

PACIFIC FORENSIC GROUP

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Teo Ernst, PsyD, ABPP Board Certified Forensic Psychologist

LICENSURE

5/21/08 – Present *Licensed Psychologist*, State of California, PSY 21972

ACAMEDIC APPOINTMENTS

7/1/21 – Present *Associate Clinical Professor – Volunteer*, UCSF Department of Psychiatry, San Francisco, CA

3/14/12 – 7/1/21 *Assistant Clinical Professor – Volunteer*, UCSF Department of Psychiatry, San Francisco, CA.

9/1/19 – 8/1/21 *Adjunct Clinical Faculty*, Wright Institute, Berkeley, CA.

HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

10/14/17 – Present *Board-Certified Specialist in Forensic Psychology*, American Board of Professional Psychology.

10/4/17 – Present *Forensic Psychology Fellow*, American Academy of Forensic Psychology

2/23/15 – 2/23/16 *Subject Matter Expert in Qualified Medical Examinations*, Qualified Medical Examiner Pre-Test Panel

1/1/13 – Present *Certified Emotionally Focused Couples Therapist*, International Center for Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy

12/25/13 – 2014 *Member of the Criminal Panel of Psychiatric and Psychological Experts* California State Superior Court, County of Santa Cruz

12/25/12 - 2022 *Member of the Criminal Panel of Psychiatric and Psychological Experts* California State Superior Court, Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa

12/1/11 – Present *Certified Qualified Medical Examiner*, California Department of Industrial Relations

8/1/06 *Outstanding Dissertation Award*, Wright Institute

6/1/02 ***Girvetz Award for the Outstanding Graduate in the Philosophy Department, U.C. Santa Barbara***

EDUCATION

2006 – 2007 ***Postdoctoral Fellowship in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Substance Abuse, San Francisco Veterans Affairs Hospital***

2005 – 2006 ***Predoctoral Internship, Napa State Hospital***

2002-2006 ***Wright Institute, Berkeley, CA***
2006 Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology
2004 Masters of Arts in Clinical Psychology

1994 – 1998 ***University of California, Santa Barbara***
1998 Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

8/22 – Present ***Pacific Forensic Group – Director***

Founder and director of multi-specialty expert witness group practice in the areas of forensic psychology, neuropsychology, neurology and neurosurgery.

8/08 – Present ***Private Forensic Psychological Practice***

Scope of practice includes serving as an expert witness or consultant in cases involving Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, severe mental illness, personality disorders, neuropsychological impairment, criminal sentencing, testamentary capacity, personal injury, fitness for duty, mental state at the time of offense, competency to stand trial, capital sentencing, retrospective assessment of mental states, civil competencies, and violence risk assessment.

8/08 – Present ***Private Clinical Psychological Practice***

Individual, Couples and Family Psychotherapy with an emphasis in the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and psychological trauma.

3/14/12 – Present ***UCSF Intensive Family Therapy Program, San Francisco, CA***
Faculty

Faculty member providing interventions and consultation to highly distressed families. Teaching and consultation to psychiatry residents, psychology and psychiatry fellows, post-masters nurses, community trainees, and UCSF staff member.

12/18 – 6/18 ***UCSF Intensive Family Therapy Program***, San Francisco, CA
Interim Co-Director

Co-directed the UCSF Intensive Family Therapy Training Program during the permanent director's maternity leave.

11/08 – 1/13 ***San Francisco V.A. Medical Center***, San Francisco, CA
Compensation and Pension Services Contract Staff Psychologist

Forensic psychological evaluations on veterans applying for service-connected disability for mental disorders addressing causation, diagnosis, and impairment.

8/07 – 6/13 ***Napa State Hospital***, Napa, CA
Staff Psychologist

Unit psychologist in inpatient forensic hospital evaluating and treating patients committed as Mentally Disordered Offenders, Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, or Incompetent to Stand Trial. Primary duties included competency and violence risk forensic evaluations, expert witness testimony, diagnostic assessment, neuropsychological screening, treatment to regain competency and reduce the risk of recidivism, and supervision of pre-doctoral interns.

9/06 – 8/07 ***San Francisco V.A. Medical Center***, San Francisco, CA
Fellowship in PTSD and Substance Abuse

American Psychological Association approved fellowship specializing in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Substance Abuse Disorders in veteran populations. Performed evidence-based PTSD treatment and diagnostic/neuropsychological assessments, organized panel for UCSF psychiatry grand rounds, supervised psychology trainees, contributed to Iraq/Afghanistan veteran program development.

9/05 – 8/06 ***Napa State Hospital***, Napa, CA
APA Intern

American Psychological Association approved predoctoral internship in inpatient forensic hospital. Provided clinical treatment to restore competency and reduce recidivism. Completed diagnostic, neuropsychological, personality functioning, behavioral analysis, and suicide assessments. Received training in practice and empirical basis of forensic psychology.

