



PRESENTING EXPERT OPINION

via Report Writing & Testimony

Randy Otto, PhD
University of South Florida

February 3, 2012

Mendota Mental Health Institute
Conference Center
301 Troy Drive, Madison



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INTRODUCTION

Effective ways of communicating (both orally and in writing) the work one has done and the opinions one has formed upon conducting forensic psychological evaluations is the focus of this workshop. The morning session is devoted to forensic report writing and affidavit preparation. After research examining psychologists' forensic report writing practices is reviewed, common errors are discussed and more effective means of written communication are offered. The afternoon session is devoted to a review of direct examination and cross examination strategies that attorneys employ and effective witness responses. The components of persuasive direct testimony are reviewed, as are effective responses to cross examination ploys including, but not limited to, challenges to expertise and objectivity, use of learned treatises and impeachment with prior statements or writing.

PRESENTER

RANDY OTTO, PHD, ABPP (Clinical Psychology and Forensic Psychology) is an Associate Professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa and an adjunct faculty member at Stetson University College of Law in St Petersburg. In addition, he has a practice that is limited to forensic psychological evaluation. Dr. Otto's research, writing and practice focus on forensic psychological assessment. In 2007 he joined Gary Melton, John Petrila, Norm Poythress, Chris Slobogin and Phil Lyons in revising their forensic text, *Psychological Evaluations for the Courts: A Handbook for Mental Health Professionals and Lawyers*. In 2007 Routledge Press published a book on violence risk assessment that he co-edited with Dr. Kevin Douglas. His work on adjudicative competence — with colleagues Norm Poythress, John Monahan, Richard Bonnie and Ken Hoge — was cited by the US Supreme Court in *Indiana v. Edwards*. Dr. Otto has served as President of the American Board of Forensic Psychology and the American Psychology-Law Society and as Treasurer of the American Board of Professional Psychology. He chaired the committee that revised the *Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology* adopted by the American Psychological Association in 2011, and he serves on the editorial boards of a number of journals including *Assessment*, *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, *Journal of Behavioral Health Services Administration*, *Journal of Child Custody and Criminal Justice and Behavior*. In 1994, Dr. Otto and colleagues received an award from the Society for Personality Assessment for their work on psychological autopsy and, in 2008, he received the American Academy of Forensic Psychology Award for Distinguished Contributions to Forensic Psychology. He has provided continuing education workshops to psychologists, attorneys and judges in the US, Canada and Australia. If not working or with his family, he can probably be found in a casino or on a motorcycle.

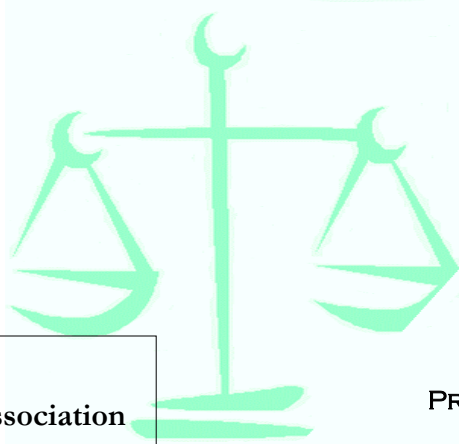


LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Learn key errors made by psychologists when writing reports summarizing their forensic examinations
- ▶ Understand how the APA ethics code directs what content is included in reports summarizing forensic evaluations
- ▶ Be able to describe how rules of evidence impact and shape opinions that psychologists offer in their reports and testimony
- ▶ Identify effective responses to challenges to admissibility of expert testimony
- ▶ Identify three components of persuasive argument that are relevant to the provision of expert opinion via testimony
- ▶ List two strategies you can employ when challenges to your objectivity and independence are made
- ▶ Identify an effective and efficient way for communicating your expertise to attorneys, judges and jurors

SCHEDULE

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- 8:00** Registration
 - 8:45** Welcome & Introductions
 - 9:00** Seminar
 - 12:00** Lunch
 - 1:15** Seminar
 - 4:15** Adjourn



Sponsored by
The Wisconsin Psychological Association
 and its
**Forensic & Correctional Psychology
 Interest Section**

Registration

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Name _____ Degree _____

Work Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Work Phone (____) _____ - _____

Email _____

Profession: Psychologist Attorney
 Other (specify) _____

CE CREDIT

PSYCHOLOGISTS: This seminar includes 6 hours of continuing education designed to meet requirements of the WI Psychology Examining Board. The Examining Board recognizes APA-approved sponsors as providers of CE for licensed psychologists. The Wisconsin Psychological Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. WPA maintains responsibility for the program and its content. Attendance is monitored and documented. **Credit is not granted to registrants who arrive more than 15 minutes late, depart more than 15 minutes early, are excessively absent during the program or who do not submit a completed, signed evaluation form at the end of the session.** It is the responsibility of registrants to comply with these requirements.

ATTORNEYS: Application will be submitted to the Board of Bar Examiners for approval of this program toward the Wisconsin mandatory Continuing Legal Education requirement (CLE) for attorneys.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Please notify us immediately if special accommodations (mobility, sensory or dietary) would facilitate your participation. If we are informed at least 1 week prior to the program, we will make every effort to meet your needs.

FEES, REGISTRATION DEADLINES & CANCELLATIONS

Fees include breaks, lunch, handout materials and CE credit documentation. Registrations after 1-15-12 are assessed a higher registration fee. On-site registration is not guaranteed. Cancellations after 1-25 have \$25 deducted from any refund and may be charged additional costs. No-shows are not refunded.

Fees:	Received by 1-15	Received after 1-15
<input type="checkbox"/> WPA Member	\$150	\$175
<input type="checkbox"/> WPA Interest Section Member	\$140	\$165
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	\$175	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> WPA Student Affiliate	\$35	\$50

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