

IRA K. PACKER, Ph.D.
Diplomate in Forensic Psychology,
American Board of Professional Psychology

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EDUCATION:

Columbia University, B.A. in Psychology, 1974.

University of Pennsylvania, M.A. in Psychology, 1976.

University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. in Psychology, 1979.

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Psychiatry, Psychology Intern, 1976-1978.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) (1999- present)

I am responsible for directing the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Forensic Psychology, which is a nationally known and respected program. In addition to directing the program, I provide direct clinical supervision of the forensic evaluations performed by the fellows and also supervise Psychiatry trainees. I teach in the Forensic Mental Health Seminar Series for the Psychology and Psychiatry Forensic Fellows.

I also serve as the Chair of the Massachusetts Designated Forensic Professional Training and Certification Committee which is responsible for overseeing the training and credentialing of all psychologists and psychiatrists who provide public-sector forensic evaluations for adults involved in the criminal justice system in the Commonwealth. In this capacity I help coordinate the statewide trainings provided to Forensic Professionals and to community providers on issues of forensic practice and violence risk assessment and management.

As part of my duties, I provide consultations to the Department of Mental Health in Massachusetts regarding violence risk assessment and management of DMH clients.

My previous responsibilities for UMMS have included:

Deputy Mental Health Program Director, Correctional Mental Health Program, 1998-2001

I participated in developing and overseeing the delivery of mental health services to the Commonwealth's prison system, which included 18 prison facilities and Bridgewater State Hospital, a maximum security forensic hospital. My responsibilities included: participating in policy development and implementation, as well in the development of a staffing matrix; quality assurance; training of clinical as well as correctional staff; participating in development of a suicide prevention training; involvement in hiring staff and disciplinary procedures.

Director of Forensic Service, Bridgewater State Hospital, 2001- 2007

In this capacity I oversaw the delivery of forensic evaluations (over 1,000 a year) to the District and Superior Courts in Massachusetts at Bridgewater State Hospital, the state's Maximum Security Forensic Hospital. I provided direct services (conducting evaluations, preparing reports, testifying, consulting to treatment teams) and supervised the work of trainees as well as Psychologists and Psychiatrists who worked on the service. I also served on the Hospital Executive Committee at Bridgewater State Hospital, during the period when we successfully attained JCAHO accreditation at the Hospital for the first time. My duties also included serving as Discipline Chief for Psychology, both at the hospital and throughout the prison system.

Site Director at Bridgewater State Hospital for the Forensic Psychiatry Forensic Fellowship (ACGME accredited) 2003-2007

I served as site director for the UMMS Forensic Psychiatry Forensic Fellowship, helping to coordinate the training at Bridgewater State Hospital and also providing direct clinical supervision to the fellows regarding forensic evaluations.

UMMS Psychology Internship, 2001-2007

I developed a specialty track for the UMMS, APA-Accredited Internship program in Psychology. This track includes rotations at Bridgewater State Hospital and Framingham prison. We have expanded from 2 to 3 positions to accommodate the demand for this training.

Senior Vice President for Operations, Forensic Health Services, Inc., Natick, MA., 1996- 1999.

I provided operational oversight of contracts to provide mental health services and system consultation in inpatient forensic settings, correctional facilities, DYS programs, and community settings. My responsibilities also included the development and implementation of Continuous Quality Improvement measures. In addition, I provided clinical supervision and also performed forensic evaluations and consultations.

Assistant Commissioner for Forensic Mental Health, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Boston, MA, 1993-1996

I was responsible for overseeing provision of mental health services to the courts, jails, and houses of correction throughout Massachusetts. Responsibilities included: administrative responsibility for mental health services provided to the criminal justice system (courts, jails, and houses of correction) and to mental health clients involved with this system; program development; budget development and management; oversight of vendor contracts; supervising management personnel; developing and maintaining a

Continuous Quality Improvement system; liaison to other branches of government, including the judiciary and legislature; interface with inpatient and community programs regarding risk assessment and risk management; educating and informing the public about issues related to forensic mental health.

Director, Forensic Services, Behavioral Health Network, Springfield, MA, 1985 - 1993.

I had administrative, clinical, and supervisory responsibilities for a community forensic program serving several counties in Western Massachusetts. Services included: provision of court-ordered evaluations for adults and juveniles involved with the courts; evaluation and treatment services to mentally ill inmates at three Houses of Correction.

Director of Psychological Services, Child Guidance Clinic, Springfield, MA, 1991-92.

The responsibilities for this position included: administering the Psychological Services Unit which provides psychological assessments and testing for children, adolescents, and adults; supervising doctoral level psychologists; chairing the Assessment Team meetings and the Quality Assurance/ Utilization Review meetings. My time was evenly distributed between this position and the Forensic Services position.