9/04 – 8/05 ***Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc.***, San Francisco, CA
Third Year Practicum Student

Training and supervised experience providing multi-culturally competent treatment including 40 hours of multicultural training by the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association.

9/04 – 2 /05 ***Homeless Assessment Project***, Berkeley, CA
Volunteer Trainee

Conducted Disability Assessment on Homeless Individuals.

9/03 – 9/04 ***Martinez VA Day Treatment and Outpatient Clinic***, Martinez, CA
Second Year Practicum Student

Training and supervised experience in the multi-disciplinary treatment of veterans with PTSD and comorbid conditions.

9/02 – 6/03 ***Notre Dame de Namur University Counseling Center***, Belmont, CA
First Year Practicum Student.

Training and supervised experience providing college counseling.

9/01 – 4/02 ***Progress Foundation***, San Francisco, CA
Counselor

Provided clinical services at an acute diversion unit for individuals in psychiatric crisis.

8/99 – 4/00 ***Spring Lake Ranch***, Rutland, VT
Counselor

Provided individual counseling and case management to patients with severe mental illness in a psychosocial residential program.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Psychological Association Trauma Psychology Division

American Psychological Association Society for Environmental, Population and Conservation Psychology

American Academy of Forensic Psychology

PUBLICATIONS

Ernst, T., Mart, Eric. *The Assessment of Testamentary Capacity and Undue Influence: Common Fallacies and Remediation Strategies*. American Journal of Forensic Psychology – Accepted but unpublished.

Brown, D., Norona, J., Busch, A. Armstrong, K., Crouch, S., Ernst, T. Darrow, S., Jackson, S. Isle, E. (2020) Is it Us or is it Me? Family Experiences of Connectedness Following a Reflecting Team Intervention. *Family Process*

Lockart, J., Ernst, T. (2013) Feigning and Malingering, *Santa Barbara Lawyer*, Issue 492, 6-8

BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS

Ernst, T. (November 2023) *Maintaining Positive Connects with Clients: An Attorney's Practice Guide*, Marin Bar Association, CA

Ernst T. (April 2022) *Psychological Trauma and the Court: A Trauma Informed Model of Defense Strategy Development in Criminal Proceedings*, San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst T. (April 2022) *Winning the Trust and Cooperation of Highly Distressed Clients while Guarding Against Burnout and Vicarious Traumatization*, San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T: (March 2021): *Winning the Trust and Cooperation of Highly Distressed Clients*, San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco CA

Ernst, T: (February 2018) *Coping with the Emotional Toll of Legal Practice*, presented to the Alameda Bar Association, Oakland, CA

Ernst, T (February 2018) *Strategies for Managing Challenging Interactions*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T (January 2017) *Client Control: Challenging Client Behavior*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T (June 2016) *Strategies for Working Effectively in Legal Practice with Mental Illness* presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (January 2016) *Personal Injury Evaluations: Best Practices and Strategies for Cross Examination*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (January 2016) *Strategies for Managing and Screening Challenging Client Behavior*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst T. (January 2016) *Maintaining Happiness in Legal Practice: Challenges and Solutions*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (January, 2015) *A Closer Look at Psychological Evaluations in Personal Injury Proceeding: Standards of Practice and Strategies for Cross Examination*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (January, 2015) *The Two Pillars of Maintaining Happiness in Legal Practice: Mitigating Common Causes of Attorney Dissatisfaction & Effectively Managing Challenging Client Behavior*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (May 2014) *Client Control: Tips and Tricks for Managing Challenging Client Behavior*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (January 2014) *Maintaining Happiness in Legal Practice*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (February 2013) *Feeling Grumpy at Work: It's not Just the Long Hours*, presented to San Francisco Bar Association, San Francisco, CA

OTHER INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Ernst T. (October 2023) *Winning the Trust and Cooperation of Highly Distressed Clients*, Contra Costa Conflict Panel, CA

Ernst T. (October 2023) *Psychological Trauma and the Court: A Trauma Informed Model of Defense Strategy Development in Criminal Proceedings*, Contra Costa Conflict Panel, CA

Ernst, T. (October 2023) *Psychological Trauma and the Court: A Trauma Informed Model of Defense Strategy Development in Criminal Proceedings*, Marin County Conflict Panel, CA

Ernst, T. (February 2023): *Winning the Trust and Cooperation of Highly Distressed Clients*, Marin County Conflict Panel, CA

Ernst, T. (August 2021) *Maintaining Positive Connections with Clients: An Attorney's Practice Guide*, presented to California Public Defenders Association Annual MCLE Specialty Areas Event

Ernst, T. (March 2021) *Adolescent Brain Development and its Behavioral Implications*, Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF Department of Psychiatry

Ernst T. (February 2021) *Attachment Informed Family Therapy*, Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF Department of Psychiatry

Ernst, T. (April 2019) *Testamentary Capacity, Undue Influence & Capacity to Make Medical Decisions: A Practical Approach to Screening for Incapacity*, Annual Professional Fiduciary Association of California Educational Conference, Anaheim, CA

Ernst, T: (May 2018) *Keynote Address: Client Control, A Practice Guide for Senior Care Professionals*, Legal Assistance for Seniors Elder Abuse Conference, San Francisco CA

Ernst, T; Busch, A: (May 2018) *Attachment Informed Family Therapy*, presented to UCSF Child Psychiatry Fellows, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T: (February 2018) *Assessment of Malingering During Asylum Evaluations*, presented to Wright Institute Sanctuary Project, Berkeley, CA

Ernst, T: (January 2018) *Client Control: Strategies for Managing and Screening Challenging Client Behavior*, presented to Sacramento Estate Planning Council Technical Forum, Sacramento, CA

Ernst, T: (January 2018) *Coping with the Emotional Toll of Legal Practice*, presented to the California Minority Counsel Program, Oakland, CA

Ernst, T. (June 2017) *Managing Challenging Personalities: A Fiduciaries' Practice Guide*, presented to PFAC Annual Conference, Burlingame, CA

Ernst, T., Armstrong, Keith (September 2017): *Attachment and EFT Informed Family Therapy*, UCSF Intensive Family Therapy Program, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (October 2016) *Managing Challenging Personalities: A Fiduciaries' Practice Guide*, presented to Professional Fiduciary Association of California, San Rafael, CA

Ernst, T. (January 2016) *Client Control, Family Dynamics, and Competency in Estate Planning*, presented to Marin Estate Planning Council, San Rafael, CA

Ernst, T. Ornstein, E. Busch, A. Li, Sheening. (January 2016) *Foundations of Family Therapy*, presented to Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Ernst T. (January 2016) *Maintaining Happiness in Legal Practice*, presented to Nixon Peabody Super MCLE Seminar, San Francisco, CA

Ernst T. (September 2015) *Evidence Based Assessment of Psychological Malingering*, presented to ACE Insurance, Fremont, CA

Ernst, T. (July 2015) *Strategies for Managing and Screening Challenging Client Behavior*. Webinar presented to Consumer Attorneys of California, San Francisco Chapter, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (February 2015) *Attachment Informed Family Therapy*, presented to Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (October 2014) *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Symptoms, Treatment, and Occupational Challenges*, presented to Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. Armstrong K. (July 2014) *Review of Emotionally Focused Family Therapy and Video Session Commentary*, presented to Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. Armstrong K. (February 2014) *Attachment and Emotionally Focused Family Therapy: The Model and Theories of Integration with Structural Approaches*, presented to Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (May 2013) *Improving Your Quality of Life at Work*, presented to the Appellate Judicial Attorneys Institute, Santa Clara, CA

Ernst, T., Armstrong K. (January 2013) *Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy and Families*, presented to Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Ernst T., Armstrong K. (September 2012) *Review of Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy*, presented to Intensive Family Therapy Program, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T (May 2009) *EAP Assessment and Intervention with OEF/OIF Veterans*, lecture presented to San Francisco Employee Assistance Professional Organization, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T (February 2009) *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms and Treatment*, internet radio interview conducted by MyExpertSolution.com

Ernst, T (January 2009) *Neurobiology of the Stress Response and Stress Reduction Strategies*, presented to San Francisco General Hospital Coronary Heart Disease Patient Clinic, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T (November 2008) *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Assessment and Intervention with University Students*, lecture presented at Notre Dame de Namur University practicum training seminar, Belmont, CA

Ernst, T (November 2008) *Understanding and Helping Family Members with Histories of Trauma*, lecture presented to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) San Francisco monthly membership meeting, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T. (September 2008) *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Assessment and Intervention with Newly Returning Veterans*, lecture presented to Napa Psychological Association, Napa, CA

Armstrong, A., Peterson, C., Ernst, T., Lindner, G. (September 2007) *Assessment and Psychotherapy Intervention for Newly Returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans*, lecture presented to San Francisco Bay Area Coming Home Project at the San Francisco V.A., San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T (July 2007) *Case discussant at APA internship psychotherapy seminar*, Napa State Hospital, CA

Ernst, T (June 2007) *Termination with Psychotic Spectrum Patients in a Community Mental Health Setting*, seminar presented to psychology practicum students at Richmond Area Multi-Services, San Francisco, CA

Ernst, T (November 2007) *APA Internship Applications and Dissertation Topic Selection*, seminar presented to graduate students at the Wright Institute, Berkeley, CA