



## Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 20??

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### **I4 First Do No Harm; Forensic Psychiatric Examinations, Reports, and Testimony**

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Upon completion of presentation, the participant will: (1) have developed methods of minimizing harm to examinees during forensic psychiatric examinations, and (2) be able to testify in forensic cases as objectively as possible with testimony given on evidence based resources.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating how the practice of forensic psychiatry can be exciting, rewarding, and fulfilling; however, there are also a number of pitfalls that the practitioner may encounter. Forensic psychiatric evaluations are not benign and without risk. Conflicts between different guiding principles are commonplace in forensic psychiatry, where the concept of *parens patriae* is often at odds with considerations regarding public safety.

Dr. Robert Sadoff is a clinical professor of psychiatry, director at the Center for Studies in Social-Legal Psychiatry, and director of the Forensic Psychiatry Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is board certified in psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, and legal medicine, and has added qualifications in forensic psychiatry with the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. In 40 years, Dr. Sadoff has examined more than 10,000 individuals charged with crimes. He has testified in numerous criminal and civil trials, both in state and federal courts. Author of six books and 90 professional articles, Dr. Sadoff has lectured in nearly every state and many foreign countries.

Dr. Sadoff will review, in this presentation, methods of minimizing harm that may be inevitable in forensic examinations, reports and testimony.

**Forensic Psychiatry, Ethics, Nonmaleficence**