

The American Board of Forensic Psychiatry, Inc., 1976

The American Board of Forensic Psychiatry was established in mid-June of 1976, as a corporate body licensed in the District of Columbia. The Board, in its Articles of Incorporation, proposes that its objects and purposes, in the public interest, shall be in summary:

To encourage the study of, improve the practice of, establish and enhance standards for, and advance the science of forensic psychiatry.

To encourage and promote adherence to high standards of ethics, conduct, and professional practice by forensic psychiatrists.

To grant and issue certificates, or other recognition, in cognizance of special qualifications in forensic psychiatry to voluntary applicants who conform to the standards established by the Board, and who, in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Board, have established their fitness and competence therefor.

To establish, maintain, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations, standards, qualifications, and requirements for the granting, issuing and renewal of certifications or other recognition.

To exercise and enjoy all powers, rights, and privileges granted to or conferred upon corporations of similar character by the laws of the District of Columbia now or hereafter in force.

The initial Board of Directors consisted of the following psychiatrists, all members of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION AND ADDRESS</u>
1. Walter Bromberg, M.D.	3353 Cottage Way Suite 100 Sacramento, California 95825
2. Bernard L. Diamond, M.D.	University of California School of Law Berkeley, California 94720
3. Irwin N. Perr, M.D.	Rutgers Medical School Department of Psychiatry Piscataway, New Jersey 08854
4. Seymour Pollack, M.D.	USC Institute of Psychiatry & Law 1237 North Mission Road Los Angeles, California 90033
5. Stanley L. Portnow, M.D.	823 Park Avenue New York, New York 10021
6. Jonas R. Rapoport, M.D.	Room 309 Courthouse Baltimore, Maryland 21202
7. Robert L. Sadoff, M.D.	326 Benjamin Fox Pavilion Jenkintown, Pennsylvania 19046
8. John K. Torrens, M.D.	3220 Silver, SE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106
9. Maier I. Tuchler, M.D.	4426 North 36th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85018

The Bylaws of the Board were approved on June 13, 1976. The purposes of the Board were detailed as follows:

(a) To encourage the study, improve the practice of, establish and enhance standards for, and advance the science of forensic psychiatry.

(b) To encourage and promote adherence to high standards of ethics, conduct, and professional practice in forensic psychiatry.

(c) To grant and issue certificates, and/or other recognition, in cognizance of special qualifications in forensic psychiatry to voluntary applicants who conform to the standards established by the Board and who have established their fitness and competence therefor.

(d) To cooperate with the several branches of federal and state governments and appropriate governmental and private agencies and organizations in order to secure general recognition and acceptance of Certification by the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry as a significant qualification for the practice of forensic psychiatry.

(e) To maintain and furnish lists of individuals who have been granted Certificates by the Board (hereinafter referred to as Diplomates).

(f) To engage in any activities, not prohibited by law or the Board's Articles of Incorporation, which may contribute to the above purposes or which are in furtherance of the objects and purposes enumerated in the Articles of Incorporation.

The initial sponsors were the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Forensic Sciences Foundation, Inc. Additional organizations having legitimate interest in forensic psychiatry may be invited to become additional sponsors. The American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law voted to sponsor the Board in its October 1976 meeting and is now eligible to submit names of at least two qualified nominees for any eligible vacancy to be filled on the Board.

The Standards for Certification were reviewed and revised on October 20, 1976, at the San Francisco meeting of the Board. A summary of the Standards for Certification, in addition to the usual general qualifications of good moral character and scientific integrity, states:

(a) Applicants must possess an M.D., D.O., or a recognized equivalent medical degree.

(b) Applicants must have a valid license to practice medicine in a state, territory or province of the United States or Canada.

(c) Applicants must be certified in Psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or by the Canadian equivalent.

The members of the Board were unanimous in imposing Board Certification in Psychiatry of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology as a professional requirement.

Standards for professional training and experience were outlined as follows:

(a) Applicants must have a minimum of five years of post-residence experience in clinical psychiatry with significant experience in Forensic Psychiatry, including, but not limited to, contributions in research, teaching and the administrative aspects of Forensic Psychiatry.

(b) One year of accredited full time training in Forensic Psychiatry shall be given two years of equivalent credit.

(c) The applicant must document all training in Forensic Psychiatry. Accreditation will be considered for forensic psychiatric training within an approved psychiatric residency training program.

(d) On approval by the Committee on Credentials, the applicant may apply for examination to be conducted by the Committee on Examinations at an appointed time and place.

(e) Examinations will be both written and oral.

Certification without examination was approved for psychiatrists certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Psychiatry with a minimum of ten years

of post-residency clinical practice who provide the Credentials Committee in writing adequate evidence of their expertise and experience in Forensic Psychiatry.

With the October 20, 1976, meeting of the full Board, the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry is now operational.

The history of Board Certification in Forensic Psychiatry is a study of thwarted aspirations. During the early years of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Lowell Selling, then Chairman of the Psychiatric Section of the Academy, proposed that the members of the Psychiatric Section develop a certifying board. The designated members of the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences disapproved, stating that the Academy was a meeting ground for a heterogenous group of professionals and not a certifying agency (1948-1952).

Ralph Banay, President of the Medical Correctional Association and Editor of the Journal of Correctional Medicine and Social Therapy, frequently editorialized on the lack of standards, qualifications and ethics among the psychiatric professionals willing to participate in the adversary system.

MAIER I. TUCHLER, M.D.

November 15, 1976