

**American College of Forensic Psychology**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium**  
**March 19-22, 2026**  
**San Diego • The Westgate Hotel**

**OVERVIEW**

The American College of Forensic Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The American College of Forensic Psychology maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This program will offer a maximum of 25 hours of Continuing Education credits. To earn CE credit for each session, attendees must attend the entirety of the session and sign in and out at the registration desk.

**Goal:** The goal of this symposium is to keep forensic psychologists abreast of important issues which lie within the interface of psychology and law, recent developments in psychology that require new knowledge for expert witnesses, and new case law affecting forensic practice. **Target Audience:** The program is intended to benefit practicing forensic psychologists, psychologists in other subspecialties, and attorneys who litigate civil and criminal cases involving psychological evaluations and expert testimony. **Objectives:** Participants should improve their knowledge and skills in the following areas: (a) evaluation or treatment of forensic litigants and individuals with other forensic psychological issues; (b) new and ongoing research and developments in the field of forensic psychology; (c) relevant concepts useful in testifying and educating the court on mental health issues, and in working within the legal system; (d) changes in the law that affect clinical and forensic practice; (e) legal and psychological aspects involving inmates in correctional facilities with psychological disorders. All CE sessions are taught at an intermediate level, building upon psychologists' foundational knowledge.

**Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest or Relevant Financial Relationships:** The American College of Forensic Psychology does not receive financial or commercial support. All instructors were asked to disclose potential conflicts of interest, or relevant financial relationships with any commercial interest. All instructors reported that they have nothing to disclose.

The meetings each day will be in the Versailles Ballroom. Registration and continental breakfast each day will be outside the meeting room. Thursday night's welcome reception will be in the Riviera Room and Terrace, and the student poster session on Thursday will be held in Embassy Room, Riviera Room, and the surrounding hallways. The student poster sessions on Friday and Saturday will be in the Versailles Foyer. The events described in this paragraph are **not** CE events.

Although no changes are anticipated, it is possible that changes will be necessary to the program.

**SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, March 18**

4:00-5:30 PM **Name badge pick-up for registrants; late registration** — foyer outside of Versailles Ballroom

**Thursday, March 19**

7:15-7:55 AM **Registration and Continental Breakfast** – foyer outside of Versailles Ballroom

7:55-8:00 AM **Welcome and Announcements** – Versailles Ballroom

**8:00-12:15 Addressing Trauma and Abuse in Forensic Psychology – Versailles Ballroom**

8:00-10:00 AM (2 CE)

**Human Trafficking, #MeToo, and the Epstein Files: Sexual Violence in the Age of Social Media and the Court of Public Perception**

Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D., and Erica Jennett, M.A.

10:00-10:15 AM **Coffee Break**

10:15-11:15 AM (1 CE)

**The Association Between Trauma and Juvenile Delinquency**

Savannah J. Woods, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate

11:15-12:15 PM (1 CE)

**Assessing Allegations of Child Abuse in High Conflict Domestic Relations Cases**

Shawn Wygant, M.A.

12:15-1:30 PM **Lunch Break** (on your own)

**1:30-4:45 PM Forensic Psychology Essentials – Versailles Ballroom**

1:30-2:30 PM (1 CE)

**Malingering: How our Understanding has Changed Over Time**

Stephanie Olson, Ph.D.

2:30-3:30 PM (1 CE)

**Preparing for, Starting, and Building a Forensic Psychology Practice**

Mark Burdick, Ph.D., Baljit Atwal, Ph.D., and James W. Schutte, Ph.D.

3:30-3:45 PM **Break**

3:45-4:45 PM (1 CE – diversity)

**Cultural Assessment in Forensic Psychology: Lessons from Nuremberg and the Rorschach in Cross-Cultural Evaluations**

Mark Burdick, Ph.D.

