

jurisprudence model, in any mental health or legal organization, may be challenging at best. However, if the model is introduced to clinical and legal trainees, they may be more likely to integrate some, if not all, of the recommended approaches into their interactions with clients needing mental health care.

Winick succeeds in presenting complex material in a very captivating and accessible manner. The book provides a foundation for thoughtful discussion and debate on the topic of civil commitment and stimulates readers to consider how changes could be implemented. It should be required reading for professionals who work in or plan to work in any capacity with the mentally ill. It is a good resource for forensic psychiatrists who teach residents and other mental health professionals about involuntary hospitalization.

The Art and Science of Child Custody Evaluations

By Jonathan W. Gould, MD, and David A. Martindale, MD. New York: Guilford Press, 2007. 450 pp. \$40.00.

Reviewed by Lee H. Haller, MD

Mental health professionals who perform child custody evaluations may be familiar with the publications of Drs. Gould and Martindale. These scholars collaborated to author *The Art and Science of Child Custody Evaluations*, a recent text that addresses a knotty problem. The book contains many strengths and only minimal weaknesses. Overall, the authors have done a credible job of covering the mandatory areas that must be addressed by any evaluator performing a child custody evaluation.

The book is divided into four sections. Section I is an overview of the topic. The authors define and describe the current legal standard for child custody evaluations: the best interests of the child. Next is a comprehensive summary of the topic that highlights important areas. For example, the authors discuss how one must differentiate a legal evaluation from a clinical one. Absent, however, is any mention of the historical models of child custody that preceded the best-interests standard, such as the concept of children as chattel or the tender-years presumption.

Section II describes the art of the child custody evaluation. Ethics and appropriate forensic proce-

dures are the primary subjects. Section III discusses the science of the child custody evaluation. It sets forth a description of methods for interviewing children and parents. These two sections are the nuts and bolts of the text. The authors identify the questions and areas that must be addressed for an evaluation to be thorough and therefore useful to the judge and the attorneys involved. They describe how to conduct the evaluation and frequently include lists of questions for the various areas that every evaluation should cover.

In addition, and much to the authors' credit, they urge each evaluator to perform a self-examination in an effort to identify areas of potential conflict or bias. Possible problem areas are enumerated.

Section IV provides recommended techniques for assessing allegations of child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and parental alienation. It concludes with a chapter entitled "Another Call for Humility," an apt ending. The authors cover several potential pitfalls, with recommendations for avoiding each.

The book has several strengths. It treats thorny topics such as overnight visitation for very young children. The authors offer lists of questions that an evaluator should consider during various phases of the litigation. An appendix includes sample letters of agreement that the authors recommend the parties sign at the beginning of the evaluation and at various stages of the process. Also presented are sample letters to attorneys apropos of various phases of the forensic evaluation process. Although these letters are copyrighted with the book, permission is given to the purchaser of the book to make personal use of them. An extensive bibliography with over 800 references offers easy access to additional information about particular topics.

There are a few weaknesses, as well. As mentioned, the history of child custody evaluations is absent. Thus, the reader cannot learn about techniques that have been tried and found wanting. Also, there are times when the authors become verbose; they use paragraphs to convey information when one or two sentences would suffice. In addition, there is no description of statutory requirements for child custody evaluations. The authors simply note that an evaluator must take into account state criteria. An appendix of the current child custody statutes would have been a valuable addition to the book.

One critical omission is a discussion of parents' attitudes toward psychiatric illness. Some children

and/or their parents have a mental illness that requires treatment including therapy, medication, and other interventions. Parents may resist medication and other therapies for themselves or their children. Obviously, this factor must be assessed when mental illness is a concern.

The authors also state that after an evaluator submits a report to an attorney, it is not a good idea for the evaluator to meet with the attorney who might call him or her to court, as it could give the appearance of bias. I disagree.

This book, or one like it, should be in every clinician's library. Students should learn what is involved in performing a proper evaluation, even if they never intend to do one. Clinicians, similarly, should have this book available to them to help clients, patients, and parents through the process of a divorce. Experienced forensic psychiatrists can benefit from reading the book as well, as there are multiple pearls of wisdom. All in all, the manuscript is a laudable effort by two forensic psychologists.

Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology: A Systematic Model for Decision Making

By Shane S. Bush, Mary A. Connell, and Robert L. Denney. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2006. 196 pp. hard cover; \$69.95 nonmembers; \$49.95 members.

Forensic Ethics and the Expert Witness

By Philip J. Candilis, Robert Weinstock, and Richard Martinez. New York: Springer Science, 2007. 211 pp. \$49.95 hard cover.

Reviewed by Robert M. Wettstein, MD

Ethics in forensic mental health work is of concern to practitioners and academics. A recent issue of *The Journal* (Vol. 36, No. 2) was largely devoted to the 25-year anniversary, and 2007 presentation, of Alan Stone's^{1,2} provocative challenge to the field to develop appropriate ethics guidelines; or else, to

abstain from court testimony or forensic work altogether. The two volumes named above, one on forensic psychology and another on forensic psychiatry, reflect the growing importance of this subject. Perhaps the continued interest reflects or reveals many forensic practitioners' uneasiness about the ethics and appropriateness of much of forensic work, in contrast to their confidence regarding the ethical status of their clinical work with patients.

These books approach the subject in vastly different ways. There are marked differences in discipline, practicality, thoughtfulness, theory, sophistication, intended audience, presentation, and readability.

Ethical Practice in Forensic Psychology was published by the American Psychological Association and coauthored by three psychologists: two are neuropsychologists, and the third focuses on family law. The authors state that the book is "intended to serve as a text for forensic psychology students, trainees, and practitioners" including "career forensic psychologists." The book contains seven relatively brief chapters including: "The Interface of Law and Psychology: An Overview," "The Referral," "Collection and Review of Information," "The Evaluation," "Documentation of Findings and Opinions," "Testimony and Termination," and "Addressing Ethical Misconduct."

Perhaps the most useful chapter is the Overview, in which the authors present their "Proposed Model of Ethical Decision Making in Forensic Psychology." The authors formulate these eight steps: identify the problem; consider the significance of the context and setting; identify and use ethics and legal resources; consider personal beliefs and values; develop possible solutions to the problem; consider the potential consequences of various solutions; choose and implement a course of action; and assess the outcome and implement changes as needed. The authors use six brief case vignettes to illustrate applications of their proposed model.

The text draws heavily from the 2002 American Psychological Association's "Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct," which in turn adopts the principlist biomedical ethics paradigm of Tom Beauchamp and James Childress published in *Principles of Biomedical Ethics*.³ Their approach focuses on the four principles of beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, and respect for autonomy. Although the Code of Conduct's General Principles are aspirational, and the subsequent Ethical Standards