

tiveness of the courts. Although more than 100 such courts are mentioned in the book, only nine studies are briefly summarized. The research suggests a high degree of perceived satisfaction, fairness, and confidence in the administration of justice. Studies also conclude that offenders with mental illness experience less perceived coercion in mental health courts than in criminal courts. Despite these gains, the studies do not suggest that offenders processed through mental health courts have lower recidivism rates.

The authors link the relative lack of studies to sparse funding for evaluation of these courts, the variation in court structures, a lack of defined best practices, and difficulty defining success. Surprisingly, no evaluative data are presented about the Toronto Mental Health Court.

The future of mental health courts is contemplated by the authors, who say that establishing additional mental health courts within existing judicial systems is like placing “buckets under a leaky roof.” The authors identify one solution to the primary problem: fix the mental health system. They also acknowledge that sufficient funding for this repair is unlikely. Consequently, the authors predict mental health courts will remain “a long-term partial solution.”

This is a well-written, organized description of the current state of mental health courts. There are helpful tables, graphs, and footnotes throughout. The listing of pertinent court cases and sample court forms will be more useful to Canadian readers.

The authors are to be commended for producing an informative resource for persons involved with or interested in learning about mental health courts, diversion, and novel collaborative programs combining criminal justice and mental health initiatives.

Law and Mental Health: A Case-Based Approach

By Robert G. Meyer and Christopher M. Weaver. New York: The Guilford Press, 2006. 394 pp. \$48.00.

Reviewed by Gregory B. Leong, MD

Forensic mental health educators seek to identify scholarly, intriguing, and timely material that enhances the experiences of students and professionals. The references should be clearly written, sufficiently

interesting to motivate readers to study challenging legal concepts, and written for a specific group of forensic mental health professionals. Psychologists Robert G. Meyer and Christopher M. Weaver considered these criteria and wrote *Law and Mental Health: A Case-Based Approach*, to serve as a supplementary text for “advanced students and professionals in the mental health fields.”

The book, which commences with a brief introduction to basic legal concepts, is divided into seven sections: “Psychological Issues and Involvement in Basic Courtroom Proceedings,” “Legal Precedent in Everyday Clinical Practice,” “Clinical Forensic Evaluation,” “Civil Rights and Civil Law,” “Specific Mental Diagnoses in the Law,” “Violent Criminals and Violent Crime,” and “Juveniles in the Legal System.” Each section contains three or four self-contained chapters; readers do not have to review the material in any particular order.

The chapters cover various topics central to forensic mental health education, including admissibility of expert testimony, informed consent, confidentiality and privilege, duty to warn or protect, competency, insanity, hypnosis, civil commitment, dangerousness, prison mental health, personal injury, sex offenders, the death penalty, child abuse, and child custody. The authors also include a few chapters on subjects at the fringes of a core forensic mental health curriculum such as jury selection, jury consultation, psychological profiling, and sexual orientation and civil rights.

Each chapter begins with a quick overview of the identified topic, followed by one to three detailed legal case studies that examine salient clinical and legal concepts. For example, the authors review the forensic mental health landmark cases *Dusky v. U.S.* and *Godinez v. Moran* in the competency chapter and *Thompson v. Oklahoma* and *Roper v. Simmons*, among others, in the chapter that examines juveniles and the death penalty. However, many of the featured cases did not undergo appellate review or achieve landmark case status, such as the John Hinckley case in the “Insanity and Criminal Responsibility” chapter; the case of the “Mad Bomber” George Metesky (New York, 1940s and 1950s) in the “Criminal Psychological Profiling” chapter; and the case of serial killer John Wayne Gacy in the “Psychopathy and Antisocial Personality Disorder” chapter. The case studies, which add color to each chapter, sustain the interest of the reader.

Many of the chapters should not be used as a primary learning source for core forensic mental health topics such as informed consent, competency, insanity, child custody, and duty to warn or protect, because of the brevity and superficiality of the presented material. For example, when discussing *Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California*, the authors list only three of the four causes of action for the original lawsuit.

Some chapters deserve special mention for illuminating the given topic, namely the chapters on hypnosis, criminal profiling, and alcohol and drug abuse, and dependence. The authors also include intriguing but sometimes disappointing “Where Are They Now?” updates that comment on the current status of many of the individuals mentioned in the cases described, such as Ernest Miranda of *Miranda v. Arizona*. Unfortunately, many of the updates merely stated that current state prison rosters did not contain the name of the individual.

Even with its shortcomings, this book may serve as a refresher on various forensic mental health concepts and landmark cases for well-trained forensic mental health professionals.

In sum, the authors accomplish their goal of providing a supplementary book for advanced students and professionals with fundamental knowledge of forensic mental health. For this readership, this book can provide an informative and entertaining overview of forensic mental health. However, the brevity and superficiality of the subject matter may confuse the uninitiated.

Sexual Deviance: Theory, Assessment, and Treatment

Edited by D. Richard Laws and William T. O’Donohue.
2nd edition. New York: The Guilford Press, 2008. 642 pp. \$70.00.

Reviewed by Todd Tomita, MD

This book is an essential starting point for any forensic practitioner involved in the assessment and treatment of sexual deviance. I suspect that many forensic practitioners who work in the area of sexual deviance will have a copy of the first edition of the book on their shelves.

The editors have once again crafted a book that makes clinical sense. Those familiar with the first edition of the book will be glad to see that the new edition has followed the same format. I particularly liked the perspective of the editors, which is conveyed through their introductory chapter. The editors are frank in their assessment of the current state of the field of sexual deviance and clear in their opinions regarding continuing problems. I sensed the influence of this sober and realistic editorial tone filtering down into the individual chapters, which have a pragmatic orientation. The individual authors appear agnostic regarding particular theories and treatment modalities and provide a balanced and evidence-based summary of the research literature.

Each one of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR) defined paraphilias is addressed over two chapters. The first chapter deals with psychopathology and theory. The second chapter addresses assessment and treatment. All the paraphilias are dealt with including: exhibitionism, fetishism, frotteurism, pedophilia, sexual sadism, sexual masochism, transvestic fetishism, voyeurism, and paraphilia not otherwise specified.

This edition of the book covers new ground as well. There are chapters on the etiology of sexual deviance, legal concerns with sex offenders, and a public health approach to sexual violence. One strength of this book is the inclusion of other chapters devoted to areas of growing interest in the field of sexual deviance. For example, there are chapters devoted to neurobiological processes and comorbidity, online sexual offending, and sexual deviance in females.

The chapters on sexual deviance in females summarize data that are difficult to find elsewhere. There are surprising findings. For example, prevalence data suggest that women are responsible for between four and five percent of all sexual abuse. Although quite high in absolute numbers, other data suggest that rates of sexual recidivism in females are quite low. The chapter authors make a point of challenging societal beliefs, assumptions, and biases regarding female nature as being incompatible with sex offending. There is a useful framework for assessment of female sexual offenders that will help forensic practitioners organize data for comprehensive examinations.

There is an excellent chapter on sexual deviance over the lifespan that proposes a new category of risk