

Does the Supreme Court Care About Mental Health Issues?

Mental health professionals frequently make assertions about legal issues based on their psychological expertise and expect that the laws should merely follow the research and practice to which they testify. Frequently, mental health professionals will conflate such matters as psychosis, limited intellect or brain impairment with legal issues such as Competency to Stand Trial, Criminal Responsibility and Mitigation. There are, in fact, many reasons why a diagnosis cannot be generalized into a legal conclusion. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the United States Supreme Court deliberations and findings where behavioral science evidence is judged along side the laws which place constraints on how these matters can be considered in court. This webinar will explore these differences, looking at a wide array of cases in which mental health has been a central issue.

Target Audience

Psychologists Social Workers Counselors
Therapists Psychiatrists Nurses
Course Level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

- At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:
1. Name the major Supreme Court cases dealing with Competency to Stand Trial
 2. Name the major Supreme Court cases dealing with the Insanity Defense
 3. Name the major cases dealing with assessment of violent behavior
 4. Identify the cases dealing with voluntariness of confessions by mentally ill individuals
 5. Describe the concept involved in involuntary commitment

Seminar Schedule

The webinar outline is attached. See the Live Webinar page for the start and end times.

Outline

1:00-1:45 PM ET

The Supreme Court and the Issue of Future Dangerousness

1:45-2:30 PM ET

The Supreme Court in Criminal Law: Competency and Criminal Responsibility

Break 2:30-2:45 PM ET

2:45-3:30 PM ET

The Supreme Court: Confessions and Miranda Rights

3:30-4:15 PM ET

United States Supreme Court and Involuntary Commitment Issues

End 4:15 PM ET

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The Presenter

Dr. David Shapiro has been called the Father of clinical forensic psychology. His first book on forensic assessment appeared in 1983 and was the only book at that time to approach forensic assessment from the point of view of actual issues encountered in practice rather than from a theoretical basis. Since that time, he has authored five more textbooks and four dozen peer reviewed articles dealing with the interface of psychology and law. His comprehensive approach to forensic assessment has been widely distributed and used as models for various books and training programs.

Dr. Shapiro is a Diplomate in Forensic Psychology of the American Board of Professional Psychology and has been actively engaged in forensic practice for over forty years. He is currently a Professor of psychology at Nova Southeastern University and teaches courses in forensic assessment, criminal law, ethics and professional practice, supervision and consultation, projective personality assessment, and risk assessment for future violence. He regularly provides forensic and ethics training at a variety of national forums, including APA and ABPP.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Laura Davie, LICSW, Tina Jenkins, Psy.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2028.

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