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NOTE ON CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS  
This program is sponsored by the St. John’s University Postgraduate Professional Development Programs. St. John’s University is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. St. John’s University maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

A separate \$20 fee is required for those interested in obtaining a Continuing Education Certificate (CE) for any of our presentations. Total CE credits: 5.0.

For up-to-date information about the program and registration information, including webinar registration, visit [stjohns.edu/forensicpsych](http://stjohns.edu/forensicpsych) or contact:

RAFAEL ART. JAVIER, PH.D., A.B.P.P  
St. John’s University  
Office of Postgraduate Professional Development Programs  
Marillac Hall, Room 402-B  
8000 Utopia Parkway  
Queens, NY 11439  
[initiatives@stjohns.edu](mailto:initiatives@stjohns.edu) | 718-990-5460



ST. JOHN’S  
UNIVERSITY

## THE OFFICE OF POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

presents

# FORENSIC CONFERENCE

## LEGAL CHALLENGES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

**APRIL 26, 2015**

8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Queens Campus  
School of Law  
Belson Moot Court Room

# RATIONALE

## In the course of our clinical practice, patients and/or professional entities may ask us to perform functions that require some forensic understanding.

We may be confused about how best to respond and, in trying to help our patients, may unwittingly compromise the integrity of our clinical practice and put our licensing status at risk. This concern led the Conference Planning Committee to organize this conference in order to address the numerous challenges likely to emerge in clinical practices and to provide some professional recommendations for how best to proceed. A number of outstanding experts in clinical and forensic practices will guide our discussion, which will cover the following issues: the scope of competencies in working with children and families regarding custody

evaluation and termination of parental rights; employment discrimination and fitness for duty; how to respond to subpoenas, requests for records, and requests for mental health status; duty to warn/protect; requirement for retention and disposal of records; etc. The latter part of the conference will be dedicated to a moot court experience addressing some threats to our licensing that have emerged through licensing complaints. Conference attendees are expected to gain a good understanding of the different threats to one's licensing and acquire strategies to respond to these challenges in professional and clinically appropriate ways.



**JOE SCROPPO, PH.D., J.D.,** is a forensic psychologist and attorney. Currently, he is assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and clinical assistant professor at Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine at Hofstra University. He was assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine Bellevue Hospital Center and director of the North Shore University Hospital's Forensic Psychiatry Program. He was named to the panels of expert witnesses for criminal and family/juvenile proceedings at New York's First and Second Judicial Departments and has served as an expert mental health consultant in a wide range of civil and criminal litigation. In addition, he was senior forensic psychologist for the New York City Family Court and supervising psychologist at the Rikers Island Prison. Scropo received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the Gordon F. Derner Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University and his J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.



**LUZ TOWNS-MIRANDA, PH.D.,** has practiced psychology privately in New York City for almost 30 years. She received her Ph.D. from New York University. Her diverse career has included providing services at a therapeutic nursery at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, Geriatric Services at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, Psychosocial Behavioral Health training in the Family Practice Residency programs of Bronx Lebanon Hospital and Montefiore Medical Center, evaluation and treatment of foster care children for the Coalition for Hispanic Families, and as a Firehouse Clinician after 9/11. She has conducted custody and visitation evaluations for all five boroughs for over 20 years and has served on the State Board of Psychology for 15 years.



**CHARLES T. TUCKER JR., ESQ.,** began his legal career in the Appeals unit of the New York City Law Department. Upon graduation from law school, he was offered a position as an assistant district attorney for the Kings County District Attorney's Office, where he quickly advanced to become a senior trial attorney in the Special Victims Unit. In November 2008, he joined the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia in the Personnel, Labor, and Employment Division. Additionally, for over 13 years he has been an adjunct professor at institutions including St. John's University, the Cornell University School of Continuing Education, and the College of Southern Maryland. He is currently an associate professor at the University of Maryland University College, where he teaches business law and ethics courses in the Executive M.B.A. and J.D. degree programs.