Forensic Psychologist, Center for Forensic Psychiatry, Ann Arbor, MI, 1979-1985.

In this position I was involved in the evaluation and treatment of individuals referred by the courts and Department of Correction. This position involved both inpatient and outpatient work. The inpatient treatment was done in a secure treatment setting with individuals found incompetent to stand trial, Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, and prisoners in need of treatment (both male and female). The outpatient work involved evaluations for: competency to stand trial, criminal responsibility, civil commitment, and sentencing recommendations. I frequently consulted with attorneys and testified as an expert witness in numerous hearings and trials. I also supervised and trained psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers.

Private Practice (1985-present)

I have provided forensic evaluation services and consultations to state and federal courts in areas including: competence to stand trial; criminal responsibility; disposition of offenders; transfer of juveniles to adult court; civil commitment; personal injury; standards of practice in correctional settings; violence risk assessment. In addition, I have been called upon to provide training and consultation to a variety of state systems across the country, including Arkansas, Maine, New Mexico, Utah, Illinois, and New York. This work includes providing quality assurance and training regarding competency to stand trial and criminal responsibility reports, as well as system issues regarding management of forensic patients.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

University of Massachusetts Medical School, 1999-present
Current Rank: Clinical Professor of Psychiatry

Adjunct Faculty, University of Massachusetts, Lowell 2006- present
I teach a Master's Level course in Forensic Psychology.

Associate in Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 1988-1999.
Prior to my becoming a UMMS full-time faculty member, I was an adjunct faculty, providing clinical supervision and training to the Postdoctoral Psychology fellows in a number of settings, including the Springfield Court Clinic and Bridgewater State Hospital.

Adjunct Faculty, University of Massachusetts at Boston, 2000.
I taught Introduction to Forensic Psychology (Master's level).

Instructor, Eastern Michigan University, 1982.
I taught a course on Introduction to Psychology.

Instructor, University of Pennsylvania 1975-1979.
I taught courses in Abnormal Psychology and Theories of Personality.

SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS:

THESES:

M.A. Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1975: Some cognitive and affective characteristics associated with conjugate lateral eye movements.

Ph.D. Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1979: The relationship between individual differences in hemispheric activation and cognitive performance.

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Packer, I.K. (2009). Evaluation of Criminal Responsibility. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Peer-reviewed publications:

Sackeim, H.A., Packer, I.K., & Gur, R.C. (1977). Hemisphericity, cognitive set and susceptibility to subliminal perception. Journal of Abnormal Psychology, 86, 624-630.

Gur, R.C., Packer, I.K., Hungerbuhler, J.P., Reivich, M., Obrist, W.D., Amarnek, J.S., & Sackeim, H.A. (1980). Differences in the distribution of gray and white matter in human cerebral hemispheres. Science, 207, 1226-1228.

Packer, I.K. (1981). The use of hypnotic techniques in the evaluation of criminal defendants. Journal of Psychiatry & Law, 9, 313-327.

Packer, I.K. (1983). Post-traumatic stress disorder and the insanity defense: A critical analysis. Journal of Psychiatry & Law, 11, 125-136.

Packer, I.K. (1984). Hypnosis in the courtroom. American Journal of Forensic Psychiatry, 5, 29-32.

Petrella, R.C., Benedek, E.P., Bank, S.C., & Packer, I.K. (1985). Examining the application of the guilty but mentally ill verdict in Michigan. Hospital and Community Psychiatry, 36, 254-259.

Packer, I.K. (1985). Insanity acquittals in Michigan, 1969-1983; The effects of legislative and judicial changes. Journal of Psychiatry & Law, 13, 419-434.

Packer, I.K. (1987). Homicide and the insanity defense: A comparison of sane and insane murderers. Behavioral Sciences & the Law, 5, 25-35.

Packer, I.K. (1990). Domestic violence: the role of the mental health expert. Medicine & Law, 9, 1274-1276.

Packer, I.K. (1994). The court clinic system in Massachusetts: A therapeutic vs. rights-oriented approach. New England Journal of Civil and Criminal Confinement, 20, 291-300.

Fisher, W.H., Packer, I.K., Grisso, T., McDermeit, M., & Brown, J.M. (2000). From case management to court clinic: Examining forensic system involvement of persons with severe mental illness. Mental Health Services Research, 2, 41-49.

Fisher, W.H., Packer, I.K., Simon, L.J., & Smith, D. (2000). Community mental health services and the prevalence of severe mental illness in local jails: Are they related? Administration and Policy in Mental Health, 6, 371-382.

Appelbaum, K.L., Hickey, J.H., & Packer, I.K. (2001). The role of correctional officers in multidisciplinary mental health care in prisons. Psychiatric Services, 52, 1343-1347.

