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About the Editor-in-Chief

Patricia A. Zapf, PhD, is a forensic psychologist who has made significant contributions to the fields of forensic psychology, law, and mental health training. She currently serves as vice president for business innovation and strategic advancement at Palo Alto University, where she works to strengthen academia's impact through innovative business strategies.

Dr. Zapf obtained her PhD in clinical forensic psychology from Simon Fraser University in Canada. She began her career in 1999 at the University of Alabama as an assistant professor in the law and psychology doctoral program. In 2002, she moved to John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she developed and directed their clinical forensic psychology doctoral program. In 2009, she founded CONCEPT Professional Training, which was acquired by Palo Alto University in 2018 to become the Division of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Throughout her career, Dr. Zapf has established herself as a leading authority in forensic psychology, particularly in competency to stand trial and forensic evaluation. Her research and practice have significantly influenced how mental health professionals conduct competency evaluations and have helped shape field standards.

As a prolific scholar, Dr. Zapf has authored and coauthored numerous publications, including her fundamental work, *Best Practices in Forensic Mental Health Assessment: Evaluation of Competence to Stand Trial*, coauthored with Ronald Roesch. She has served as associate editor for *Law and Human Behavior* and editor of the American Psychology–Law Society book series, and she currently serves as editor of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services book series.

Her expertise extends beyond academia into practical training and professional development. Through CONCEPT and Palo Alto University, she has developed comprehensive training programs for forensic mental health professionals worldwide, conducting workshops on forensic evaluation, expert testimony, and risk assessment.

Dr. Zapf's contributions have earned significant recognition. She served as president of the American Psychology–Law Society (Division 41 of the American Psychological Association) and was named both a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a distinguished member of the American Psychology–Law Society in 2006. She has consulted with various legal and mental health organizations and served as an expert witness in numerous cases.

Throughout her career, Dr. Zapf has remained committed to improving forensic mental health assessments through research, training, and professional development. Her work continues to influence new generations of forensic mental health professionals and shape practice standards in forensic psychology.

About the Associate Editors

Apryl A. Alexander, PsyD, is the Metrolina Distinguished Scholar in Health and Public Policy and associate professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She also is the director of the UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Florida Institute of Technology with concentrations in forensic psychology and child and family therapy. Her research and practice focus on violence and victimization, forensic assessment, sexual offending and human sexuality, and trauma-informed and culturally informed practice. Dr. Alexander is the recipient of several early-career research awards, including the American Psychological Association (APA) Early Career Achievement Award (2017), the APA Section on Child Maltreatment Early Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research (2017), the APA Early Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Benefit Children, Youth, and Families (2019), and the 2019 Michele Alexander Early Career Award for Scholarship and Service from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI; 2019). Dr. Alexander has also received numerous accolades for her teaching and mentoring of students, including the Early Career Award for Teaching and Mentorship in the Field of Psychology and Law from the American Psychology–Law Society (2022), Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award from SPSSI (2022), and the Section on Child Maltreatment Award for Outstanding Teaching, Training and Mentoring from the Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice (2024). Dr. Alexander has been interviewed by numerous media outlets about her research and advocacy work, including the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Essence*, the *New York Times*, and NBC Nightly News. As a result, she has received honors for her community engagement and legislative advocacy, including the Lorraine Williams Greene Award for Social Justice from APA Division 18 (Psychologists in Public Service; 2021), the Marion Langer Award, Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice (2021), the Social Justice in Psychology Award from the Rocky Mountain Humanistic Counseling and Psychological Association (2022), the Evelyn Hooker Award for Distinguished Contribution by an Ally, Society for the Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity (2023), and the Karl F. Heiser Presidential Award for Advocacy from the APA (2024). Dr. Alexander is also a Fellow of the APA (Divisions 9 and 37) and the Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse. Visit Dr. Alexander's website (<https://www.AprylAlexander.com/>) for more information on her current work and accolades.

