

assistance and food stamps does nothing to prevent drug usage or sales; instead it increases the chances of recidivism and relapse, harms women and their children, and makes it harder for them to reconnect with society and to rebuild their lives” (p 17-8).

The United States is one of the few nations that routinely separate incarcerated mothers from their infants (p 20-1). This is no small matter, as approximately one-tenth of the women in prison are pregnant (p 19-3). The author of one article describes an Ohio prison nursery program with very specific requirements for entry. A goal of this and similar programs is prevention of incarceration of children in a cyclical pattern of generational dysfunction. Other pioneering programs for mothers of young children are also detailed.

This compilation contains articles that vividly portray commonalities among girls entering the juvenile justice system. Early victimization, substance abuse, failed placements, school failures, and early sexual activity complete the picture (p 9-2). Intriguing chapters include “Bad Girls, Bad Girls, Whatcha Gonna Do?”, which provides suggestions for prevention of fighting among girls, and “Girls and Relational Aggression: Beyond the ‘Mean Girl’ Hype.” Relational aggression includes the “repertoire of passive and/or indirect behaviors (e.g., rolling eyes, spreading rumors, and ignoring) used with the ‘intent to hurt or harm others.’” (p 11-2). The authors also describe policies and programs designed to prevent these girls from entering the adult criminal justice system.

In summary, the authors of these articles describe problems with our current system and discuss novel innovative programs that have been successful in their various locales. Gender-specific programing, which takes into consideration the different needs and challenges of these women, is discussed. The book provides veritable checklists of the central features of appropriate services for these offenders.

This book would be useful to forensic psychiatrists, other mental health clinicians, attorneys, policy makers, and service planners seeking to increase their knowledge about policy regarding female offenders. Moreover, it describes the context of female offenders’ life situations and provides a wealth of information that can help promote appropriate services for women and girls and stimulate creative thinking about policy and programing.

Practical Approaches to Forensic Mental Health Testimony

By Thomas G. Gutheil and Frank M. Dattilio. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008. 157 pp. \$74.95.

Reviewed by Aimee Kaempf, MD, and Debra A. Pinals, MD

Practical Approaches to Forensic Mental Health Testimony may be the next best thing to having a world-renowned forensic mental health consultant available to you, 24 hours a day, to answer questions about the process and content of forensic mental health testimony. The uniqueness of this book is described in its preface. It is one of a few portable resources available to aid experts in managing the day-to-day complexities and practical aspects of forensic work.

Authors Thomas Gutheil and Frank Dattilio are highly regarded leaders in their respective fields of forensic psychiatry and forensic psychology. In *Practical Approaches to Forensic Mental Health Testimony*, these scholars combine their experience and enthusiasm to craft a useful, readable resource that addresses some of the more practical realities of working in forensic mental health as an expert witness.

In the introduction, the authors lay out the book’s foundation by reviewing basic themes, such as the expert’s role, the expert’s task, barriers to expert functioning, and criteria for expert competence. The ensuing 11 chapters are divided into four sections. The first section, entitled “Core Issues Regarding the Function of the Expert Witness,” addresses preparation and presentation of testimony, potential biases of expert witnesses, and undergoing cross-examination. The second section, “Limits on Expert Functioning,” covers admissibility of evidence, narcissism in the expert, problems related to late withdrawal from a case, the feast or famine nature of forensic work, and travel difficulties.

Section III, “Relationships With Attorneys,” offers a concise analytical discussion of lawyer-expert misalliance, including tips on how to handle the problematic practice by some attorneys of attempting to coach experts. The fourth and final section, “Special Problems for Experts,” includes commentaries on various real-life predicaments faced by men-

tal health experts, such as the oftentimes awkward task of testifying about or in opposition to one's colleagues, harassment by disgruntled examinees, ethics boundaries, and countertransference.

The book has many strengths, but two in particular are worth mentioning. First, each chapter contains abundant quotes taken directly from real-world testimony. The authors use these quotes to illustrate flawed testimony and potential pitfalls. They follow up such cases with alternative, word-for-word, easily understood suggestions to assist experts with avoiding such snares. For instance, in Chapter 3, which addresses some of the perils of cross-examination, the authors provide concrete examples of how an expert might best respond to an attorney's request that answers be limited to yes or no.

Second, the authors tackle concerns that commonly arise in forensic mental health work and that are rarely formally addressed in the literature. Where else can one find a collection of thoughtful commentaries on waffling, fears of disappointing retaining attorneys, getting paid up front, and the embarrassing and potentially serious mistake of confusing the details of a past case with those of a current one? Although forensic mental health colleagues are invaluable, irreplaceable resources, they may not always be available to confer. A textbook, in contrast, is limitlessly accessible and is uninhibited by scheduling constraints.

It is difficult to identify any major weaknesses of the text because it covers an array of interesting subjects. There are times, however, when additional information would have been useful. For example, the authors could have discussed billing in greater detail. Newcomers to forensic mental health may appreciate Gutheil and Dattilio's perspective about factors to keep in mind when establishing one's hourly rate, whereas more experienced practitioners might enjoy a more lengthy discussion of how to manage disputes over fees.

Although the text may seem brief for its cost, \$74.95 is a considerable bargain when compared with what a highly esteemed forensic mental health expert might charge for around-the-clock consultative services that address the same subjects. *Practical Approaches* is a user-friendly, succinct, entertaining book that tackles some of the most challenging (yet rarely officially addressed) aspects of forensic mental health consultation. This book is a must have for

forensic mental health practitioners who engage in expert witness testimony.

The Human Predator: A Historical Chronicle of Serial Murder and Forensic Investigation

By Katherine Ramsland, PhD. New York: Berkley Books, 2005. 320 pp. \$14.00 (paperback).

Reviewed by D. Clay Kelly, MD

Katherine Ramsland, PhD, has authored 25 books. Although she has written numerous publications about Anne Rice and vampires, her expertise in forensic psychology has afforded her opportunities to publish more than 300 articles and books about forensic psychology, forensic science, and serial killers.

The Human Predator: A Historical Chronicle of Serial Murder and Forensic Investigation should be issued with a warning: even among the desensitized, Ramsland's book is a harrowing read. Serial murder is a repulsive, yet compelling, topic. Similar to our response to an accident on the side of the road, we empathize, but can't look away.

The book opens with the description of a group of accused cannibalistic killers who terrorized the Scottish countryside in the 15th century. Although later historians have doubted this tale of "killer zombies," as in *Dawn of the Dead*, the societal response to this phenomenon highlights one of the book's more challenging aspects. How should such individuals be understood and explained? This introduction includes a definition of serial murder that distinguishes it from spree killing and mass murder.

Ramsland's book recounts the known history of serial murder. Brief summations of trends in world history and the evolution of forensic science are woven into the narrative. Society's attempt to bring the serial murderer to justice is also examined.

The first chapter debunks the common misconception that serial murder is a modern phenomenon. Although it has largely been regarded as a male-dominated activity, Ramsland identifies Locusta, a