Fisher, W.H., Dickey, B., Normand, S., Packer, I.K., Grudzinskas, A., and Azeni, H. (2002). Use of a State Inpatient Forensic System Under Managed Mental Health Care. Psychiatric Services, 53, 447-451.

Fisher W.H., Packer I.K., Banks S.M., Smith D., Simon L.J., and Roy-Bujnowski K. (2002). Self-reported lifetime psychiatric hospitalization histories of jail detainees with mental disorders: Comparison with a non-incarcerated national sample. Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research, 29,458-465.

Vitacco, M.J and Packer, I.K. (2004). Mania and Insanity: An Analysis of Legal Standards and Recommendations for Clinical Practice. Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice, 4, 83-95.

Pinals D.A., Packer I.K., Fisher W., and Roy-Bujnowski. K. (2004).Relationship between race and ethnicity and forensic clinical triage dispositions. Psychiatric Services, 55, 873-878.

Packer, I.K. (2008). Specialized Practice in Forensic Psychology: Opportunities and obstacles. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 39, 245-249.

Invited (non-peer reviewed) publications:

Packer, I.K. (1982). The uses and abuses of psychiatry in the legal system. Contemporary Psychiatry, 1, 158-160.

Packer, I.K. (1983). Ethical issues in the medical treatment of children. Contemporary Psychiatry, 2, 195-196.

Packer, I.K. (1998). Privatized Managed Care and Forensic Mental Health Services. Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law, 26, 123-129.

Packer, I.K. (2001). Competence to act as one's own attorney. Chapter in K. Heilbrun, G.R. Marczyk, DeMatteo, D. (eds). Forensic Mental Health Assessment: A Casebook. New York: Oxford University Press.

Packer, I.K.,Cheney, E. & Casey, K. (2001). Suicide Prevention Training in Massachusetts. Correctional Health Care Report.

Tillbrook, C. and Packer, I.K. (2001) Civil Liability, Foreseeability of a Patient's Elopement Attempt. Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and Law, 29, 255-256.

Leguizamo, A. and Packer, I.K. (2001). Testamentary Capacity. Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and Law, 29, 243-244.

Domino, M. and Packer, I.K. (2002) Psychological Testimony on the Diagnosis of Mental Illness and Relation to Violent Behavior. Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and Law.

Flores, G. and Packer, I.K. (2002) Gender Identity Disorder: Sex Reassignment Surgery May Be Excluded Under Medicaid. Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and Law.

Dudek, J. and Packer, I.K. (2002). Persons With Mental Retardation Possess Protected Liberty Interest Regarding Procreation/Contraception. Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and Law.

Marioni, N. and Packer, I.K. (2002). Privilege, Exception to Psychotherapist - Patient Privilege. Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and Law.

Packer, I.K. and Borum, R.(2003). Forensic training and practice. In A.M. Goldstein (Ed). Handbook of psychology: Forensic psychology, Vol. 11. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Vitacco, M.J and Packer, I.K. (2003).Civil Commitment. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry & the Law, 31, 264-266.

Cleveland, J. and Packer, I.K. (2003). Mental Injury and Workers' Compensation. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry & the Law, 31, 259-261.

Bryant, L.M. and Packer, I.K. (2003). Sex Offender Laws. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry & the Law, 31, 255- 256.

Amato, J.M. & Packer, I.K. (2006). Battered-Child Syndrome. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law, 34,414 - 416.

Brown, J. & Packer, I.K. (2006). Competence Requirements for Sexually Violent Predator Hearings. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law, 34,420 - 422.

Bank, S.C. & Packer, I.K. (2007). Expert witness testimony: Law, ethics, and practice. In A.M. Goldstein (ed.). Forensic Psychology: Emerging topics and expanding roles. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.

Eudy, K. & Packer, I.K. (2007). The Speedy Trial Act: Implications for mentally ill defendants. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, 35, 393-395.

Packer, I.K. (2008). Postdoctoral Residencies in Forensic Psychology. Encyclopedia of Psychology and Law.

Smith, M.S., Kalbeitzer, R., & Packer, I.K. (2009).Diminished capacity and the right to refuse mental examination. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law. (in press)

Presentations at Conferences:

Gur, R.C., Sackeim, H.A., Packer, I.K., & Liran, J. (1977). Hypnosis as a tool for studying motivational effects on cognition. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Packer, I.K. & Gur, R.C. (1978). Individual differences in cognitive performance related to hemispheric activation. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Gur, R.C., Packer, I.K., Reivich, M. & Weinberger, J. (1978). Cognitive task effects on hemispheric blood flow in humans. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Packer, I.K. (1983). Vietnam veterans, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and the Insanity Defense. Presented at the Michigan Psychological Association Academic Conference.

Packer, I.K. (1983). The Guilty but Mentally Ill verdict in Michigan: Its history and practice. Presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Convention.

