

that only three percent of subjects had persistent signs or symptoms lasting more than one month after injury.

For the forensic audience, Parts Three and Four are likely to be the most interesting and relevant sections of the book. The author demonstrates in Part Three that persistent cognitive and psychiatric symptoms are very rare after mild TBI. In Part Four, he argues that PCS is not the direct result of a neurological insult consequent to MTBI. A significant amount of scientific evidence is cited in support of this contention.

PCS (which is found in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR)¹ in the Appendix describing criteria sets for further study under the section postconcussional disorder) is described by the author as “without question one of the most controversial concepts in the neurosciences.” In the final section of the book, the author contends that PCS is a “neuropsychological disorder” in which “the development and maintenance of [symptoms] are more directly the result of psychological, psychosocial, and other non-MTBI-specific factors.” One chapter is devoted to psychological theories of the origin of PCS, and the final two chapters review a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment and management of PCS based on its conceptualization as a neuropsychological disorder.

Although it is unlikely that this book will resolve the controversies surrounding PCS, there is much food for thought in the author’s rigorous scientific examination of the syndrome. The text will be a welcome addition to the library of any forensic practitioner who evaluates individuals who report a history of MTBI or so-called PCS.

My only criticism is quite minor. The references are compiled at the end of each multichapter section and are numbered in the text. This arrangement yields four separate numbered listings of references, causing occasional difficulty in locating a particular citation quickly. Furthermore, when an article is cited in more than one section, it is separately listed in the reference list for each section where it appears, but with a different reference number. Either a single numbered reference list at the end of the book or non-numbered references listed at the end of each chapter would be easier to use. Perhaps the publisher will consider this in a second edition.

Joseph R. Simpson, MD, PhD
Long Beach, CA

Reference

1. American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association, 2000

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Trials of a Forensic Psychologist: A Casebook

By Charles Patrick Ewing. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, John & Sons, Inc., 2008. 280 pp. \$45.00 paperback.

Five of Waneta Hoyt’s six children were presumed to have died of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) when they were between 6 and 28 months old. This pattern was believed to be a medical anomaly until the early 1990s, when a New York State prosecutor came across a journal report, written 20 years prior, that described the deaths. When the prosecutor became convinced that Hoyt’s children were killed by one of their relatives, he alerted law enforcement officials who invited Ms. Hoyt to participate in a research project on SIDS. During the interview with police officers, Ms. Hoyt admitted killing her five children; she later recanted her confession. Her attorney retained forensic psychologist Charles Patrick Ewing to ascertain whether Ms. Hoyt had waived her *Miranda* rights and whether her confession was voluntary.

The Hoyt case is one of 10 high-profile trials described in *Trials of a Forensic Psychologist: A Casebook*. Ewing has been retained by prosecutors and defense attorneys to testify in more than 600 cases, but he testified as a defense expert in 9 of the 10 cases in this book. Professor Ewing teaches law at the State University of New York and has authored several books about forensic psychology, including expert witness testimony. He says that he wrote this book to share his experiences as an expert witness with students and colleagues.

Ewing includes an abundance of legal, psychological, and personal details about each case that make the book fascinating to read. The material is presented in a case-study format that includes the basic facts of the case; legal charges; prosecution and defense team strategies; matters pertaining to the mental health experts, including Ewing’s role in the trial; and outcomes, including instances when the court found his testimony unpersuasive. One aspect of the book that may be appealing to forensic mental health

practitioners is Ewing's critiques of how forensic evaluators are examined and cross-examined by attorneys. He bases his commentary on excerpts from trial transcripts. The cases selected by Ewing also illustrate important forensic concepts, including *Miranda* warnings and confessions, the insanity defense, amnesia and malingering, battered woman's syndrome, and child sexual-abuse allegations.

Mental health expert testimony, contends Ewing, can help attorneys explain the psychology of certain defendants. The author illustrates this concept in his discussion of the trial of Charline Brundidge who killed her chronically abusive husband while he was in bed and proffered a defense of battered woman's syndrome. Ewing says, "[T]he expert can explain to the jury, why, despite the fact that the batterer was not beating the woman at the moment of the killing the woman nevertheless feared that if she did not kill him, she would be killed or seriously injured" (pp 32–3). He also describes how the expert may be able to explain the reasonableness of the woman's fear.

The book's final chapter contains lessons Ewing has learned over three decades as an expert witness. Among other points, he says that, in many cases, expert witnesses have little influence on the jury. "My 30-plus years of forensic work, which includes the cases described in this book, has led me to suspect that often the influence of expert witnesses (myself included) is not as great as many people seem to think" (p 251). He reminds readers how difficult it can be for juries to appreciate the expert's testimony. The heinous facts of the case, he asserts, are often so "compellingly awful" that it is unlikely that any expert witness could sway a jury.

Overall, *Trials of a Forensic Psychologist: A Casebook* presents forensic material in an educational and engaging manner. The book will be of interest to individuals wanting to learn more about forensic mental health testimony, including psychiatry residents and students of mental health law. The trials described by Ewing highlight forensic concepts in a way that will stay with readers. Experienced forensic mental health professionals will also enjoy the text, which offers a seasoned practitioner's perspectives on the role of an expert witness. Ewing is a gifted storyteller, whose clear writing style makes the book very readable.

Jennifer Piel, JD, MD
Seattle, WA

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Psychology and Crime: Understanding and Tackling Offending Behaviour

By Francis Pakes and Jane Winstone. London: Willan Publishing, 2007. 237 pp. \$37.50.

Like criminologists, forensic mental health professionals who provide criminal defense consultation or practice in correctional settings are interested in understanding socially deviant behavior, explaining it to others, and identifying methods of controlling the behaviors. It seems reasonable, therefore, for a forensic psychiatrist to appreciate how criminologists conceptualize these matters. *Psychology and Crime: Understanding and Tackling Criminal Behaviour* was authored by Francis Pakes and Jane Winstone, two criminal justice scholars at the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom. Although the intended readership is not stated by the authors, the text seems to be written for a British undergraduate survey course in criminology. The authors primarily based the text on the British system of criminal justice, although there are references to the U.S. system.

Each of the book's 11 chapters is sufficiently focused to be read separately. The quality of each chapter varies from very interesting to bland. Punishment versus treatment of mentally ill offenders is briefly discussed, as is offender profiling. The authors introduce readers to a typology of sexual offending as well as risk of violence, including aggravating and mitigating factors. The discussion of current research topics is, at times, unnecessarily superficial, because undergraduate students tend to be technologically and media savvy. For example, a brief discussion of the relevant neurobehavioral and risk assessment research would have been useful, since most students are aware of a connection between the brain and human behavior.

Too often, authors of books about criminology dismiss the significance of white collar crime, which causes substantial damage to society. In this book, the absence of a discussion of white collar crime suggests economic and class bias that are evident when the authors examine juvenile offending. The only discussion of white collar crime in the text is found in "Stalkers and Their Victims." The authors explain that, like celebrities, female college students are at