



*Lenore Walker and David Shapiro, Introduction to Forensic Psychology: Clinical and Social Psychological Perspectives, New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2003*

Lenore Walker was the expert witness for OJ Simpson. She has been through the wars and knows what it means to take on cases that are controversial, and work with the existing evidence. Walker teams up with David Shapiro to write a good textbook for therapists who face forensic work. While not bedtime reading, it is clear and readable. Therapists particularly will find the sections on battered women, sexual harassment, sex offending, and child custody cases useful. The purpose of the book is to blend the scientific method of psychology with the deductive method of legal inquiry. Here is an example of their practical approach in preparing for cases:

It is important for both the forensic expert and the retaining attorney or court to be clear on what is (are) the referral question(s). If each party understands the role he or she must play together, it will make the final product more useful than if the expert doesn't understand the law or the lawyers don't understand the limits of the examination. Check out admissibility issues to determine what may need to be done. Make sure important court dates are clearly understood so that deadlines are not missed. Sometimes putting the referral question in a written letter can focus everyone on the same issues.

Should be on your bookcase since it will be a good place to start when problems arise.