Packer, I.K. (1985). The Guilty but Mentally Ill verdict in Michigan: Practical considerations. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Packer, I.K. (1985). An empirical evaluation of the insanity defense in Michigan. Presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association.

Howard, R.C., Haynes, J. & Packer, I.K. (1986). Insanity recommendations and outcomes. Presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Convention.

Packer, I.K. (1988). The Insanity Defense. Participation in a panel presentation at the American Society of Criminology.

Packer, I.K. (1989). Domestic violence: The role of the mental health expert. Presented at the International Congress of Law and Mental Health.

Packer, I.K. (1990). Training and credentialing for forensic examiners in the criminal justice system: A national survey. Presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Convention.

Packer, I.K. (1991). Models of forensic training and credentialing: The Massachusetts model. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Forensic Mental Health Directors.

Packer, I.K. (1993). The court clinic system in Massachusetts: A systems analysis. Presented at the International Conference on Diversion of Mentally Disordered Offenders.

Packer, I.K. (1994). An analysis of juvenile forensic inpatient evaluations. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Forensic Mental Health Directors.

Packer, I.K., Benedict, P.E., Lester, H. & Durfee, K. (1995). Court and jail-based mental health services: Innovative programs and outcome measures. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association.

Packer, I.K. (1995). Sexually Dangerous Offenders: The Massachusetts Experience. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Forensic Mental Health Directors.

Packer, I.K. (1995). Forensic issues in the seriously mentally ill population. Presented at the DMH conference on Serious Mental Illness and Violence.

Packer, I.K. and Richardson, M.H. (1995). The Massachusetts Court Clinic model. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Mental Health Legal Advisors.

Fisher, W., Grisso, T., McDermeit, M., Packer, I.K., and Williams, D. (1996). Analysis of DMH clients involved with the criminal justice system in Massachusetts. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

Packer, I.K., Fisher, W.H., and Benedict, P.E. (1997). Jails and the Mentally Ill: Research and Application. Symposium presented at Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Mental Health Forensic Directors

Packer, I.K. (1998). Risk Assessment of Delinquent Juveniles. Presented at the Biennial meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society.

Packer, I.K. and Leavitt, M. (1998). Designing and implementing a Quality Assurance Process for Forensic Evaluations. Presented at the Biennial meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society.

Pinals DA, Packer IK, Norniella R, Fisher WH, Roy-Bujnowski K. (2000). Race and ethnicity: Impact on forensic decisions. Presented at the 31st Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Vancouver, BC.

Appelbaum, K.A., Trestman, R., Packer, I.K. and Lewis, C. (2001). Difficult cases in the Correctional Mental Health System . Panel presentation at American Academy of Psychiatry and Law, Boston, MA

Packer, I.K. (2002). Use of Structured Risk Assessment Instruments: A National Survey. Presented at the Biennial meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society.

Packer, I.K. (2004). Forensic Training and Certification: Data from Massachusetts. Presented at the Annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society.

Packer, I.K., Vincent, G., and Pinals, D.A.(2005). Use of the PCL-SV in treatment planning. Presented at the Annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society.

Packer, I.K. (2008). Forensic Psychology as a recognized specialty: Opportunities and obstacles. Invited award presentation at the Annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society.

Selected Workshops and invited presentations:

Workshop and invited presentations have included the following topics:

Competency to stand trial
Criminal responsibility
Risk liability management
Suicide assessment and prevention
Risk management approaches to documentation
Violence risk assessment
Developing and implementing quality improvement for forensic reports
Confidentiality and privilege issues in forensic settings
Mental health services in Corrections
Ethical issues in forensic practice
Preparing for the diplomate examination in Forensic Psychology
Providing ethical and effective expert witness testimony
Uses and misuses of psychological testing in forensic evaluations

LICENSURES AND CERTIFICATIONS:

Diplomate in Forensic Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology.

License to Practice Psychology - Health Service Provider, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Licensed Psychologist – State of Utah

Designated Forensic Psychologist, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Forensic Mental Health Supervisor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Certified Forensic Examiner, State of Michigan.

AWARDS:

Award for Distinguished Contributions to Forensic Psychology – presented by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, 2007

NATIONAL AND STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

American Board of Forensic Psychology: President, 1998-1999
Vice President, 1996-1998
Recording Secretary, 1995-1996
National Chair of Examinations, 1989 -1994

American Academy of Forensic Psychology: President (1990-1992)
Vice President (1988-1990)

American Psychology- Law Society: Convention Program chair, 1997
Convention Program co-chair, 1996

Massachusetts Psychological Association: Fellow
Board of Directors, 1997-2000

Forensic Specialty Council Chair, 2004- 2009

Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology 2004-2009
President: 2008-2009
Vice President: 2007
Secretary/Treasurer: 2005-2006