Tarika Daftary-Kapur, PhD, is a professor of justice studies at Montclair State University and is associated faculty with the doctoral program in clinical psychology. She is the codirector of the Legal Decision Making Lab at Montclair (<https://www.msudecisionmakinglab.com/>). Her research is focused on adolescent decision making and legal competencies, decision-making process of legal actors across various adjudicative contexts, and sentencing reform focused on the resentencing and reentry of individuals sentenced to extreme sentences as youth. Her work on recidivism risk in persons released from life sentences for crimes committed as youth has garnered national attention, and she has testified before the legislatures of several states with respect to proposed second-chance legislation for youth, as well as consulted on several cases of individuals seeking resentencing. She has worked with multiple jurisdictions around the United States on reforming their youth justice systems. Dr. Daftary-Kapur's research has been funded by several organizations, including The National Institute of Justice, The American Bar Endowment, The Vital Projects Fund, Inc., the American Psychology–Law Society, the Spencer Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. She is on the editorial board of *Law and Human Behavior* and has served on several committees for the American Psychology–Law Society and on grant review panels for the National Science Foundation.

Amanda M. Fanniff, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at Palo Alto University. Dr. Fanniff received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Arizona. She completed her clinical internship at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Mental Health Law and Policy at the University of South Florida. Her research primarily focuses on forensic mental health assessment, legal system processing, and the impact of sociocultural identities. One line of this research specifically focuses on best practices in conducting culturally informed forensic mental health assessments. Relatedly, she engages in research focused on how the field of forensic psychology is incorporating sociocultural factors into our research designs. Another line of research focuses on disparities in legal system processing, including how people with different sociocultural identities are perceived by legal system actors and how processing decisions and outcomes differ. She is on the editorial board for *Sexual Abuse*, the journal of the Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse. She is a committee member for the American Psychology–Law Society and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, as well as the American Psychology–Law Society Appointed Representative to the Forensic Psychology Specialty Board of the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology.

Diane Sivasubramaniam, PhD, is professor and chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences at Swinburne University. She co-leads the Society in the Loop Research Program in Swinburne University's Social Innovation Research Institute. Diane was awarded her PhD from the University of New South Wales in 2006. Before moving to Swinburne University, she completed postdoctoral fellowships at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Barnard College, Columbia University, and was an assistant professor at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (now Ontario Tech University) in Canada. Diane's research focuses on the social psychology of procedural and distributive justice, with applications in jury decision making, interrogations, and law enforcement technologies. Her work has been funded by several international bodies, including

the Australian Research Council, Australian Red Cross, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, American Psychology–Law Society (AP-LS), Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration, Victorian Legal Services Board, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Diane has held various leadership roles in the AP-LS, including as cochair for the 2012 AP-LS conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and cochair of the Minority Affairs Committee (now BRIDGE). She has also served the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law as national secretary. Diane is currently an associate editor of *Law and Human Behavior*.

Introduction

DEFINITION, BREADTH, AND IMPORTANCE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

With significant new and updated content across two volumes and more than 40 chapters, this second edition of the *APA Handbook of Forensic Psychology* seeks further understanding of a complex and evolving field. Forensic psychology denotes the application of science and practice of psychology to law and legal systems. The science of forensic psychology applies basic psychological theory and research methods from diverse psychological perspectives to address issues of relevance to law, legal practice, and law-related policy. Some academic programs use the name forensic psychology to refer to the narrow application of clinical psychology to the legal setting, but contemporarily, forensic psychology is broadly defined with respect to psychological perspectives. The diverse psychological approaches influence both the research and practice of forensic psychologists.

For example, clinical psychological approaches advance our understanding of the relation between psychological disorders, symptoms, and criminal behavior and the extent to which psychological evaluations can help determine risk of dangerousness or recidivism. In practice, clinical psychologists may conduct forensic psychological evaluations relevant to criminal and civil litigation, addressing such issues as competence (e.g., to stand trial, to fulfill responsibilities as a parent or guardian), or provide psychological treatment in forensic settings, such as juvenile detention centers and prisons. The cognitive psychological approach has improved our understanding of processes that impact legal system outcomes, such as the workings of eyewitness memory, the impact of interrogation techniques, and how cognitive processes and biases impact forensic evaluators and other legal system actors. In practice, cognitive psychologists have assisted police departments and commissions with developing guidelines for improving interview techniques and eyewitness identification tests; they also may serve as expert witnesses on the psychology of eyewitness memory. The developmental psychological approach has improved our knowledge of children's abilities and limitations in court proceedings, such as their ability to accurately recall details of their interactions with adults, their ability to tell the difference between true and fabricated details, and their susceptibility to social influence. In practice, developmental psychologists have been involved in establishing protocols for interviewing children in criminal investigations and recommending accommodations associated with children's testimony in court. The social psychological approach has led to advances in our understanding of the

