

# **RICHARD C. BLANKS, J.D., M.D.**

Roxboro, North Carolina 27573

Cell: 617-947-3077

Email: rickmdjd@gmail.com

## **EDUCATION**

### **M.D.**

*George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Science, Washington, D.C.*

### **J.D.**

*Campbell University School of Law, Buies Creek, North Carolina*

### **BA**

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*

## **POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING**

- Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts: 8/2006-7/2007
- Fellowship in Medical Ethics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts: 8/2005-7/2006
- Adult Psychiatry Residency, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts: 7/2003-7/2006
- Transitional Internship, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts: 6/2002-7/2003

## **LICENSURE**

- MEDICAL: North Carolina, Illinois, District of Columbia, Virginia, and Massachusetts
- LEGAL: North Carolina and District of Columbia

## **CERTIFICATION**

- Board Certified in Psychiatry: 1/2009 — 12/2024
- Board Certified in Forensic Psychiatry: 1/2011 – 12/2024
- Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **RCB Forensic Psychiatry, PLLC**

2023-present

Founder and Chief Executive Officer

- According to the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Forensic Psychiatry is a subspecialty of psychiatry in which scientific and clinical expertise is applied in legal contexts involving civil, criminal, correctional, regulatory or legislative matters, and in specialized consultations in areas such as risk management or employment.

- Extensive experience in multiple states in state and federal courts on the full range of civil and criminal matters for over 17 years.
- Balanced mix on criminal side of working with state and federal prosecutors as well as state and federal public defenders. Balanced mix on the civil side of working with plaintiff and defense attorneys.
- Extensive experience with psychiatric malpractice consultations and litigation; psychiatric disability determinations; personal injury evaluations; testamentary capacity; guardianship matters; and complex fitness for duty evaluations.
- Extensive experience with criminal matters, including competency to stand trial, defenses based on mental disorders (the insanity defense and diminished capacity), and sentencing recommendations.

**Optima/Sentara Health Plan Behavioral Health Medical Director**

July 2023 to present

*Sentara Health, Norfolk, Virginia*

- Sentara Health is an integrated not-for-profit health system that is one of the largest health systems in the US Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, has 30,000 employees, 12 hospitals in Virginia and Northeastern North Carolina, and the Sentara Health Plan which serves more than 1.2 million members in Virginia and North Carolina.
- Provides clinical oversight and management of the Health Plan’s Behavioral Health activities including quality management, utilization management, and clinical case management.
- Develops and implements medical policies for Behavioral Health, including Medicaid patients.
- Ensures the appropriate and timely use of criteria and guidelines in the administration of Behavioral Health treatment.
- Directs appropriate utilization of inpatient and outpatient Behavioral Health services utilizing complex clinical knowledge, experience, and applicable medical necessity policies.
- Partakes in Behavioral Health committees and clinical practice guideline reviews.
- Engages in medical staff education and process improvement activities.
- Performs Quality of Care reviews
- Interacts externally with network physicians, clinical leaders, and government program leaders to improve the quality of clinical outcomes, cost efficiency, and patient/member experiences.

**Medical Director (Chair), Psychiatry and Behavioral Health**

August 2020-June 2022

**Clinical Associate Professor**

*Carle Health, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Champaign, Illinois*

- Provide overall physician executive leadership for psychiatry and behavioral services at Carle Health, including psychiatry, psychology, therapists, psychiatry residency training program, and all associated sub-specialties; addiction recovery services; consult/liaison and crisis intervention; and the primary care collaborative care model.
- Head of the Behavioral Health Service line across the Carle Health System, including several hospitals and multiple outpatient clinics.
- Chief Academic Officer for the Department
- Change agent to improve how behavioral health care is delivered, while bringing extraordinary value, quality and safety outcomes to patients and their families within the community.

- Collaborate with community partners and regional affiliates to cultivate engagement across the continuum to make sure patients get the right treatment at the right time at the right place for all of their behavioral health needs.
- Served on the Carle Health Executive Management Committee

**Interim Psychiatry Residency Program Director**

May 2021-May 2022

Carle Health, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Champaign, Illinois

- Accountable for all aspects of the Psychiatry Residency Program including academics and research and the professional and clinical development of 4 residents per year in our ACGME fully accredited program.

Faculty Supervisor, Senior Psychiatry Residents' Clinic

May 2021-September 2022

Carle Health, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Champaign, Illinois

- Taught and supervised senior Psychiatry residents with their panels of complex psychiatry patients.

**Vice-Chair, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health (Clinical Associate Professor)**

July 2016 – July 2020

*Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry and Behavior Health, Winston-Salem, NC*

- Serve as the second administrative person in charge of the Psychiatry Department with management responsibilities for over 50 psychiatrists and psychologists.
- Assist the Department Chair in all aspects of the Department, including the missions of clinical care, education and research.

