

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

NAME: Richard C. Blanks, JD, MD

CURRENT ACADEMIC TITLE: Assistant Professor

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EDUCATION: 8/1997-5/2002: M.D. George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Science, Washington, D.C.

8/1980-6/1983: J.D. Campbell University School of Law, Buies Creek, North Carolina

8/1976-5/1980: B.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING:

8/2006-7/2007: Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts

8/2005-7/2006: Fellowship in Medical Ethics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts

7/2003-7/2006: Adult Psychiatry Residency, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts

6/2002-7/2003: Transitional Internship, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION:

Licensure: Medical: North Carolina, District of Columbia, and Massachusetts
Legal: North Carolina and District of Columbia

Certifications: Board Certified in Psychiatry (1/2009 – 1/2019)
Board Certified in Forensic Psychiatry (6/2011 – 6/2021)
Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

EMPLOYMENT:

2/2014 to present

Assistant Professor
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine

- a. Vice-Chairman, Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
Serve as the second administrative person in command of the Psychiatry Department with management responsibilities for over 50 psychiatrists and psychologists. Assist the Department Chairman in all aspects of the Department, including the missions of clinical care, education and research.
- b. Director, Forensic Psychiatry Consultants
Forensic Psychiatry Consultants is a program in the Department of Psychiatry at Wake Forest Baptist Health. Dr. Blanks is the director of the service and he along with other faculty members offer services in civil, criminal and consultative forensic psychiatry. He is nationally recognized for conducting independent psychiatric evaluations and reports in state and federal courts. He also teaches residents and medical students about all aspects of forensic psychiatry, including serving as an expert witness in court.
- c. Medical Director, Adult Inpatient Unit
Provide comprehensive diagnostic multidisciplinary acute assessment and treatment of the full spectrum of psychiatric disorders. This is a locked 24 bed inpatient psychiatric unit. It is the main inpatient teaching site for our psychiatric residents. I supervise 2 psychiatric residents and 3-5 medical students every day.
- d. Director, Psychiatry Residency Training Program
Responsible for all aspects of the Psychiatry Residency Program. Our 4-year accredited program accepts 7 residents per year. Responsible for the academic and professional development of each resident with the collaborative and enthusiastic support of the entire faculty. Our mission is to educate residents in an intellectually rigorous, collegial, supportive and family friendly environment.

8/2007 – 1/2014

Medical Faculty Associates
George Washington University
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
2120 L Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037

- a. Founder, Forensic Psychiatry Services and Senior Forensic Psychiatrist: Provided Independent Medical Evaluations (Psychiatric) across a wide range of civil and criminal legal questions, including Fitness for Duty/Return to Work Evaluations, Psychiatric Disability, Personal Injury, Employment Cases, Psychiatric Malpractice, Competency to Stand Trial, Criminal Responsibility, and Aid-in-Sentencing Evaluations. Extensive experience in both state and federal courts.
- b. Associate Medical Director, GWU Hospital Adult Psychiatry Inpatient Unit: Provided comprehensive diagnostic multidisciplinary acute assessment and treatment of the full spectrum of psychiatric disorders, with and without co-morbid substance abuse problems. Supervised psychiatric residents, nurses, social workers, and therapists, as well as medical students. These patients have a psychiatric disorder that threatens their well-being to such an extent that they require 24-hour medical and psychiatric care in a locked hospital setting. These patients are stabilized until they can transition safely to care in the community.
- c. Outpatient Psychiatrist: Provided state-of-the-art outpatient mental health services to adults. The goal is to alleviate acute psychological distress resulting from life crises and mental disorders and on improving quality of life. Offered psychopharmacological and psychotherapeutic treatments that are based on the latest research within the context of a trusting and respectful therapeutic relationship.

Summer 1999

Medical/Legal Policy Consultant
Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Drafted a wide-ranging medical and legal policy document analyzing statutory informed consent on HIV issues throughout the national VA system.

Summer 1998

Biological Lab Technician
NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Bethesda, Maryland

Worked on HIV Protocol using Polymer Chain Reaction to determine viral RNA and DNA plasma levels to examine efficacy of early initiation of antiretroviral therapy.

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- 9/1998-9/2000 Primary Care Apprenticeship
Dr. Tim Price
Washington, D.C.
Two years in this private medical practice with substantial HIV patient population.
- 8/1991-8/1997 Counsel (Banking and Finance)
United States Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C.
Drafted and presented legal opinions, policy alterations, and administrative adjudications impacting the regulation of the savings and loan industry.
- 7/1989-8/1991 Legislative Assistant and Counsel
United States Senator Terry Sanford (D-NC)
Washington, D.C.
Responsible for all legal and counseling issues within the Judiciary, Agriculture, Government Affairs, Small Business, and Rules Committees.
- 9/1986-7/1989 Legislative Director and Counsel
Congressman Walter B. Jones (D-NC)
Washington, D.C.
Top legislative staff person who represented Member of Congress to congressional leaders, committee staff, lobbyists, and constituents.
- 9/1984-9/1986 Judicial Law Clerk
North Carolina Court of Appeals
Judge Sarah E. Parker
Raleigh, North Carolina
Researched and drafted appellate opinions in all areas of civil and criminal law.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE:

- 2014 – present North Carolina Psychiatric Association
2014 – present Forsyth County Bar Association
2008 – 2012 Board Member, Physicians Health Committee of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (2008-2012).
2008 – 2012 Former President, Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law (Washington, DC)
2007 – present American Academy of Psychiatry and Law
2007 – present Medical Society of the District of Columbia
2007 – 2013 Washington Psychiatric Society
1997 – present American Psychiatric Association
1983 – present North Carolina State Bar

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RELEVANT LEGAL WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES:

Harvard Trial Advocacy Workshop
Harvard Law School
2006 and 2007

Psychiatry and the Law
Three Week Intensive Seminar taught by Dr. Alan Stone
Harvard Law School
2005

RESEARCH:

“Clinical and Ethical Perspectives on the Duty-to-Warn Principle with HIV Patients.” University of Massachusetts Medical School (research project in progress). This project will use a survey instrument to assess how clinicians balance the conflicting obligations between the duty to keep a patient’s HIV status confidential and a Tarasoff-like duty to protect third parties. Selected for presentation at the October 2007 American Academy of Psychiatry and Law Convention.

“The Evolution of the Ethics of Forensic Psychiatry: A Review of the Literature since 180 AD.” University of Massachusetts Medical School (research project in progress). A review of the literature as the field continues to evolve, particularly in regards to the contributions of Alan Stone, Paul Appelbaum, Tom Gutheil, and Ezra Griffiths.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Authored Publication: “Perfecting the Imperfect Right of Self-Defense,” Campbell Law Review, Volume 4, Number 2, Spring 1982.

“Competence to be Executed.” *J Am Acad Psychiatry Law* 35:3:381-384 (2007).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

“Working Effectively with Expert Witnesses.” An invited presentation to 125 Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and Federal Public Defenders in Greensboro, NC (July 24, 2014)

“Evaluating Competency to Stand Trial in a Patient with Major Left Hemispheric Stroke.” University of Massachusetts Medical School, Psychiatry and the Law Case Conference Series, Worcester, Massachusetts (January 16, 2007)

“An Inner Sense of Emptiness.” Grand Rounds Presentation. Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts (November 2, 2005)

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“Homophobia, Heterosexism, and Sexual Prejudice.” Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts (October 2005)

“Neuropsychiatric Aspects of HIV-Infection of the Central Nervous System.” Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts (March 1, 2003)