functioning of juries and the nature of social influence in criminal investigations (e.g., suspect interrogations, eyewitness identification procedures). In practice, social psychologists may work as trial consultants, assisting attorneys with preparing for trial and selecting juries, and they may also testify as expert witnesses on the psychology of interrogation and false confession or eyewitness identification. The biological–psychological approach (or neuropsychological approach) has contributed to our understanding of the physiological and neuropsychological correlates of deception in criminal contexts and the contribution of neuropsychological disorders to deviant behavior and criminal competencies. In practice, physiological psychologists may serve as consultants or expert witnesses in cases involving the polygraph. Those with clinical neuropsychology training may conduct neuropsychological assessments to provide information used in forensic mental health evaluations (e.g., competency, mitigation). The industrial–organizational approach has sharpened our understanding of workplace issues that have legal implications, such as employment discrimination and sexual harassment. In practice, industrial–organizational psychologists may be involved in personnel selection and training, may help employers develop effective policies and procedures addressing legal issues, and may serve as consultants and expert witnesses in civil cases involving discrimination and harassment.

Like the first edition, the vision for the second edition of the *APA Handbook of Forensic Psychology* was to consolidate and advance knowledge about the scientific foundations and practical application of psychology to law, the practice of law, and law-related policy. Drawing upon contemporary psychological research and practice, a thorough, up-to-date, and far-reaching reference on forensic psychological issues that are important to researchers, practitioners and students in psychology, other social sciences and practice disciplines, and law is provided.

Forensic psychology has become a highly important area of psychology. Psychological knowledge is now regularly used in trial, appellate, and supreme court cases at state and federal levels and is used to craft law on relevant topics. Psychologists routinely provide testimony about criminal defendants, litigants, and psychological issues in trial courts. Psychological knowledge finds its way into amicus briefs submitted to appellate and supreme courts. For example, since 1962, the American Psychological Association has submitted nearly 250 amicus briefs on topics such as abortion, child abuse, competency, death penalty, duty to warn, expert witnesses, eyewitness identification, false confession, insanity defense, juvenile sentencing, the rights of mentally ill, residential treatment, sexual harassment, child custody, and validity of psychological tests (American Psychological Association, 2024). Forensic psychology is now a common course in undergraduate programs, and master's and doctoral programs that focus on forensic psychology training have been established. Several professional organizations represent forensic psychology, including the American Psychology–Law Society (AP-LS; Division 41 of the American Psychological Association), the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services (IAMFHS), as well as professional organizations in Europe and elsewhere. Forensic psychology is also well-represented in publications. Several scientific and legal journals are entirely devoted to forensic psychology research and practice. These journals include *Law and Human Behavior*; *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*; *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*; *Legal and Criminological Psychology*; *Psychology, Crime & Law*; and *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*. A search of Google Scholar for forensic psychology

books reveals far too many pages of book references to summarize. In sum, forensic psychology is a vital and thriving subfield of psychology. Forensic psychology has also captured the public's attention, as evidenced by its popularity in contemporary television shows (e.g., *CSI* shows, *Law & Order*, *Lie to Me*, *Criminal Minds*), movies (e.g., *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Black Swan*), and literary fiction (e.g., *The Runaway Jury*), and nonfiction (e.g., *Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us* and *Mindhunter: Inside the FBI's Elite Serial Crime Unit*).

The first edition of this handbook was published in 2015. Since that time social, cultural, and political events have shaped the evolution of the field of forensic psychology toward a greater awareness and understanding of the importance of sociocultural identities and differences and the resulting structural and systemic impacts. In the current political climate, it would be remiss to publish a handbook purporting to provide a broad overview of the current state of the field of forensic psychology without an examination of the impact of sociocultural identities on systemic inequities and structural differences. Additionally, scientific knowledge of the impact of our unavoidable and usually unconscious biases has grown substantially, ranging from adaptive cognitive heuristics that may lead us astray to implicit biases ingrained by being raised in a culture that privileges whiteness, masculinity, physical ability, and other identity-related sources of power. Finally, the massive expansion of the use of technology in each field described above, from the use of videoconferencing for evaluations to the impact of machine learning on biases in hiring decisions, necessitated infusing recognition of the role of technology throughout the text. This second edition of the *APA Handbook of Forensic Psychology* thus updates and expands on the first edition, with a focus on substantive areas that have become a focus of the field since the first edition was published, including discussions of sociocultural identities and systemic inequities, bias, and technology and how these have impacted various areas within the field of forensic psychology.

