



DANA R. ANDERSON, PSYD

CLINICAL FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST

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Dr. Anderson is a licensed clinical and forensic psychologist over a decade of experience conducting court-ordered and retained forensic psychological evaluations in civil, criminal, and family law matters. She provides psycho-legal evaluations, expert witness testimony, and consultation services to courts and attorneys nationwide. Her opinions utilize standardized psychological assessments and accepted forensic methodologies, and have been relied upon by courts across multiple states and jurisdictions.

EXPERIENCE

Forensic Psychologist | CALIFORNIA FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY | 2022 – Present

As owner of California Forensic Psychology Dr. Anderson conducts retained and court-appointed forensic psychological evaluations for plaintiffs and defense counsel in civil, criminal, and family law matters. Her civil litigation work includes evaluations of psychological injury, trauma-related disorders, malingering, credibility, and damages arising from allegations of sexual abuse, workplace misconduct, catastrophic injury, and wrongful death. She provides expert testimony and deposition services for courts using standardized clinical and forensic testing, symptom validity measures, collateral record review and structured forensic interviews.

Court-Appointed Expert Witness | SUPERIOR COURT | 2022 – Present

Serves as a court-appointed expert witness for multiple California and Nevada counties, including Shasta, Siskiyou, Trinity, Tuolumne, Del Norte, Mendocino, and Glenn. Provides forensic psychological evaluations including Competency to Stand Trial, Insanity, Mental Health Diversion, sex offender assessments, sentencing evaluations, and risk assessments. Completes Acuity Review Reports in correctional settings for the identification and mitigation of clinical risk factors. Holds annual contracts with the Department of Health and Human Services Agency, providing forensic evaluation services for Shasta and Tehama Counties.

Program Director, Jail-Based Competency Treatment (JBCT) Program | 2020 – 2021

Established and directed the Department of State Hospital Jail-Based Competency Treatment program at Shasta County Jail. Managed program operations, supervised multidisciplinary staff, and coordinated with key stakeholders, including the Sheriff's Department and Superior Court. Provided competency restoration services for individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial through structured psychoeducational programming in preparation for legal proceedings.

EDUCATION

DOCTORATE OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CLINICAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY | Alliant International University | 2016 |

MASTER OF PSYCHOLOGY IN CLINICAL AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY | Alliant International University | 2014 |

BACHELOR OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE | National University | 2007 |

LICENSE AND CERTIFICATION

LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST | CALIFORNIA: PSY 33167 | NEVADA: PY 1101 | PSYPACT: 14010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRIAL CONSULTANTS

ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE

SACRAMENTO VALLEY PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, FORENSICS DIVISION

FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER WORK

LEADERSHIP REDDING, CLASS OF 2017: STEERERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

ONE SAFE PLACE, PAST PRESIDENT; VOICES AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

Post-Doctoral Psychology Intern | RESTPADD PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY | 2016 – 2021

Facilitated crisis stabilization interventions pursuant to Welfare and institutional Code 5150 for individuals experiencing acute psychiatric crises. Initiated 5250 psychiatric holds for individuals meeting criteria as a danger to self (DTS), danger to others (DTO), or gravely disabled (GD). Served as a court hearing representative for 5250/5270 psychiatric commitment hearings, as well as REIS and WRIT medication hearings and LPS Conservatorship proceedings, providing sworn testimony on a weekly basis in approximately 800 hearings. Provided group therapy, case management, and treatment planning to support psychiatric stabilization and continuity of care.

Pre-Doctoral Psychology Intern | GOLDEN GATE CONREP CONDITIONAL RELEASE PROGRAM | 2015- 2016

Conducted court-ordered forensic psychological evaluations for the Department of State Hospitals' (DSH) statewide Conditional Release Program, utilizing the HCR-20 risk assessment, and prepared detailed quarterly and annual forensic psychological reports for California Superior Court. Provided outpatient treatment, supervision, and therapy for individuals adjudicated as Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) or designated as Mentally Disordered Offenders (MDOs), in accordance with court and program requirements. Evaluated individuals with serious mental illness for readiness for conditional release from State Hospitals and correctional facilities following violent felony convictions.

Psychology Intern | PSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT RESOURCE CENTER (PARC) | 2014- 2015

Performed forensic psychological evaluations for courts and attorneys, addressing criminal responsibility, risk assessment, malingering, and matters involving Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI), Guilty but Mentally Ill (GBMI), Competency to Stand Trial (CST), and Penal Code 290 Sex Offender evaluations. Evaluated adult and juvenile defendants in Sacramento County Jail and Stockton Juvenile Detention Facility, providing psychological findings and recommendations relevant to placements, supervision, and court decision-making. Administered standardized psychological assessments, formulated diagnostic impressions, and prepared comprehensive forensic evaluations for legal proceedings, including evaluations related to Miranda rights waivers and the voluntariness of confessions.

Psychology Intern | PSYCHWEST CLINICAL & FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY | 2014 – 2015

Conducted clinical psychological assessments for Social Security Disability Insurance evaluations to inform diagnostic formulations and treatment recommendations. Prepared comprehensive psychological reports based on assessment findings and participated in individual and group supervision to review and refine clinical impressions, treatment planning, and outcomes.

