

## **Rorschach Applications in a Forensic Setting**

### **Level**

Intermediate

### **CE**

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

### **Track**

Clinical

### **Bio**

Abraham Loebenstein, PhD

Abraham is a clinical and forensic psychologist, based in San Diego and Riverside Counties, with extensive experience in the forensic evaluation of adults and adolescents in the justice system. His experience as a prison psychologist, a psychodynamic psychotherapist and a forensic evaluator gives him a balanced, well-rounded and culturally sensitive perspective on the assessment and treatment process. Abraham's forensic assessment specialties include competency to stand trial opinions, psychodiagnostic clarification, sexual misconduct risk, violence recidivism risk and suitability for mental health diversion. Abraham initially trained in the Comprehensive System in 1987 as a graduate student under Donald Viglione, PhD. He was later retrained by Donald in the Rorschach Performance Assessment System (R-PAS) in 2012 and was excited by the potential of the Rorschach in forensic settings. He has since utilized the Rorschach in compliance with R-PAS in more than 500 Forensic Assessments. He hopes this will enable Donald to eventually forgive him for all the times he was daydreaming in class.

Madeleine Starin, PsyD

Madeleine is a pre-licensed psychologist working as a registered psychological assistant under the license and supervision of forensic psychologist, Abraham Loebenstein, PhD. In this role since 2018, Madeleine is responsible for conducting psychological evaluations and primarily works with adolescent populations in the juvenile justice system. Referrals are received from attorneys working in the public defender's office. Assessments range from standard psychological, violence risk, sex risk, fire-setting risk, threat risk and competence. Madeleine also works as an Adjunct Professor at Alliant International University, San Diego, teaching two class sections of PSY6504; Personality Assessment II (Rorschach). She considers Donald Viglione, PhD a mentor. She hopes to be licensed as a clinical psychologist by the end of 2021. Madeleine resides in San Marcos, CA within San Diego County and lives with her husband and infant daughter.

### **Narrative**

This presentation focuses on the benefits of and providing support for the use of the Rorschach (Rorschach-Performance Assessment System; R-PAS) in a forensic setting with case examples. Topics for discussion include a brief overview of the history and improvements made from the Comprehensive System, en vivo performance style, quantitative and qualitative information

yielded, types of evaluation, and adolescent and adult case examples including mental competency, violence risk and sex risk where the Rorschach was instrumental in formulating diagnoses and recommendations.

### **Learning Objectives**

Identify three ways the Rorschach adds incremental information in forensic settings.

Describe two ways the Rorschach with R-PAS is defensible in court.

Identify five types of forensic evaluations where a Rorschach with R-PAS is useful and how with case examples.