CONTENTS AND FORMAT OF THE SECOND EDITION

Like the first edition, the second edition of the *APA Handbook of Forensic Psychology* is divided into two volumes, each of which is divided into three parts, containing entries on contemporary science and practice issues that together comprehensively represent the field of modern forensic psychology.

The first volume represents individual and situational influences in criminal and civil contexts. The first part of Volume 1, "Forensic Evaluation and Treatment in Criminal Cases," showcases the application of clinical psychological science to criminal cases. This section contains the following chapters: Forensic Mental Health Assessment; Advances in Forensic Assessment Instruments; Risk Assessment and Communication; Legal Insanity and *Mens Rea* Defenses; Criminal Competencies; Competence Restoration; Mental Health Treatment of Criminal Offenders; Capital Case Considerations; Applications of Technology in Forensic Mental Health Assessment; Cognitive Bias in Forensic Evaluation and Treatment; and Forensic Applications of the *DSM-5* Alternative Model for Personality Disorders. This section is the heart of clinical forensic psychology within the criminal context because it addresses core topics in which clinical forensic psychologists have conducted research for years and have made valuable contributions to legal practice and policy.

The second part of Volume 1, “Individual and Situational Predictors of Criminal Behavior,” articulates theories of criminal behavior and the roles of risk factors and context on criminal behavior among specific offender groups. The chapters in this section include Criminal Behavior; Psychopathy; Substance Use and Crime; Sexual Offending; Intimate Partner Violence; and Gun Violence and Mass Shootings. These chapters articulate the interplay between individual and situational factors in crime and offending.

The third part of Volume 1, “Applications of Forensic Psychology in Civil Cases,” highlights the application of clinical psychological science to various aspects of the civil justice system. The chapters in this section include Child Custody and Access; Personal Injury and Other Tort Matters; Employment Discrimination; Civil Competencies; and Immigration Proceedings. These chapters describe the contributions of clinical science to the evaluation of individuals who have been injured by the negligence or misconduct of others or who are involved in family court, guardianship, or immigration as well as in employment settings.

The second volume of the handbook represents the state of the field with respect to criminal investigation, adjudication, and sentencing outcomes. The first part of Volume 2, “Victim and Offender Groups,” describes issues that are relevant to specific groups of individuals. The chapters in this section include Children as Witnesses, Youth Involved in the Legal System, Older Adults and the Legal System, Criminal Justice–Involved Women, Race and Ethnicity in the Justice System, and Sexual and Gender Identities and the Legal System. These chapters provide in-depth reviews of the justice-related challenges facing specific subpopulations, including children, older adults, and members of minoritized groups, in the various capacities in which they may be involved in the legal system (e.g., as victims, witnesses, or defendants).

The second part of Volume 2, “Criminal Investigations and Jury Trials,” addresses the role of forensic psychology in modern investigation and trial procedures. The chapters in this section include Investigative Psychology, Eyewitness Memory, Deception Detection, Confessions, Jury Decision Making, Media and the Law, Procedural Justice, and Law Enforcement and Policing. These chapters examine how cognitive and social psychological research have been used to enhance our understanding of the quality of evidence and the effectiveness of techniques that are used to obtain evidence (e.g., the accuracy of eyewitness testimony and how various line-up techniques affect eyewitness identification accuracy).

The third part of Volume 2, “Sentencing and Incarceration,” addresses the forensic psychological issues that are involved in postconviction outcomes. The chapters in this section cover Specialty Courts; Plea Bargaining; Community Corrections, Probation, and Parole; Sentencing; the Nature and Effects of Prison Overcrowding; and the Death Penalty. These chapters focus on the impact of various courts and detention environments on the recidivism, health, and well-being of sentenced individuals.

