

## Practice History

Who we are is an amalgam of our life experiences, our relationships, our DNA, and how and where we choose to spend our time. When people come to see me, we often end up talking about their personal histories because it's important for me to understand the environmental factors that have promoted their becoming the people they are today.

Similarly, a psychiatrist's professional history is important because it is training and experience in combination with the professional's personality that make him or her the psychiatrist he or she becomes. Knowing about a psychiatrist's career experiences can help you determine how likely it is that he or she will be able to help you with the particular problem(s) that you are experiencing.

I have decided to include a brief history of my practice on this website so that you can begin to get to know me professionally. A more complete rendition can be found by clicking on "Curriculum Vitae".

I entered private practice during July of 1972 having finished a psychiatric residency program at the University of Colorado Health Sciences. I became interested in court work as a result of my serving as a staff psychiatrist at the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo the year before, evaluating and treating the criminally insane.

When I entered private practice, I served as a psychotherapist for adults and teenagers, performed court evaluations, and became a consultant to the Denver Department of Human Services (as it is now known), evaluating adults who had been accused of child abuse and/or neglect.

At the end of the five years that I worked in the juvenile court system, I put together a group of mental health professionals and attorneys who performed evaluations and conducted mediations under the name of Colorado Custody and Mediation Services. This group decreased in size over time with the result that three of us remained to work together performing what are now known as parental responsibility evaluations. We did so for 17 years.

In the meantime, I explored other areas of forensic (court-related) psychiatry, performing evaluations in the areas of criminal law (insanity

pleas, competence to stand trial, and eligibility for release from confinement), probate (assessments of competence with regard to the signing of a will), personal injury (damages allegedly caused as a result of the actions of others), medical malpractice (evaluating doctors at the request of the Colorado Attorney General's Office in conjunction with the Colorado State Board of Medical Examiners, and similar evaluations performed at the request of defense counsel), and employment law (evaluating psychological damage allegedly resulting from circumstances in the work place or the manner in which a person was terminated).

Throughout my career, I have had an interest in educating other professionals. If you click on "Curriculum Vitae", you will find a list of presentations that I have given as well as a list of the articles that I have authored.

My interest in educating judges, attorneys, and other mental health professionals has been the result of my belief that providing professionals information and different ways of looking at things generally results in an enhanced level of care and service to individuals, couples, and families. I have donated my time in various educational settings in an effort to enhance the quality of care and services provided by other professionals, believing that all of us who have achieved a certain level of expertise have an obligation to help others provide the best care and services as they possibly can in an ethical, knowledgeable, and balanced fashion.

To that end, I have served for many years as a co-chair of the program committee for Colorado Legal Education, presented at judicial conferences, mentored five other professionals, and given talks on various topics to groups of attorneys and mental health professionals. I have authored or co-authored articles that have appeared in The Colorado Lawyer and other publications, and recently revised a chapter in a book written for Child and Family Investigators, Parental Responsibility Evaluators, and Children's Legal Representatives.

I have been a reformer and innovator during my career, particularly with regard to domestic relations law and practices. For example, I was one of three professionals who initiated a change in divorce law eliminating the word "custody" and replacing it with the term "parental responsibility" in an effort to refocus parents and legal professionals on the best interest of children.

Out of concern for the sometimes traumatizing effects of divorce on children, especially related to exposure to parental conflict, I have for a number of years now focused on the development of processes that allow for a less adversarial divorce. For example, I developed a process to help parents reach agreements regarding parenting plans for their children called Early Parenting Plan Mediation (EPPM) which has been highly successful in helping parents resolve their differences while preserving a co-parenting relationship for the future.

I am currently working on a project known as Plan B which is an effort to provide divorcing families an opportunity to use a parallel, entirely non-adversarial process to reach divorce agreements in a cost-effective, yet well-informed and well thought out manner. On the committee are three judicial officers, two attorney-mediators, and yours truly.

And, of course, I have continued to do what many other psychiatrists do, namely provide psychotherapy to individuals (adults and adolescents), couples, and families.

I hope that this overview has helped you get to know my practice at least a little bit. Visiting the rest of this website will help you get to know my work even better. I hope that you find that perusing the site is worth your time.