

Education	Ph.D. California Graduate Institute, Los Angeles, Clinical Psychology. 1988 Wright Institute Los Angeles. 1982-1983 Doctoral courses in Social-Clinical Psychology.	
	B.A. University of California at Los Angeles, Microbiology. 1978	
Licensing	Psychologist license #PSY 11419 issued by California Board of Psychology.	March 1990
Appointment	Adjunct Clinical Asst. Professor of Psychiatry, Keck School of Medicine, USC	August 2013-2022

Professional Experience

- Psychotherapy, private practice, by appointment in Seal Beach.
- **Conservatorships:** Court-requested evaluations and reports for conservatorship actions.
- **Expert witness testimony:** geriatrics, cognitive impairment, mental capacity determinations, decision-making and undue influence.
- **Mental capacity determinations:** Retrospective psycholegal evaluations of mental capacity and undue influence in matters of contested estates, trusts and wills.
- Psychological assessment and consultation to probate and elder law attorneys, private conservators and fiduciaries, hospitals, and community social service organizations.

Clinical Interests Elder abuse and elder protection. Undue influence and decision-making.
 Chronically mentally ill population.

Prior Affiliations **Hospitals and Long-term Psychiatric Care Facilities**

- ▶ **Allied Professional Healthcare Staff**
 Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center San Pedro – (Geropsych) through 2021
- ▶ **Engaged Forensic Services**
 La Casa MHRC, Telecare, Long Beach (Traditions Behavioral Health) (through 2021)
 La Paz Geropsychiatric, Telecare, Long Beach (Traditions Behavioral Health) (through 2021)
 Penn Mar Therapeutic Center, Acute Psychiatric Care Facility (through 2021)
 San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, Behavioral Medicine Unit (Geropsych) (through 2021)
 Landmark Medical Center (IMD) (through 2021)
 USC-Verdugo Hills Hospital (Geropsychiatry) (through 2021)
 Alpine Special Treatment Center (IMDs) Alpine, Harbor View Long Beach (through 2021)
 Genesis Healthcare: Sierra Vista, Shandin Hills, IMDs (current)

Selected Organizations, Presentations, Citations

California Psychological Association, Geriatric Psychology Section
 Los Angeles County & Orange County Psychological Associations, member
 American Bar Association, Elder Abuse Listserve, member
 International Psychogeriatric Association, member
 Forensic Expert Witness Association, Orange County Chapter, member

- **Increased Vulnerability to Undue Influence Related to Vascular Cognitive Impairment**
 International Psychogeriatric Association International Congress, Berlin, Germany - October 13, 2015
- **Navigating Competency** panelist at Long Beach Community Foundation – May 7, 2015
- **Conducting Mental Capacity Evaluations related to Estate Planning and Elder Abuse**
 Orange County Psychological Association – Continuing Education – October 26, 2011
- **The ABC's of LPS (Mental Health) Conservatorships**
 Professional Fiduciaries of California Annual Conference, April 2012

Cited in: NAELA Journal (National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys) 2:2, 2006.

Qualifications as Expert Witness

Licensed as a Psychologist in California 1990 (PSY11419)

Ph.D. - Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (CGI 1988)

- B.A., Microbiology, (UCLA 1978)
- Graduate training in Clinical Psychology in assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental disorders.
- Post-Graduate Continuing Professional Education in areas of neuropsychology, geriatrics (geropsychology), elder abuse assessment, mental capacity assessment, assessment of undue influence, forensic evaluations, and professional ethics.

Focus of practice

- Primarily geriatric psychology for the past twelve years.
- Independent assessments for people in crisis, residential evaluations, multidisciplinary teamwork with psychiatrists, social workers, Adult Protective Services, probate conservators, probate attorneys, Offices of the Los Angeles Public Guardian, County Counsel, District Attorney, and Public Defender.
- Psychological evaluations for mental capacity; suspicion of undue influence related to contested estates, wills and trusts.
- Determinations of grave disability due to a mental disorder.
- Evaluation of disability, issues of chronic illness, issues of quality of life, issues of least restrictive care.
- Estimate: conducted over 1000 evaluations over the past twenty years.

Hospital patient care

- Experience as professional staff member of geropsychiatric units in L.A. and Orange Counties ; experience as a hospital Director of Psychological Services.
- Majority of inpatient care involves providing psychological assessment and treatment services to involuntary elderly patients (those held as gravely disabled under W&I Codes).
- Emergency Room (ER) and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) evaluations for suicide risk.

Expert witness testimony/Forensic settings

- Expert witness testimony and written reports provided for probate conservatorships and civil proceedings in California Superior Courts of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Riverside Counties; U.S. District Court, Northern District of CA, San Francisco; District Court of Nevada, County of Washoe.
- Expert witness testimony provided for mental health conservatorships (LPS conservatorships) in Superior Court, Dept. 95, County of L.A. (500+ appearances).
- Expert witness testimony provided for Writs of Habeas Corpus hearings requested by involuntary psychiatric patients.
- Expert witness testimony for retrospective psychological evaluation and opinions related to civil suits: mental capacity to amend a trust, to contract; testamentary capacity and suspicion of undue influence.
- Sworn declarations regarding mental capacity and capacity to make informed medical consent, quality of care issues for elderly, need for conservatorship, provided to probate courts at request of the Court, CAC (PVP) attorneys, proposed conservators, and probate attorneys.
- Engaged/retained in California, Nevada, Florida.

Instructor/lecturer/educator roles

- Lectures provided to staffs of hospitals, continuing education for attorneys, and public forums. (List of lectures and topics available.)
- Panelist on Standards of Mental Capacity presentation: Probate and Estate Planning Section, Orange County Bar Association, Long Beach Community Foundation.