In sum, these volumes comprise a comprehensive set of chapters that represent the core of contemporary forensic psychology and the diverse psychological approaches to our exciting and growing subdiscipline of psychology. We aim to articulate the foundational science and implications of forensic psychology for law, legal practice, and law-related policy. Science and practice issues are a focus in each chapter as are issues of sociocultural identities, bias, technology, and systemic inequities.

To maintain the cohesiveness of the handbook's chapters and ensure that each chapter addresses the core topics of interest, a common set of first-level headings is used (with rare exceptions):

- Importance of the Problem
- Relevant Psychological Theory and Principles
- Research and Case Law Review
- Practice and Policy Issues
- Sociocultural Identities and Systemic Inequities
- Summary and Conclusions

In selecting these headings, the attempt was to strike a balance between obtaining the benefits of a common heading structure and minimizing the constraints that may reduce the informativeness of the chapters. This system of headings was chosen because each chapter contains important content under each heading and because the headings serve as a familiar and standard guide for our readers. Each chapter addresses at least one important contemporary societal problem that is addressed in forensic psychology, and each chapter topic draws on theory from one or more core areas of psychology. Each chapter has a rich set of empirical research and case law from which to draw in a research review and addresses a topic that has relevance for the practice of psychology, policy, and/or law and each chapter has a contribution to make to our overall understanding of the impact of sociocultural identities on systemic inequities and/or structural differences. Authors have exercised their flexibility to add more structure through content-specific second- and third-level headings.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SECOND EDITION

As with the first edition, the selection of chapter authors for the second edition of this handbook represents the diversity of forensic psychology researchers and practitioners. Many of these authors are university professors with active research agendas. Some of these university professors also actively practice forensic psychology. Other authors are full-time practicing psychologists. Practicing psychologists include licensed clinical psychologists who perform forensic evaluations in legal settings or offer psychological treatment to forensic populations. Others are nonclinical psychologists who offer some combination of research services, consultation, and expert psychological testimony. The combination of research and consulting provides numerous benefits to the field of forensic psychology. Psychologists provide valuable services throughout the legal sectors, as explained in these chapters, and the legal environments in which psychologists practice contribute significantly to the research agendas. The practice experiences open our eyes to new research questions and sometimes provide an environment—including unique forensic populations—in which we conduct our research.

The field of forensic psychology has always been—and continues to be—a friendly, nurturing environment for graduate students and early career psychologist researchers and practitioners. Their voices are well represented at forensic psychology conferences and in forensic psychology publications. This handbook is no exception. Although many of our authors are well-established and internationally recognized scholars and practitioners, many others are graduate students and early career psychologists who

are being mentored by their more established and experienced advisors and colleagues. We are proud to represent all these voices in the pages of this handbook, for there is no better way to ensure the continuity and prosperity of our exciting field than to nurture the younger generations of researchers and practitioners and include them in setting the directions of forensic psychology.

AUDIENCE

The second edition of this handbook should be useful to a variety of readers. Experienced researchers and practitioners, early-career psychologists, and graduate students who are already steeped in forensic psychology or aspire to pursue careers in forensic psychology will benefit from up-to-date reviews of the many important forensic psychology topics covered in this handbook. Legal practitioners such as lawyers and judges who see the application of psychology in their legal work may use this handbook to gain a more in-depth understanding of the psychological foundations for the issues they face, the resolved and unresolved research questions, and the various ways in which psychology can be applied to their profession.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I express my highest appreciation to my extremely competent and hardworking team of associate editors—Apyrl A. Alexander, Tarika Daftary-Kapur, Amanda M. Fanniff, and Diane Sivasubramaniam—each of whom brings a unique perspective to the field of forensic psychology. In addition, as an editorial team, we would like to thank you, the many authors and coauthors represented in these chapters, and the APA Publications team for their efforts to bring this volume from concept to publication. We are fortunate to have colleagues across the board who are highly competent, giving of their time and expertise, and driven to educate the above-noted audiences about forensic psychology. We thank our university colleagues who support our scholarly and educational agendas that include publication of this handbook. Finally, we thank our family members who granted us the time needed (including the overtime needed) to complete this work.

—Patricia A. Zapf,
Editor-in-Chief

—Apyrl A. Alexander
Tarika Daftary-Kapur
Amanda M. Fanniff
Diane Sivasubramaniam
Associate Editors

Reference

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