promoting inclusiveness, community engagement, and social support. He currently serves on the American Psychological Association's ad hoc Committee on Legal Issues. Randy K. Otto, PhD, is an associate professor in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy at the University of South Florida. He also serves as adjunct faculty at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida, and in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling at the University of South Florida. Dr. Otto's research, writing, and practice focus on forensic psychological assessment, and he has served as president of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, the American Psychology-Law Society, and the American Board of Forensic Psychology. He chaired the Committee on Legal Issues of the American Psychological Association and currently spearheads the committee revising the Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychologists, which are published jointly by Division 41 of the American Psychological Association and the American Board of Forensic Psychology.

As any student can attest, having a reliable resource to refer back to is not only important, but

invaluable at times. I was preparing for some summer courses and decided to get this text because it sounded perfect for those courses. As it turns out, its perfect for just about any forensic course! I just started a course dedicated to the evaluation and treatment of offenders and I am already using it more than the class text. There is so much information, and it covers so many topics with just enough depth to provide the answers you're looking for. I would also highly recommend the Kindle version (which you can also use on your Mac if you get the Mac Kindle app). Although you can still make notes/highlight in the hard copy, why add another cumbersome book to your load when you don't have to? Keep it electronic, highlight and notate all you want. I have an iPad and a Mac computer and the kindle app transfers those notes/highlights back and forth. At the end of the day, whether you get the electronic copy or the hardback, this book is definitely worth the cost!

I'm new to the forensic arena. I was solicited to help with a unique criminal case involving a clinical area in which I have a lot of expertise, but didn't have forensic experience. I needed help with report writing (formatting, wording) and an overall crash course in dealing with the legal system from this perspective. I purchased several books, and this one by far was the most helpful in meeting my needs as a novice in this area.

Needed for my latest graduate course. I was able to get this book in a "used-good" listed condition with the shipped product looking brand spanking new! (The seller name is innubibus2000). I'm impressed by the content and quality of this text, and will be gladly adding it to my library once this course is complete. I have no doubt I will be referencing it throughout my career.

I used this book to prepare for cross examination as an expert witness and I received a commendation from the Judge at the conclusion. This book is amazing and any forensic psychologist would benefit hugely from it.

I am not a forensic psychologist and when I get court related questions this book has proven invaluable. This is my second copy of the book -- other psychologists were frequently borrowing it just when I wanted to quickly look up something.

This is the smartest book you can buy, if you're looking to supplement your class textbooks. It is not only helpful in one particular subject in Forensic Psychology, but you'll find this book to be very useful in all your studies of forensic psychology. This book can be utilized not just during your

coursework at school, but I believe it will come in handy during your career as well. You'll definitely get your monies worth.

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