

Book Reviews

Alan R. Rosenberg, Editor

PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LEGAL PROCESS. Edited by Bruce Dennis Sales, J.D., Ph.D., Director of Law-Psychology Graduate Training Program, University of Nebraska. Spectrum Publications, 1977. Pp. 291.

Although the field of psychology and law goes back many years, most formal work in the field is of recent date. Prior to the last few years, the main interface between behavioral sciences and law came from anthropology, sociology and psychiatry. In the 1970's, however, the field of psychology has become much more involved with the law. Conferences between psychologists and lawyers have become much more frequent. In 1965, according to psychological abstracts, there were somewhat more than one hundred articles in the field of psychology and the law. Recently there has been an explosion, and in a two and a half year period from January, 1973 to May, 1975, there were seventeen hundred and seventy-one articles. In 1974 the American Psychology-Law Society had its first annual meeting. In 1975 the second annual meeting was held. Much of the material presented in this volume is expanded from talks originally given at the second convention.

This volume is organized, after the introduction, into three major divisions entitled "Issues in Jury and Trial Processes," "Issues in Criminal and Correctional Processes," and "Policy and Professional Issues."

In the section on "Issues in Jury and Trial Processes," the most interesting chapter is entitled "The Effect of the Method of Presenting Trial Testimony on Jury Decisional Processes." It has far-reaching connotations for those mental health people who deal directly with juries.

In the section "Issues in Criminal and Correctional Processes," the chapter on "Children's Conception of Intentionality in the Criminal Law" is a good update on the changes which have been happening so rapidly in this field, particularly in the matter of *mens rea* as applied to juveniles, the implications of *Gault* and *Winship* and *In re Winburn*. The chapter on dangerousness by David Levine, who died unexpectedly early in 1976, discusses Harry Kozol's work at Bridgewater and the Baxstrom results. The Patuxent experience is not included.

The section on "Policy and Professional Issues" covers a wide range of topics, from community psychology to the federal regulation of psychological devices, and includes a most interesting chapter by Alvin G. Goldstein on psychological evidence as applied to the fallibility of the eyewitness. The chapter by Robert Henley Woody on psychologists and child custody provides a good overview of a basic academic framework for

child custody legal proceedings, particularly stressing the need to be able to specify the criteria used, the definitions thereof and the reliability and validity of the evaluations. It also presents the best methods for interpreting and communicating the data.

The last chapter in the book, "The Mental Health Professional on the Witness Stand: A Survival Guide," although somewhat elementary, is a good survey of ways to handle preparation for legal hearings and, particularly, of suggestions for coping with cross-examination.

In summary, this volume, although it takes something of a shotgun approach, will be a useful reference book for those interested in the role of the psychologist in the legal process. Throughout the book the emphasis is on psychological research, showing the current thrusts and showing how much research is being done by psychologists. The volume, with its extensive bibliography, will be a fine source book for those in the field of psychiatry and law interested in what research is being done and in what this research has revealed that will be most important to the practice of forensic psychiatry.

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