

old laws play out today in the realm of disability law and disability rights, the book provides an excellent discussion of history to aid in understanding them in their own time.

### References

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## Violence Goes to College: An Authoritative Guide to Prevention and Intervention

By John Nicoletti, Sally Spencer-Thomas, and Christopher Bollinger. Second edition. Springfield, IL: Charles C Thomas, 2010. 369 pp. \$94.95.

This book, with the subtitle of an authoritative guide, does an admirable job as just such a reference and serves as a useful guide for clinicians, law enforcement personnel, and administrators. It is a handbook written for a wide audience within the academic communities of colleges and universities, as well as those professionals connected to them. Well sourced throughout the text, the book reviews various kinds of violence that pose a risk to those on campuses, describes prevention strategies, and reviews methods for dealing with the aftermath of violence. It is comprehensive in its approach, covering forms of violence that most people would readily associate with colleges and universities, as well as less common forms of violence.

As I wrote this review, in the summer and fall of 2012, bomb threats closed the campuses of the University of Texas at Austin, North Dakota State University in Fargo, and Hiram College. Soon after, another threat was made against Louisiana State University. Hiram is an outlier on this list, a liberal arts college set in farm country outside of Cleveland, Ohio, with an enrollment of just 1334 students (and the alma mater of this author). Yet the threat of a bomb in such an idyllic setting as Hiram's campus

underscores the message of the first section of the book, that leaders of educational institutions must give up the idea that such acts of violence could never happen on their campuses.

The necessary first task of a text on this subject is to set the stage for administrators and clinicians to accept that the risk of violence has the potential to touch every college and university community in the nation. The authors discuss violence in epidemiological terms, with chilling examples of fatal violence episodes from the history of higher education in America. They introduce a theoretical framework in which to understand and analyze episodes of violence. They discuss situations on campuses and in college communities that contribute to the risk, including how alcohol can be a catalyst to violence.

The second section of the book focuses on prevention strategies, highlighting the variety of ways in which an institution can work to reduce and manage the risk of violence. A chapter is dedicated to administrative efforts through developing policies and procedures to address risk factors. Another chapter details efforts to create barriers to violence through environmental protection and safety strategies, discussing both pros and cons to the options provided. This section has a chapter dedicated to the role of law enforcement on campus and finishes with a chapter on how to prepare for the aftermath of violence within the community that provides concrete examples of how to manage the trauma that a victimized community inevitably experiences.

Most of the book, 175 of the 300 pages of text, is made up of the third and final section, "Strains of Campus Violence." The chapters include expected topics such as sexual assault, hazing, rioting, and avenger violence (where the perpetrator perceives the violence as the only possible recourse for a perceived injustice, like the incident at Virginia Tech). There also are discussions of suicide, hate crimes, homicide, arson, and bombing. Each chapter details the prevalence, demographics, risk factors, prevention strategies, and appropriate responses to these forms of violence. The information is well organized and comprehensive and would be useful to any clinician with an interest in these areas.

*Violence Goes to College* presents a balance of theoretical discussions framing the challenges of violence within a specific population and practical advice on prevention, intervention, response, and

treatment. It is an excellent addition to the literature on violence analysis and prevention.

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## **American Legal Injustice: Behind the Scenes With an Expert Witness**

By Emanuel Tanay. Lanham, MD: Jason Aronson, 2010.  
293 pp. \$34.94.

Emanuel Tanay, MD, a retired clinical professor of psychiatry at Wayne State University in Detroit and a prominent forensic psychiatrist, shares his almost 50 years of experience as an expert witness. The book is an exposition of the variety of injustices that he has encountered in his years of involvement with the justice system.

It is not surprising that Tanay is particularly sensitive to injustice, with his background as a Polish Jew caught in the web of the holocaust as an adolescent. Through his bravery and ingenuity, he was able to survive, as he described in his book, *Passport to Life*.<sup>1</sup>

In the first part of *American Legal Injustice*, he remarks that defendants are often seen as guilty until proven innocent. He is critical of elected prosecutors who he says tend to overcharge defendants with criminal offenses for political purposes. He contends that he is equally offended by those police officers who use deception to produce false confessions and elected judges who are in cahoots with prosecutors and disparage the insanity defense. During criminal proceedings, he most often has been retained by defense attorneys. He is critical of inexperienced defense attorneys who resist consulting with more experienced professionals and who fail to accept advice from expert witnesses regarding trial strategy.

When he gets involved in a case, Tanay thoroughly reviews all available records and usually conducts multiple interviews. If he is convinced that he can be helpful to the defendant, he is eager to present his findings in court. He says that, although testimony is one of the most important functions of the forensic expert, few forensic psychiatrists have the training or experience to present cases optimally in

courtrooms. He offers a list of eight attributes of an effective expert witness: professional competence, the ability to convey authority and to garner respect from the jury, familiarity with the details of the case, the capacity to testify with emotion, the ability to respond to questions spontaneously when under stress, prescience regarding trial strategy and the goal of the proceedings, the capacity for using one's demeanor and verbalization to command attention in the courtroom, and a structural sense of how one's testimony fits with the rest of the trial.

Since he is invested in his testimony, Tanay is acutely sensitive to case details that may diminish the effectiveness of his work. He says that he is prepared to challenge prosecutors and judges from the witness stand and shares examples of such confrontations. Some seem minor, such as commenting in court when the judge shuffles papers or uses body language that detracts from the testimony. Others are much more significant, such as when he was accused of racism, his credentials were debased, or his testimony was demeaned. He relates that it is ethical to speak up when the expert is on the side of justice. However, in the preface of this book, distinguished forensic psychiatrist Robert Simon cautions neophytes that imitating Tanay's unorthodox confrontational style during testimony may be perilous.

In Part II of the book, Tanay describes cases in greater detail. One involved determining the cause of death of a youth, which the medical examiner, a firefighter by training, had ruled to be suicide. Tanay became convinced that the death was accidental; the distinction was an important one for the youth's parents. The author was instrumental in reversing the cause-of-death decision and is very critical of unqualified, elected medical examiners.

In one chapter, Tanay recapitulates the well-known classification of homicides that he published in his book, *The Murderers*.<sup>2</sup> The classification includes homicides with ego syntonic, ego dystonic, and psychotic motivations. Ego syntonic homicides are goal directed and often planned. Those that are ego dystonic represent a disruption of ego functions, often in the course of a rage reaction. Tanay contends that, owing to untrained police personnel and zealous prosecutors, perpetrators with ego dystonic motives, who are often involved in spousal or other family homicides, are charged with first-degree murder, but should be charged with a lesser degree of murder