Director, Forensic Psychiatry Consultants

July 2014 – July 2020

- Serve as the director offering services in civil, criminal and consultative forensic psychiatry.
- Nationally recognized for conducting independent psychiatric evaluations and reports in state and federal courts.
- Teaches residents and medical students about all aspects of forensic psychiatry, including serving as an expert witness in court.

Medical Director, Adult Inpatient Unit

July 2014 – July 2020

- Provide comprehensive diagnostic multidisciplinary acute assessment and treatment of the full spectrum of psychiatric disorders in a locked 24 bed inpatient psychiatric unit.
- Supervise 4 psychiatric residents and 3-5 medical students every day.

Director, Psychiatry Residency Training Program

July 2014 – June 2016

- Accountable for all aspects of the ACGME accredited Psychiatry Residency Program including the academic and professional development of 7 residents per year.

**Medical Faculty Associates (Assistant Professor 2008-2014)**

August 2007 - January 2014

*George Washington University School of Medicine /Department of Psychiatry, Washington, DC*

- 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.
- 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, therapists and medical students.
- Outpatient Psychiatrist: Provided state-of-the-art outpatient mental health services to adults. Offered psychopharmacological and psychotherapeutic treatments that are based on the latest research within the context of a trusting and respectful therapeutic relationship.

**Biological Lab Technician**

Summer 1999

*NIH/National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Disease, Washington, D.C.*

- 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.

**Medical/Legal Policy Consultant**

Summer 1998

*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.

**Primary Care Apprenticeship**

September 1998 – September 2000

*Dr. Price, Washington, D.C.*

Primary Care Apprenticeship

- Private medical practice with substantial HIV patient population.

**LEGAL EMPLOYMENT:**

**Counsel (Banking and Finance)**

August 1991 – August 1997

*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.

**Legislative Assistant and Counsel**

July 1989 – August 1991

*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.

**Legislative Director and Counsel**

September 1986 – July 1989

*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.

**Judicial Law Clerk**

September 1984 – September 1986

*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.

**PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS***Bibliography*

- **Blanks, R.C.** Authored Publication: "Perfecting the Imperfect Right of Self-Defense," Campbell Law Review, Volume 4, Number 2, Spring 1982.
- **Blanks, R.C.** "Competence to be Executed." J Am Acad Psychiatry Law 35:3:381-384. 2007
- **Blanks, R.C.** Book chapter: "Mental Illness and Incarceration." At Gunpoint: Firearm Violence in America from a Forensic Psychiatrist's Perspective. 2017.
- **Blanks, R.C.** Article: "Working Effectively with Psychiatric Expert Witnesses." August 2017. Publication of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys. Fall 2017.

*Invited Presentations*

- **Blanks, R.C.** 2019: "Selecting the Appropriate Psychiatric Expert Witness." Womble Bond Dickinson, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2018 "The Path to Lawyer Well Being," Durham County Bar Association, Durham, North Carolina.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2018 "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being," Forsyth County Bar Association, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2017 Invited Judge, Elon Law School Moot Court Competition, Greensboro, North Carolina.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2017 "Working Effectively With Psychiatric Expert Witnesses." Legal Support Staff of North Carolina.

- **Blanks, R.C.** 2017 "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being," Asheville Bar Association, Asheville, North Carolina.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2017 "Working Effectively with Psychiatric Expert Witnesses" and "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being," Randolph County Bar Association, Asheboro, North Carolina.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2014 "Working Effectively with Expert Witnesses." An invited presentation to 125 Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys and Federal Public Defenders in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2007 "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.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2005 "An Inner Sense of Emptiness." Grand Rounds Presentation. Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2005 "Homophobia, Heterosexism, and Sexual Prejudice." Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- **Blanks, R.C.** 2003 "Neuropsychiatric Aspects of HIV-Infection of the Central Nervous System," Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### *Presentations*

#### Poster Presentation

**Blanks, R.C.** "Clinical and Ethical Perspectives on the Duty-to-Warn Principle with HIV Patients." Presented at the October 2007 American Academy Of Psychiatry and Law Conference. Miami, Florida

#### National Presentation

**Blanks, R.C.** "At Gunpoint: Firearm Violence From a Forensic Psychiatrist Perspective," American Psychiatric Association, New York City, New York (5/9/2018).

#### Grand Rounds Presentations

*Wake Forest Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.*

**Blanks, R.C.** 2016 "Wendell Williamson, UNC, and Psychiatric Malpractice."

**Blanks, R.C.** 2016 "Everything You Wanted to Know About Forensic Psychiatry (But Were Afraid to Ask)."

**Blanks, R.C.** 2017 "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being."

*Carle Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Champaign, Illinois*

**Blanks, R.C.** 2020 "Everything You Wanted to Know About Forensic Psychiatry."

Media Presentation

**Blanks, R.C.** 2020 "Carle Medical Minute: Self Care In These Stressful Times."

**Blanks, R.C.** 2020 "How Giving Helps The Giver in the Time of COVID." WHMS 97.5 interview.

**RESEARCH SYMPOSIUMS** (supervised resident research and presentations at these symposiums)

Wake Forest Psychiatry Research Symposium 2016, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