Psychology Intern- Parole Outpatient | CONSORTIUM FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES (CCS) | 2013 – 2014

Collaborated with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Integrated Services for Mentally Ill Parolees (ISMIP) to provide mental health assessments, group therapy, and crisis intervention services for individuals on parole with serious mental illness. Carried out crisis intervention, psychiatric stabilization, and risk assessments for high-risk offenders, including the most dangerous and violent individuals immediately released from prison. Designed, facilitated a structured group therapy program addressing criminogenic and treatment needs of female parolees with serious mental illness, including individuals subject to Penal Code 290 registration requirements.

Psychology Intern | YUBA CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2012 – 2013

Administered comprehensive intellectual and psychological assessments for adolescents using standardized instruments including the WISC-IV, KABC-II, BASC, CONNERS, and CTOPP, including nonverbal assessment methods for bilingual and non-English-speaking students to evaluate identify learning and psychological functioning. Collaborated with school personnel and probation agencies and participated in Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) meetings to inform educational planning and support strategies for at-risk youth. Conducted psychological evaluations and contributed to treatment plans for children identified with ADHD, learning disorders, and intellectual deficiencies

CERTIFICATIONS

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DV/SA) Certification, Shasta Family Justice Center
Danger Assessment (DA) Certification (validated lethality risk assessment for intimate partner violence: valuation of risk factors associated with severe and fatal violence)
Advanced Strangulation Prevention Training Certification (National Family Justice Center Alliance; medical, forensic, and legal assessment of non-fatal strangulation in intimate partner violence cases)

AWARDS & HONORS

Doctoral Fellowship Award, Soroptimist International- Sierra Nevada Region, 2016

RUBY Award, Soroptimist International" For Outstanding Work Improving the Lives of Women & Girls, 2016
Be a HERO to Your Children Recognition Award, One Safe Place, 2015
20 Under 40 Emerging Leader Award, Redding Searchlight, 2014
HERO Award, Shasta Family Justice Center and Shasta Women's Refuge, 2012
Women's Opportunity Award, Soroptimist International of Redding, 2013
California Family Justice Initiative Learning Exchange Scholarship Award, San Diego, 2012
VOICES Scholarship Award, "Changing the World," International Family Justice Center, 2011

MEDIA & TELEVISION

Killer Psychologist Podcast | Podcast Host | 75+ episodes | January 2024 – Current
Court TV, live episodes | Expert commentator | multiple episodes - 2025
Fox Nation, "Deny, Defend, Delay: The Murder of A CEO" | December 2024
Fox Nation, Savage Instincts: The Mind of Bryan Kohlberger | March 2024
Crime Stories with Nancy Grace | 8+ episodes 2023 - 2024
Investigative Discovery "Mean Girl Murders" Season 1: Episodes 3 & 11
Crime Door Television, Tubi TV, Forensic Psychologist commentator | 2022 - 2023

PUBLISHING & PRINT

Forbes | Quoted in "Communication Lessons for Business Leaders from the Presidential Debate" | June 2024
Communication Intelligence Magazine "Whistleblower Learns from Reactions" | 2024
How To Become A Forensic Psychologist (e-book) | 2022
Library of Congress | *Understanding the Physical and Psychological Experiences' of Intimate Partner Strangulation Survivors* | Dissertation | 2015

COURT TESTIMONY:

Blevins v. Blevins – Family Law, Lassen County: testified on court-ordered psychological evaluation. Judge adapted recommendations for child custody and restraining order (December 2025)
Leavitt v. Leavitt – Family Law, Santa Clara County; testified regarding psychological risk factors in a child custody matter involving domestic violence: court renewed restraining order. (September 2025).
People v. Scribner – Criminal Court, Shasta County; retained by defense, testified regarding mitigating factors in an involuntary manslaughter proceeding. (August 2025).
People v. Lance – Criminal Court, Shasta County; court-appointed expert: testified regarding pathology, memory, and recall as related to claim validity; jury returned a not guilty verdict. (April 2025)
State of Ohio vs Alexander Hostetler – Criminal Court; Court of Common Pleas, Guernsey County, Ohio; subpoenaed by the District Attorney; testified regarding competency to stand trial; court adopted report and recommendations. (April 2025).
McDonald v. McDonald – Family Law, Oregon Superior Court (case transferred from Nevada); retained by respondent's counsel, testified regarding psychological functioning and child-related risk factors; court adopted treatment recommendations. (July 2024).
T.K v. Los Angeles Unified School District – Civil Court, Los Angeles County: retained by plaintiff's counsel; provided deposition testimony regarding psychological effects of childhood sexual abuse and trauma-related disorders. (March 2024).
Sage-Espinosa and Lee - Tehama County Department of Social Services; retained by the court, testified regarding parental psychological capacity, and child welfare risks court adopted recommendations. (March 2024).
Juvenile Court, Shasta County; retained by Public Defender, testified regarding severe mental illness, homicide, and psychiatric stabilization; court adopted findings supporting retention of juvenile status. (March 2023)
Hearing Officer, Restpadd Psychiatric Facility – Shasta County; testified weekly in ~800 psychiatric commitment and medication hearings (WIC 5250/5270/REIS/WRIT); courts routinely adopted testimony regarding danger to self, danger to others, and grave disability. (2016–2020)

REFERENCES: Craig Wetterer, Ph.D., J.D. Clinical Forensic Psychologist; Licensed Attorney |
Craig@carsonpsychological.com | (775) 530-7415. Kent Caruso, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist; Court-Appointed Expert Witness | Kent.caruso@gmail.com | (530) 945-3288

For a comprehensive profile + endorsements please visit Dr. Dana Anderson on LinkedIn