



VORWERK
FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY, INC.

MICHELLE L. VORWERK, Psy.D. ABPP
Board Certified Forensic Psychologist

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Licensure and Board Certification

Licensed Psychologist - California No. PSY21119

Board Certified Forensic Psychologist - American Board of Professional Psychology
(ABPP)

Professional Experience

Vorwerk Forensic Psychology, Inc.
Forensic Psychology Private Practice
Mission Viejo, California

2007 – present

***Forensic Psychological Evaluations | Expert Witness Testimony |
Attorney Consultations***

Civil & Criminal Litigation – Conducted thousands of psycho-legal evaluations and testified in hundreds of cases.

- Personal Injury/Emotional Distress/Damages
- Civil and Criminal Competencies
- Violence Risk Assessment
- Sex Offender Risk Assessment
- Sentencing Mitigation
- Criminal Responsibility Cases
- Conservatorship Evaluations
- Probate/Testamentary Capacity/Undue Influence
- Youthful Offender/Franklin Evaluations

California Dept. of State Hospitals (DSH) – Sexually Violent Predator Evaluations
Contractor, 2012 – present

- **Psychological evaluations** per Welfare and Institutions Code Section WIC §6600 for identified inmates who have a diagnosed mental disorder such that he or she is likely to engage in acts of sexual predatory violence without appropriate treatment and custody.
- **Expert witness testimony** in court (probable cause hearings, bench, & jury trials).

California Dept. of State Hospitals (DSH), Coalinga – Sexually Violent Predator
Contractor, 2018 - 2022

- **Annual psychological evaluations per Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC)§ 6604.9** to determine whether a Sexually Violent Predator's (SVP) mental condition has so changed that he no longer meets the definition of an SVP.
- **Expert witness testimony** in court

California Dept. of State Hospitals (DSH) – Offenders with Mental Disorder (OMD)
Contractor, 2016 – present

- **Psychological evaluations per PC§ 2962** to determine if an inmate has a treatable, severe mental disorder that was a cause or aggravating factor in the commission of the crime for which they were incarcerated and therefore a substantial danger of physical harm to others by reason of a severe mental disorder.

California Dept. of State Hospitals (DSH) – Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST)
Contractor, 2021 – present

- **Psychological evaluations of IST defendants per PC§ 1370**
- **Capacity to consent** to antipsychotic medication opinions and other recommendations to the court.

Orange County, San Diego, Ventura, Riverside, & San Bernardino Public Defender & District Attorney's Offices, 2008 – present

- Psychosexual Evaluations
- Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations (PC§ 1368)
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity Evaluations (PC§ 1026) & Restoration to Sanity (PC§ 1026.2)
- Stoll Evaluations (Pre-adjudicated defendants with sex offense charges)
- Sexually Violent Predator Evaluations (WIC§ 6600)
- Mentally Disordered Offender Evaluations (PC§ 2962) & Extension Hearings

- PC§ 288.1 Evaluations
- Franklin/Youthful Evaluations and 707 Juvenile Transfer Evaluations

California Board of Psychology (BOP) – Expert Reviewer, 2017 – present

- Case reviews
- Expert opinion reports
- Testimony at administrative hearings
- Collaborate and consult with the Deputy Attorney General on cases

Orange County Superior Court Expert Panels – Criminal & Mental Health

2012 – 2017

- Conservatorship evaluations in criminal (PC§ 1026 & PC§ 1368) and LPS conservatorship evaluations (WIC§ 5358)
- Expert witness testimony in Superior Court in conservatorship trials and hearings

Riverside County Department of Mental Health - Conservatorship Evaluations, 2009 – 2016

- Forensic LPS conservatorship evaluations re status of mental illness in relation to grave disability (WIC§ 5358)
- Expert witness testimony in Superior Court trials and hearings regarding grave disability in conservatorship appointment and reappointment, testimony at hearings

San Bernardino County Superior Court Expert Panel, 2007 – 2010

- Competency/Developmental Disability Evaluations, PC§ 1368
- Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity Evaluations, PC§ 1026

Riverside County Superior Court Expert Panel, 2007 – 2015

- PC§ 288 Lewd & Lascivious Act Evaluations
- PC§ 1368 Competency/ Developmental Disability Evaluations
- PC§ 1026 Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity Evaluations
- PC§ 1370 Murphy Conservatorship Evaluations
- Expert witness testimony

State of California Board of Parole Hearings, 2007 – 2010

- PC§ 2962 Mentally Disordered Offender Evaluations

**Orange County Probation Dept. - Sex Offender Treatment Program, 2007 – 2012
Program Director – La Paz Psychological Group**

Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider (CA Sex Offender Management Board)

- CASOMB Certified Sex Offender Treatment Program – La Paz Psychological Group
- Psycho-educational group therapy sessions for sex offender outpatient treatment program including relapse prevention, cognitive-behavioral, Good Lives Model, and process-oriented treatment interventions
- Sex-specific individual therapy and couples/family therapy
- Psychological Testing
 - Initial comprehensive battery of psychological and psychosexual testing to assess static and dynamic risk factors, psychosexual adjustment, and determine supervision issues & treatment goals.
- Monthly Orange County Sex Offender Unit Probation Department meetings and training, e.g., offense cycle, relapse prevention, family reunification, cybercrime expert, polygraph, and community supervision.
- Containment Model - collaborated with Orange County Probation Officers, Victim Advocates, & Polygraphers.