- Presentation: "When Physician Prescribing Practices Evolve Into Criminal Behavior." (Resident - Dr. Tyndall)
- Presentation: "Resident Views About Whether Their Program Prepares Them for Early Careers." (Residents — Dr. Ayers and Dr. Patel)

Wake Forest Psychiatry Research Symposium 2017, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

- Presentation: "Why Hospital Systems are Employing Cadre of Lawyers to Help Patients with More than Health Care Needs." (Residents— Dr. Allan and Dr. Ziegler)
- Presentation: "Perspective of Recent case of Teenager Found Guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter for Encouraging Boyfriend to Commit Suicide by Texts." (Resident- Dr. Smith)
- Presentation: "Physician Prescribing Patterns and Dr. Regan Nichols Charged with Second Degree Murder for Overprescribing Opioids." (Resident- Dr. Lyon)

**HEALTH/LEGAL WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES**

- Harvard Leadership Development for Physicians in Academic Health Centers, two week intensive physician executive leadership development course, Harvard Medical School, 2017
- 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

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIPS**

- Recruited for membership on the reconstituted Board of Directors of Cardinal Innovations Healthcare in January 2018. Cardinal Innovations Healthcare was a leading provider of Behavioral Health Managed Medicaid services in the United States, and coordinated services and treatment for patients who had needs involving mental health, disabilities and substance abuse. The organization served more than 850,000 North Carolina residents and had annual revenues of over \$850,000,000.00 per year.
  - Board Member: 2018-2020
  - Finance Committee Member: 2018-2020
  - Litigation Committee Member: 2018-2020
- Selected for membership on the Board of Directors for Carolina Behavioral Health Alliance. This is a provider owned and managed behavioral health care organization dedicated to quality behavioral health care.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Carle Health**

- 2021-2022: Clinical Associate Professor (Carle-Illinois School of Medicine)
- 2020-2022: Medical Director, Behavioral Health
- 2021-2022: Academic Medical Director, Behavioral Health
- 2021-2022: Interim Psychiatry Residency Program Training Program Director

### **Institutional Service**

- 2020-2022: Quality Care Committee
- 2020-2022: Ambulatory Care Committee
- 2021-2022: Executive Medical Committee
- 2021-2022: Carle Foundation Hospital Medical Ethics Committee

### **Departmental Service**

- 2020-2022: Program Evaluation Committee
- 2021-2022: Clinical Competency Committee
- 2021-2022: Resident Didactics Committee
- 2021-2022: Resident Research Committee
- 2020-2022: Course Director, Forensic Psychiatry

### **Wake Forest University School of Medicine**

- July 1, 2020: Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor
- 2014 – 2020 Assistant Professor
- 2014 – 2016 Director, Psychiatry Residency Training Program
- 2014 – 2020 Medical Director, Adult Inpatient Unit
- 2014 – 2020 Director, Forensic Psychiatry Consultants
- 2016 – 2020 Vice-Chairman, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health



### Institutional Service

2014 – 2016	Graduate Medical Education Committee
2014 – 2020	Monthly Inpatient Committee
2015 – 2020	Medical School Dean’s Veterans Affairs Committee
2015 – 2020	Hospital Risk Management Committee
2016 – 2020	Liaison Committee with Cardinal Innovations
2016 – 2020	The Joint Commission Preparedness Committee
2016 – 2020	Behavioral Alert Committee

### Departmental Service

2014 – 2020	Resident Recruitment Committee
2014 – 2020	Program Evaluation Committee
2014 – 2020	Monthly Inpatient Committee
2015 – 2016	Faculty Retreat Committee
2016 – 2020	Chair, Psychiatry Program Evaluation Committee
2016 – 2020	Template Optimization Committee
2016 – 2020	Department Leadership Committee
2016 – 2020	Monthly APP Committee
2016 – 2020	Support Staff Committee
2016 – 2020	PA Management Committee
2016 – 2020	Monthly Forensic Committee
2016 – 2020	Quality Improvement Committee

### Professional Memberships and Service

1983 – Present	North Carolina State Bar
1993 – Present	D.C. Bar
1997 – Present	American Psychiatric Association 2018 to 2020: Fellow, American Psychiatric Association 2020 – present: <u>Distinguished Fellow</u> , American Psychiatric Association
2007 – 2013	Washington Psychiatric Society
2007 – Present	American Academy of Psychiatry and Law
2007 – 2020	Medical Society of the District of Columbia
2008 – 2012	Board Member, Physicians Health Committee of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (group supports and monitors physicians in recovery)
2008 – 2012	Former President, Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law (Washington, DC)
2014 – 2020	North Carolina Psychiatric Association
2022 – present	North Carolina Psychiatric Association
2014 – 2020	North Carolina Psychiatry and Law Committee
2014 – 2020	Forsyth County Bar Association
2020-2022	Illinois Psychiatric Society