In February 2013 he returned to private practice, opening the Tucker Law Group as managing partner. He supervises a staff of six associates, four legal assistants, and three legal secretaries. The firm specializes in complex civil and criminal litigation.

# ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



**THOMAS A. CAFFREY, PH.D.** has been in private practice of psychology in New York City for 33 years. Formerly the chief of psychology services at the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City, he now conducts evaluations and psychotherapy with suspected and convicted federal offenders and conducts evaluations for the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens County family courts. He has served as president of the Forensic Division of the New York State Psychological Association and is currently a member of St. John's University's Forensic Program Planning Committee.



**LARRY A. COHEN, PH.D.** has practiced clinical and forensic psychology for over 25 years. Much of his professional focus has been devoted to assisting families deal with divorce and parenting issues. He consults with attorneys regarding litigation and alternate dispute resolution.

He has increasingly been involved in the delivery of interventions that help divorcing families resolve their familial conflicts out of court when possible. He was a founding board member of the Parenting Coordination Association of New York, is a codeveloper of Brief Issue Focused Intervention (BIFI), and has served as a facilitator for PEACE NY. His practice also includes collaborative divorce matters as well as parenting plan development work and divorce education.

Cohen has also written and lectured on child custody and relocation, and on alternate dispute resolution methodologies in family matters. In addition to his work with families, he has served as a consultant to the New York City Police Department, the New York City Transit Department, and Covenant House. His most recent pro-bono service is with Doctors of the World-USA evaluating applicants for political asylum. He has offices in both Manhattan and Long Island.



**BRUCE V. HILLOWE, J.D., PH.D.,** is a mental health care attorney with a law practice in Mineola, NY. A graduate of Binghamton University, Duke University School of Law, and Adelphi University Derner Institute (Clinical Psychology and Postdoctoral Programs), he formerly practiced as a psychologist-psychoanalyst, including as a coordinator of clinical training and director of a forensic mental health service. He was a teaching attending psychologist in law and ethics at a major teaching hospital for 15 years. He currently teaches courses in ethics and law as adjunct faculty at the Derner Institute. He is legal counsel to numerous mental health facilities, institutes, and practitioners and sponsors legal plans for professional associations. He has written articles and book chapters, most recently regarding scope of practice and

disciplinary defense. He is listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers in healthcare law and was featured in *The New York Times Magazine*.



**ERIC C. MARINE** has been the Vice President for Claims and Risk Management for the American Professional Agency for the past 20 years. He received a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Castleton State College in Castleton, Vermont. Following graduation, he entered the insurance industry as a claims adjuster.

After four years, he was promoted to Branch Manager of the offices of the General Adjustment Bureau, Inc. in Burlington, Vermont. He then became the director of the self-insurance plan for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, N.Y., and manager of the offices of Gallagher Basset Insurance Services. After joining the American International Group as a Senior Claims Supervisor, he was eventually promoted to Home Office Claims Manager for Professional Liability Claims, nationwide. Marine then joined American Professional Agency, Inc.

For the past 20 years, Marine has had articles published by state and national organizations on mental health malpractice claims and how to avoid them. He presents many times a year to state and national associations on the same subject and is consulted by legal profession on defense issues involving mental health professionals. He also provides risk management services to clients of the American Professional Agency, Inc.



**ALAN PERRY, PH.D.,** received his Ph.D. in Psychology from Fordham University. He is currently on the Forensic Psychiatry Service at Kings County Hospital and is a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at SUNY Downstate. Over the years he has served as director of psychological services at Kings County Hospital and deputy director of mental health services at Rikers Island. He also has a private practice in forensic psychology.



**SYLVAN JAY SCHAFFER, J.D., PH.D.,** focuses on the interaction of psychology and law. His areas of practice and teaching include: ethical dilemmas in forensic evaluations; legal and regulatory impacts on psychological practice; jury selection and persuasion; teaching psychologists how to prepare for direct and cross examination; dangerousness and workplace violence; competence in criminal and civil matters; handling domestic violence and child abuse cases; dealing with test validity and reliability in forensic evaluations; malingering; and handling relationships among forensic evaluator, judge, and competing attorneys.

# CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

**THOMAS A. CAFFREY, Ph.D.**  
*Forensic Division of the New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA)*

**LARRY A. COHEN, Ph.D.**  
*Independent Practice, New York City and Long Island, NY*

**BRUCE V. HILLOWE, J.D., Ph.D.**  
*Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University  
Private law practice, Mineola, NY*

**RAFAEL ART. JAVIER, PH.D., A.B.P.P.**  
*Office of Postgraduate Professional Development Programs  
St. John's University*

**ALAN PERRY, Ph.D.**  
*Kings County Hospital Center and SUNY Downstate Medical Center*

**JOE SCROPPO, J.D., PH.D.**  
*President of Forensic Division, NYSPA*

**CHARLES T. TUCKER Jr., ESQ.**  
*Tucker Law Group, LLP*

# PROGRAM

8:30 a.m.	<b>REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST</b>
9:15 a.m.	<b>WELCOMING COMMENTS</b> <b>JEFFREY W. FAGEN, Ph.D.</b> <i>Dean and Professor of Psychology St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</i>  <b>RAFAEL ART. JAVIER, Ph.D., A.B.P.P.</b> <i>Professor of Psychology and Director, Postdoctoral Certificate Program in Forensic Psychology and Postgraduate Professional Development Programs, St. John's University</i>  <b>ALAN PERRY, PH.D.</b> <i>Kings County Hospital Center and SUNY Downstate Medical Center</i>  <b>JOE SCROPPO, J.D., PH.D.</b> <i>President of the Forensic Division, NYSPA</i>
9:30 a.m.	<b>KEYNOTE PANEL PRESENTATIONS</b> <b>MODERATOR</b> <b>LARRY COHEN, PH.D.</b>  <b>RISK MANAGEMENT IN CLINICAL PRACTICE: AN INTRODUCTION</b> <b>ERIC MARINE</b> <i>American Professional Malpractice Insurance</i>  <b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES</b> <b>JOE SCROPPO, PH.D., J.D.</b> <i>Forensic Psychologist</i>
10:30 a.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
	<b>SCOPE OF COMPETENCIES RELATED TO:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employment Discrimination</li><li>• Fitness for Duty</li><li>• Disability</li><li>• Personal Injury</li><li>• Guardianship of Patient</li><li>• Testamentary Capacity</li><li>• Mental Health Status</li></ul> <b>SYLVAN SCHAFFER, Ph.D., J.D., AND CHARLES TUCKER, ESQ.</b>

11:30 a.m.	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
NOON	<b>LUNCH REMARKS</b> <b>LOUIS PRIMAVERA, PH.D.</b> <i>Touro College</i>
1 p.m.	<b>DUTY TO PROTECT/WARN</b> <b>THOMAS CAFFREY, Ph.D., AND ALAN PERRY, Ph.D.</b> <i>Clinical/Forensic Psychologists</i>  <b>RESPONDING TO SEEMINGLY INNOCUOUS REQUEST IN CLINICAL PRACTICE AND RELATED ISSUES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Request and Demand for Patient Information</li><li>• Various Requirements for Retention and Disposal of Records</li></ul> <b>BRUCE V. HILLOWE, J.D., Ph.D</b> <i>Attorney- and Counselor-at-Law and Psychologist</i>
2 p.m.	<b>MOOT COURT: SIMULATION OF A LICENSING HEARING</b> <b>LUZ TOWNS-MIRANDA, PH.D.</b> <i>Presiding</i>
3:30 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>
3:45 p.m.	<b>FOLLOW-UP PANEL DISCUSSION AND AUDIENCE Q &amp; A</b> <b>CHAIR AND DISCUSSANT</b> <b>THOMAS A. CAFFREY, Ph.D.</b>
4:15 p.m.	<b>CONCLUDING REMARKS AND FUTURE PLANS</b>