**County of Orange Health Care Agency, Forensic Services
Forensic Psychologist, Santa Ana, California, 2006 – 2024**

- Forensic LPS conservatorship evaluations and Murphy Conservatorship evaluations pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section (WIC)§ 5358 & PC§ 1370 regarding status of mental illness in relation to grave disability by conducting interviews with interdisciplinary treatment team members, clinical interview with clients, and record review.
- Expert witness testimony in Superior Court re grave disability in conservatorship jury trials, court trials and hearings re appointment and reappointment, medical petitions, facility hearings, & contested placement reviews.
- Collaborate with County Counsel, Public Defenders, and Public Administration/ Deputy Public Guardians on expert opinions.

Faculty Appointments

Adjunct Professor, Center for Forensic Studies

Alliant International University, Irvine, CA, 2008 – 2010

Forensic Psychological Evaluations Course

- Competency Evaluations, Sanity/Mental State at Time of Offense Evaluations, Mentally Disordered Offender Evaluations, Grave Disability Evaluations, & Expert Witness Testimony

Adjunct Professor, Doctoral PsyD Clinical Psychology Program

Argosy University, Santa Ana, CA, 2008 – 2009

- Moderate to Severe Adult Psychopathology Course

Education

Doctor of Psychology, PsyD. - Clinical Psychology, Rosemead Graduate School of Psychology (APA-Accredited), Biola University, California. Awarded 2005

Doctoral Thesis, *Multicultural Competence Training in Clinical Psychology at the Graduate Level*

Master of Arts, M.A. - Clinical Psychology, Rosemead Graduate School of Psychology (APA-Accredited), Biola University, California. Awarded 2002

Bachelor of Arts Magna Cum Laude - Psychology
University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), Granted 2000

Deans Honor's Scholastic Awards
National Honor Society in Psychology, Psi Chi
College of Letters and Science Honors Program
Golden Key National Honor Society

Supervised Clinical Practica/Internship, Pre-Doctoral Training

Metropolitan State Hospital, APA-Accredited Pre-doctoral Internship

Norwalk, CA, 2004 – 2005

Clinical Psychology Internship - treatment, forensic evaluations, multidisciplinary treatment teams, clinical didactics

Major rotations in:

- Positive Behavioral Support Team (functional behavior assessments)
- Neuropsychological Assessment Team
- Psychologist on Forensic Admissions Unit

Long Beach Veterans Affairs Healthcare System - Practicum

Long Beach, CA, 2003 – 2004

Major rotations in:

- Personality Assessment: Cognitive and personality assessment and individual therapy; diagnoses of patients included
 - Major Depressive Disorder
 - Anxiety Disorders
 - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
 - Bipolar Disorder
 - Substance Abuse
 - Schizophrenia
 - Borderline Personality Disorder
- Treatment, group therapy and psychological testing with severely mentally ill patients.
- Spinal Cord Injury: Individual and couples therapy with spinal cord injury patients. Psychosocial rehabilitation and psychological intake assessments.

Additional training

- Psychological Assessment
- Collaborated in multidisciplinary teams of psychologists, psychiatrists, physicians, social workers, case managers, and occupational therapists
- Medical setting
- Grand rounds on medical and psychiatry topics

Long Beach Unified School District - Stephens Middle School and Polytechnic High School – Practicum, 2001-2002

- Individual therapy and counseling
- Psychoeducational testing
- Assisted in crisis resolution and forensic cases
- Served on a panel to discuss effect of 9/11 on students with local press
- Participated in Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings
- Individual and group supervision

Biola University Counseling Center – Practicum

La Mirada, CA, 2001-2002

- Individual therapy experience in a variety of modalities: Panic Disorder, Agoraphobia, Anxiety, Depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, Schizoid Personality Disorder, Bereavement, Family Relationships, Premarital Couples, Sexual Abuse, & Eating Disorders.

Presentations

- April 2024 Identifying & Interviewing Clients with Mental Disorders
Orange County Public Defender
- March 2023 Differentiating Personality Disorders from
Severe Mental Disorders in Forensic Settings
Forensic Mental Health Association of California
- October 2022 Violence Risk Scale – Sex Offense Version
Orange County Public Defender
- June 2022 Murphy Conservatorships
Orange County Health Care Agency
- April 2018 LPS Conservatorships
Orange County Health Care Agency
- May 2017 Forensic Evaluations & Mental Illness
Orange County Public Defender
- September 2009 International Conference on Violence, Abuse &
Trauma Child Molesters – Myths Dispelled
- March 2001 Poster Presentation- California Psychological Association
Conference “Levels of Comfort as a Predictor of Perceived
Physical and Emotional Intimacy”
- August 2000 Poster Presentation- American Psychological Association
Conference “Levels of Comfort as a Predictor of Perceived
Physical and Emotional Intimacy”
- March 2022 *A perspective review of cannabis use and sexual offenses.
Behavioral Sciences & the Law. 40:225–238.*
- Investigation of the link between substance use and crime with a particular emphasis on cannabis use and its effects on sexual and psychological functioning.
 - How these mechanisms may contribute to sexual offenses and recidivism.
 - How cannabis use should be conceptualized as a risk factor for sexual violence.

Research Experience

Doctoral Research Paper:

2005 – Cross-cultural competence training in clinical psychology at the graduate level

Undergraduate Research:

1999 – 2000 - Developmental Psychology Lab University of California, Santa Barbara
Dr. Daphne Bugental

Conducted an observational study on aggression in toddlers
Performed literature reviews on developmental research, including attachment

1997 – 2000 - Social Psychology Lab University of California, Santa Barbara
Dr. Debora Levine-Donnerstein

Research on social distance between different races
Performed data collection and entry and writing research papers

Professional Memberships

- Fellow, American Academy of Forensic Psychology (AAFP)
- Specialist Forensic Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA)
- Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC)