

Sarah DeMarco, Psy.D.
Owner/Founder
Licensed Psychologist
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Sarah DeMarco, Psy.D.

Curriculum Vitae

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

New York Licensed Psychologist #021383

New Jersey Licensed Psychologist #5618

California Licensed Psychologist #35082

EDUCATION

Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology (2014)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Philadelphia, PA

American Psychological Association (APA) - accredited program

M.S. in Clinical Psychology, *en route* (2012)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Philadelphia, PA

M.A. in Forensic Psychology (2009)

John Jay College of Criminal Justice – The City University of New York (CUNY)

New York, NY

B.A. in Psychology (2007) *Magna Cum Laude*

Georgian Court University

Lakewood, NJ

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Elara Clinical & Forensic Psychology, Inc. (Group Private Practice)

Founder, Owner - Clinical Forensic Psychologist

2024 – Present, Los Angeles, CA

- Conduct forensic mental health assessments (FMHA) and provide expert witness testimony:
 - Criminal: Risk Assessment; Criminal Competencies; Insanity/Criminal Responsibility; Pre-Trial Sentencing; Mitigation; Mental Health Diversion; Diagnostic/Treatment/Sentencing
 - Civil: Sexually Violent Predator (SVP); Personal Injury; Civil Capacities/Competencies (e.g., Guardianship/Power of Attorney)
 - Other: Firearm Evaluations (CCW; forfeiture/reinstatement; “red flag”); Mental Health Expungements; Pre-Employment/Fitness for Duty; Violence and Sexual Risk Assessment
- Providing psychotherapeutic services, specializing in chronic pain

California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) – Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Evaluator

Contractor

2024 – Present

- Conduct competency to stand trial evaluations (PC 1370/1372) and provide expert witness testimony
 - Including capacity to consent to psychiatric medication

County Expert Witness Appointments

- 2024 – Present: Los Angeles, Adult Superior Court Psychologist Panel
- 2024 – Present: Los Angeles, Juvenile Court Psychologist Panel
- 2025 – Present: San Bernadino Adult Superior Court Psychologist Panel

Pirelli Clinical and Forensic Psychology (Private Practice)

Licensed Psychologist/Training Director

2016 – 2024, Verona, NJ

- Conduct FMHA in criminal and civil cases (same as current areas of practice); provide expert witness testimony

New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) - Bureau of Institutional Sex Offender Treatment

Psychiatric Examiner (Licensed Psychologist)

2015 – 2018, New York, NY

- Conducted annual reviews/sexual violence risk assessments for New York State Sex Offender Management and Treatment Act (SOMTA) - Article 10 (SVP) and provide expert witness testimony
 - Determine presence of Mental Abnormality and need for continued civil confinement or release to Strict and Intensive Supervision (SIST)

Bergen County Department of Human Services, Division of Family Guidance

Clinical Psychologist (Permit Holder)

Forensic Unit Co-coordinator: 2014 – 2015; Coordinator: 2015

Hackensack, NJ

Forensic Evaluator – Bergen County Juvenile and Family Court

- Conducted risk assessments for violence and sexual violence with juvenile offenders
- Aid in sentencing and treatment recommendations
- Member of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) at the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office

Diversion Program Development and Coordination

- Developer/supervisor of the Brief Intervention Against Substances (BIPAS) program
- Co-Coordinator of digital safety diversion programs

Bergen County Juvenile Detention Center

- Conducted individual and group therapy
- Co-developed and co-coordinated the all-female unit's treatment services

Consultation and Supervision

- Provided consultation to the Court on various psycho-legal issues
- Provided in-service training to various corrections and clinical staff members
- Provided clinical supervision to graduate students

Rutgers University Behavioral & Correctional Healthcare (Formerly UMDNJ)

Psychology Doctoral Intern - Forensic Track

American Psychological Association (APA)-Accredited

2013 – 2014, Newark, NJ

Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women – Maximum Security Inpatient Unit

- Conducted individual and group therapy (Substance use group)
- Conducted violence risk assessments to determine referral for civil commitment

Northern State Prison – Maximum Security & Administrative Segregation

- Conducted individual and group therapy (Substance use group) and suicide risk assessments at the stabilization unit
- Conducted violence and sexual recidivism risk assessments (SVP referrals); status evaluations for change in security level; disciplinary evaluations

University Hospital

- Psychiatry consultation and liaison service

Today, Inc - Inpatient adolescent substance abuse treatment facility

Psychology Extern

2012 – 2013, Langhorne, PA

- Group Therapy, family therapy, individual therapy, psychodiagnostic testing
- Supervision of Master's level psychology student

Norristown State Hospital – Regional Forensic Psychiatric Center

Psychology Extern

2011 – 2012, Norristown, PA

- Conducted competency restoration in group settings and Competency to Stand Trial evaluations; group therapy with those found Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)

Riverview Behavioral Health (Meridian Health) - Children's Program

Psychology Extern

2008 – 2009, Shrewsbury, NJ

- Co-facilitated the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for adolescents and social skills group for children

Assessment and Treatment Alternatives – Forensic Mental Health Services

Psychology Student

2011, Philadelphia, PA

- Conducted psychosexual evaluations for court ordered evaluations and Department of Human Service (DHS) referrals with children and adolescents
- Conducted parenting capacity assessments

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

John Jay College of Criminal Justice – City University of New York (CUNY)

Adjunct Assistant Professor – Forensic Psychology/Forensic Mental Health Counseling

2016 – Present, NYC

Graduate Courses

- Introduction to Forensic Mental Health Counseling
- Clinical Interviewing and Assessment
- Introduction to Assessment
- Psychopathology

Thesis Committee Member

- 2022 - L. Tyira, Topic: Mental Health Services in American Prisons
- 2022 - S. Grant, Topic: The Cultic Lifestyle: A Thematic Analysis of Fulfillment and Fear in Cult Membership
- 2017 - C. Gold, Topic: Non-Contact Sex Offenders

Supervisor: Graduate Teaching Assistants: 2017-present

Purdue University – Global Campus

Adjunct Professor – Forensic Psychology

Fall 2024 Semester

Graduate Course

- Theories of Criminal Behavior

Columbia University – Teachers College

Adjunct Assistant Professor – Clinical and Counseling Psychology

Spring 2023 Semester, NYC

Graduate Course

- Introduction to Psychological Assessment and Testing

Felician University

Adjunct Associate Professor

2019 – 2020, Lodi and Rutherford, NJ

Undergraduate Course

- Course: Introduction to Psychology

Rutgers University - Newark, University Behavioral/Correctional Healthcare

Adjunct Faculty, APA-Accredited Internship Program Case Competency Examination (CCE)

2018 – 2022, Newark, NJ

CONSULTING POSITIONS

WCG Clinical

2015 – 2020; 2024 - present: Remote independent rater for clinical trials.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Pirelli, G., & DeMarco, S. (2023). *Firearms and clinical practice: A handbook for medical and mental health professionals*. Oxford University Press.
*2024 Recipient of the Lawrence S. Wrightsman Book Award from AP-LS, Div. 41 of APA, for “a scholarly book devoted to psychology & law issues – to recognize outstanding scholarship in psychology & law.”

Book Chapters

- DeMarco, S., & Geller, H. L. (2020). *The significance of psychological trauma and brain injury in the treatment and evaluation of sex offenders*. Javier, R. A., Owens, E. A., & Maddux, J. A. (Eds.), *Trauma in Forensic Contexts*. Springer: New York.

Encyclopedia/Reference Book Contributions

- Pirelli, G., & DeMarco, S. (2022). Personal injury. *Encyclopedia of psychology in the real world: Psychology and law volume*. Routledge.
- DeMarco, S., & Pirelli, G. (2025). Guns and mental health. *Encyclopedia of psychology in the real world: Psychology and law volume*. R. Gurung, & R. Roesch (Eds.). Routledge.
- Pirelli, G., & DeMarco, S. (2025). Forensic psychology ethics. *Encyclopedia of psychology in the real world: Psychology and law volume*. R. Gurung, & R. Roesch (Eds.). Routledge.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- Allwood, M., Baetz, C., DeMarco, S., & Bell, D. (2012). Depressive symptoms, including lack of future orientation, as mediators in the relationship between adverse life events and delinquent behaviors. *The Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma*, 5(2), 114-128.

TRAININGS AND SEMINARS CONDUCTED BY DR. DEMARCO

- Firearm-Related Issues in Forensic Assessment: Considerations for Evaluators (November 2023). *Invited Staff Training*, New York Police Department (NYPD) Psychologists. New York, NY.
- Firearms and Clinical Practice: Essentials for Psychologists (March 2023). *CE Workshop for Arizona Psychological Association*. AZ
- Firearms and Clinical Practice: Essentials for Psychologists (February 2023). *Group psychology practice*. Portland, OR.
- Duty to Warn and Protect in New Jersey: Essentials for Mental Health Professionals. (July 2021). *Webinar for Independent Mental Health Practice*. Union County, NJ.
- Private Practice in Clinical-Forensic Psychology. (April 2021). University Behavioral Healthcare (UBHC), Rutgers University, Newark, NJ.
- Sexual Risk Assessments: A Primer on Forensic Psychological Evaluations for Lawyers. (April 2021). *Invited CLE Program*, Lawline.com: A Division of FurtherEd, Inc., NY, NY.
- Risk Assessment Evaluations. (March 2021). *Invited Staff Training*, Partnership for Children of Essex CMO, Bloomfield, NJ.
- Applied Risk Assessment: Key Principles for New Jersey Clinicians. (January 2020), *CE Workshop for Independent Psychology Group Practice*. Essex County, NJ.
- Identifying and Managing Firearm-Related Risk Factors. (October 2019). *Invited Staff Training*, Woodland Park Range/Gun for Hire, Woodland Park, NJ.

- Sexual Risk Assessments: A Primer on Forensic Psychological Evaluations for Legal Professionals. (January 2019), *Invited CLE Program*, Pro Law.
- Forensic Psychological Evaluations: Considerations for Criminal and Civil Attorneys. (April 2019). *Invited CLE Program*, Clear Law Institute.
- Encountering Mental Illness. (January 2014), *Invited Staff Training*, The Goodwill Mission Shelter, Newark, NJ.
- Violence Risk. (April 2014). *Invited Training for Prison Clinician Supervisors*, Rutgers University Correctional Health Care, Trenton, NJ.
- Suicide Risk Assessment. (November 2013). *Officer Training*, Department of Corrections, Newark, NJ.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, & PANELS

- Invited Panelist - Women in Forensics (2025). Master's Student Research Group/Psychology Dept. Diversity Committee. John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY), New York City, NY.
- Allwood, M., Baetz, C., **DeMarco, S.**, & Bell, D. (2011, November). Lack of future orientation as a mediator in the relationship between adverse life events and delinquent behaviors in early adolescents. Paper presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.
- **DeMarco, S.**, Baetz, C., & Allwood, M. (March, 2010). Violence exposure as predictors of delinquent behavior outcomes. Poster presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- Baetz, C., **DeMarco, S.**, & Allwood, M. (May, 2009). Relationship between depression, hopelessness, and delinquent behaviors. Poster presented at the Association for Psychological Science Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- **DeMarco, S.** (June, 2007). Public Perceptions of crime with mitigating factors. Honors study presented at academic excellence night: Mini-conference at Georgian Court University. Lakewood, NJ.

DISSERTATION, THESES, & RESEARCH

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Doctoral Dissertation: Self-reported strengths and weaknesses in the prediction of institutional aggression
Defended in 2014

- Committee members: Bruce Zahn, Ed.D.; Petra Kottseiper, Ph.D.; Jenna Tinker, Psy.D.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

Supervisor: Maureen Allwood, Ph.D.

- Research assistant on the "College Transition Project;" Additional, independent and collaborative research projects: Relationship between violence exposure and delinquent behaviors; Relationship between depression, hopelessness, and delinquent behaviors; Relationship between adverse life events and delinquent behaviors with depressive symptoms as mediators

Georgian Court University

Supervisor: Theresa Brown, Ph.D.

- Honor's Independent Study – "Public perceptions of crime with mitigating factors"

ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMITTEES

- New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA) – 2014 – 2024; 2016 – 2020: Committee on Legislative Affairs (COLA), Executive Committee Member [Former member]
- Sex Offender Civil Commitment Programs Network (SOCCPN) – 2015 - Present
- New York Psychological Association (NYSPA) – 2017-2020; Forensic Division, Executive Committee Member (Secretary) [Former member]
- Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) – 2024 - Present