5:30-6:30 PM **Student Poster Session** - Embassy Room

5:30-7:30 PM **Welcome Reception** - Riviera Room and Terrace

Friday, March 20

7:15-8:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast** – foyer outside of Versailles Ballroom

8:00 AM - 12:15 **Ethical and Professional Issues in Forensic Psychology** – Versailles Ballroom

8:00-10:00 AM (2 CE - ethics)

**Understanding Cognitive Bias in Professional Judgment**

Stephanie Nelson, Ph.D., ABPP, ABPdN

10:00-10:15 AM **Coffee Break**

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM (1 CE – ethics)

**Ethics, Deception, and Diversion: Court Mandated Counseling**

Michael G. Ditsky, Ph.D.

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM (1 CE)

**Expert Opinion Testimony: Suggestions on Preparation, Report Writing, and Interactions with Counsel**

John Philipsborn, M.Ed., M.A.S., J.D.

12:15-1:30 PM **Lunch Break** (on your own)

1:30-4:45 PM **Ethics and Correctional Psychology** – Versailles Ballroom

1:30-2:30 PM (1 CE - ethics)

**Forensic Skills Workshop: Addressing Ethical and Practice Issues in Forensic Psychology**

Kristine M. Jacquin, Ph.D. (Moderator), Autumn R. Ascano, Ph.D., and John White, Ph.D.

2:30-3:30 PM (1 CE)

**Unleashing Potential: Dog Training Programs as Correctional Interventions**

Erica Jennett, M.A., and Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D.

3:30-3:45 PM **Break**

3:45-4:45 PM (1 CE)

**Isolation and Mental Health: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and Solitary Confinement**

Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D., and Kyle Blanchard, B.S.

4:45-5:30 PM **Student Poster Session** - Versailles Foyer

**Saturday, March 21**

7:15-8:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast** – foyer outside of Versailles Ballroom

**8:00 AM - 12:15 PM Forensic Psychological Assessment** – Versailles Ballroom

8:00-9:00 AM (1 CE)

**Violence Risk Assessments**

Stephanie Olson, Ph.D.

9:00-10:00 AM (1 CE)

**Law Enforcement Evaluations in the Context of #ACAB**

Rebecca Smith-Casey, J.D., Psy.D.

10:00-10:15 AM **Coffee Break**

10:15-11:15 AM (1 CE - diversity)

**Autism Spectrum Disorder in Forensic Evaluations**

James W. Schutte, Ph.D., and Christopher W. Schutte, M.S.Ed.

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM (1 CE)

**Workers' Compensation Review and Discussion**

William K. Marek, Ph.D., and Albert Kastl, Ph.D.

12:15-1:30 PM **Lunch Break** (on your own)

**1:30-4:45 PM Technology in Forensic Psychology** – Versailles Ballroom

1:30-3:30 PM (2 CE - ethics)

**Digital Mastery for Forensic Psychologists: Streamlining Professional Demand & Self-Care Tools**

Judy Ho Gavazza, Ph.D., ABPP, ABPdN, CFMHE

3:30-3:45 PM **Break**

3:45-4:45 PM (1 CE)

**Using an Advanced, Computer Adaptive Screener to Enhance Measurement of Mental Health Problems in a Large Public Defender Office**

Jared Minkel, Ph.D., and Jeremiah Reece, J.D.

4:45-5:30 PM **Student Poster Session** - Versailles Foyer

**Sunday, March 22**

7:15-8:00 **Registration and Continental Breakfast** – foyer outside of Versailles Ballroom

8:00 AM - 12:15 PM **Psychology of Murder** – Versailles Ballroom

8:00-10:00 AM (2 CE)

**On Becoming Evil: The Idaho Four Murders and Other College Mass Murders Targeting Women**

John White, Ph.D.

10:00-10:15 AM **Coffee Break**

10:15-12:15 PM (2 CE)

**Criminally Charged: When the Unperceived Pregnancy Leads to Murder**

Diana Barnes, Psy.D.

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