

Mirandized Statements: Successfully Navigating the Legal and Psychological Issues

Richard Rogers, PhD, and Eric Drogan, JD, PhD. Chicago, IL: ABA Publishing, 2014. 299 pp. Price \$89.95 (paper).

This book by eminent and experienced forensic psychologists is written for criminal attorneys and judges, but its content is important to forensic psychiatrists and psychologists and legal and forensic mental health trainees. It translates critical forensic psychological concepts and the legal ones that incorporate them into the worlds of law enforcement interrogation and fair and accurate adjudication. The style favors legal and judicial readers, but the principles are well worth reading by forensic clinicians.

Three questions form the practical theme of the book. What does the criminal lawyer need to know about *Miranda* to be effective? How can he or she best use forensic psychologists and psychiatrists? And what is the best way to present *Miranda*-related arguments and supporting evidence, either to challenge or to preserve (depending on the lawyer's role) a Mirandized statement? The authors do an excellent job of balancing defense and prosecution objectives while retaining unbiased views of the various questions and arguments.

While certainly scholarly, the book is also practical, with a very clear chapter structure and many appendices. The main text has clarifying tables and examples, and the extraordinary appendices offer useful case material, report examples, interrogation transcripts, and specialty information (such as measures for, and *Miranda* impact of, the defendant's reasoning, psychiatric symptoms, and intellectual impairment).

Chapter topics include an overview of the legal landscape (including common myths and misconceptions), components of *Miranda* warnings and waivers, waiver cases, and procedural issues, the psychology of *Miranda* comprehension and reasoning, integrating complex *Miranda* findings and data, and trials. The 20 excellent appendices range from practical how-to information, to the impact of mental and developmental symptoms, to detailed

case reports and explanations. The book is very well referenced.

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Disclosures of financial or other potential conflicts of interest: None.

The Witch-Hunt Narrative: Politics, Psychology, and the Sexual Abuse of Children

By Ross E. Cheit. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. 544 pp. \$49.95.

Amid public clamor for prevention, detection, punishment, and management of sex offenders are roadblocks to prosecution of sex crimes against children. For example, we have commented on children's delayed and retracted disclosures as explained by the Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation Syndrome (CSAAS).¹ CSAAS describes perpetrator-protecting behaviors in sexually abused children. Their efforts to cope, particularly when alleged offenders are known to or are members of their family, may be misinterpreted, and their original complaints discredited. In cases of mass-victimization claims, discrediting victims' statements can make perpetrators look like witch-hunt victims. Where is the truth?

In *The Witch-Hunt Narrative*, Ross Cheit reanalyzes original investigations, court transcripts, and medical reports in publicized mass-abuse cases, confirming credible evidence of sexual abuse and sufficient grounds for prosecution. His conclusion, convincingly researched and stated, is that the investigations were not witch hunts. He begins with the McMartin Preschool case (1983–1990) and contends that medical evidence of penetrative injuries was obscured by the witch-hunt narrative. Also concealed were complaints by parents and neighbors that defendant Ray Buckley had a pattern of exposing himself and offering pornography to children. Cheit challenges the argument by journalist Debbie Nathan and others that preschool cases across the United States represented mass hysteria and witch-hunting. He cites David Finkelhor and colleagues' finding that in an estimated 500 to 550 cases of alleged daycare sexual abuse between 1983 and 1985, the height of the