

Forensic Clinical Neuropsychology:
Suggestions for the Practitioner

Antonio E. Puente
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Presented as part of a workshop, Specialization in
Neuropsychology for the Independent Practitioner, Arthur M. Horton
(Chair), August 15, 1988 at the 96th annual meeting of the
American Psychological Association, Atlanta, Georgia.

- I. Appeal and Importance
 - A. Financial issues
 - 1. Client
 - 2. Company (e.g., insurance and business)
 - B. Future
 - 1. Client
 - 2. Company/Vocational
 - C. Competence and Role of Clinical Neuropsychologists
 - 1. Fake positive
 - 2. Fake negative

- II. Role of Clinical Neuropsychologists
 - A. Perceived
 - 1. Short term rewards (hired gun)
 - 2. Long term difficulties (Satz)
 - B. Actual
 - 1. Scientific data gathering
 - 2. (Self) editorial

- III. Assessment Issues
 - A. Referral
 - 1. Type
 - a. attorney
 - b. agency
 - c. insurance company
 - d. other professional
 - 2. Information
 - a. typically available information
 - b. desirable information (premorbid)
 - 3. Pragmatic Issues
 - a. time
 - i. evaluation
 - ii. report
 - b. financial
 - i. clinical assessment
 - ii. legal
 - iii. contract
 - B. Evaluation
 - 1. Premorbid/Backgrounds
 - a. legal
 - b. medical
 - c. vocational
 - d. other (family, social, etc.)
 - 2. Patient Education
 - a. defining clinical neuropsychology
 - b. purpose of evaluation
 - c. procedure of evaluation
 - 3. Record keeping
 - a. potential for subpoena
 - b. what "should be turned over"
 - c. style
 - 4. Testing
 - a. interview
 - i. style - serial
 - ii. individuals - extensive

- b. testing
 - i. hypothesis/flexible vs. shotgun/battery
 - ii. issues - technician, serial, length
- 5. Interpretation
 - a. inferences
 - b. behavioral vs. anatomy
 - c. building on other data
- 6. Report
 - a. accompanying letter and statement
 - b. actual report = length, format, content, and approach
 - c. follow-up contact

IV. Court Related Activities

- A. Preparation
 - 1. Self
 - 2. Others
 - a. attorney
 - b. patient
 - c. court - reporters, judge, etc.
- B. Affidavit
 - 1. Defining
 - 2. Procedure
- C. Deposition
 - 1. Defining
 - 2. Procedure
- D. Court Appearance
 - 1. Presentation
 - a. theme - education of jury by an impartial scientific observer
 - b. style - language, concepts, etc.
 - c. method - audio-visual
 - 2. Qualifications
 - 3. Questions
 - a. your attorney
 - b. their attornies

V. Summary

- A. Attraction
 - 1. Money
 - 2. Impact
- B. Pitfalls
 - 1. Not clinical work
 - 2. Requires more expertise and accuracy
 - 3. Could negatively affect discipline?

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