

# Bernard L. Diamond— A Memorial Issue: Introduction

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This special issue of the AAPL Bulletin is dedicated to the memory of Bernard L. Diamond, M.D. Because of his innovative approaches to the practice of forensic psychiatry and his interest in promoting the study and analysis of problems in this subspecialty of psychiatry, this Memorial Issue presents a series of papers written in his honor with a focus on some of the topics of greatest concern to him. Many contributors were influenced by Dr. Diamond as a teacher, colleague, and/or friend. Some traveled across country primarily to present papers in his honor at the Bernard L. Diamond Memorial Symposium at the 1991 AAPL meeting in Orlando. These papers as well as others are included in this Memorial Issue. A previously unpublished paper also is included in which Dr. Diamond described his philosophy. It was presented by him at the 1988 AAPL meeting in San Francisco.

When he learned of Dr. Diamond's death, Judge Stanley Mosk of the California Supreme Court was moved to write, "I regret that Dr. Diamond's voice has been stilled, his pen silenced. For he was a giant in the field of psychiatry and the law and will be sorely missed."<sup>1</sup>

Bernard Diamond was a highly prin-

cipled man with original ideas and approaches. Impatient with hypocrisy, he was a proponent for total honesty and the highest standards for psychiatric testimony. However, he perceived his ideas and methods as having more influence on appeals court judges than on psychiatrists who, he thought, politely tended to ignore his positions. He sometimes referred to himself as a "one-man minority," but persevered for positions he thought were right even if unpopular. He also defended the rights of others to disagree with him.

Many psychiatrists are unfamiliar with or misunderstand Dr. Diamond's ideas and contributions. Hopefully, this Memorial Issue will introduce and clarify some of his insights and approaches.

I was privileged to work with Dr. Diamond during a period of time I spent in San Francisco from 1978 to 1979 when we worked together on what was to become a new forensic center at the University of California, San Francisco and Berkeley. The center's focus was to be research into problems in law and forensic psychiatry—an area whose research literature he considered deplorably scanty. He wished to obtain data on the functioning of psychiatry in the legal

system in order to combat ignorance and prejudice. Unfortunately, promised funding did not materialize because of the passage of Proposition 13. I retained contact with Dr. Diamond, and I always found him to be a superb teacher and mentor. All of us who were touched by him deeply feel his loss.

In recent years, Dr. Diamond was a valued and active member of the Ethics Advisory Committee for the Psychiatry Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He also corresponded frequently with me in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on Ethics for AAPL. His input to us was instrumental in AAPL's dropping the requirement for "impartiality" from the Ethical Guidelines in 1990 and replacing it with "honesty." However, although Dr. Diamond wished that "objectivity" also be removed (discussed in the paper by Dr. Jay Katz in this issue), the Committee and AAPL reached a compromise position and retained a necessity to "strive for objectivity." Although the changes in

AAPL's Guidelines occurred approximately 30 years after Dr. Diamond's initial paper on the subject, he was gratified to have his position taken seriously and appreciated that at least a major portion of his views were incorporated into AAPL's Guidelines. Dr. Diamond was a strong supporter of AAPL and the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry and was pleased with the growth and development of these organizations. He cared strongly about forensic psychiatry and favored all efforts to improve the quality of forensic evaluations. When he was critical, it reflected his deep concern with the integrity and the image of our profession.

I wish to thank the Editor, Dr. Seymour L. Halleck for dedicating this special issue of the AAPL Bulletin to the memory of Dr. Bernard L. Diamond. I also thank the contributors for their outstanding efforts in Dr. Diamond's honor.

#### References

1. Mosk S: A giant in the field. *Cal L Rev* 78:1431-2, 1990