

**David William Contreras Jr., Psy.D., ABPP**  
***Board Certified in Forensic Psychology***  
**Pacific Forensic Group, Inc.**  
**(415) 385-9701**  
**consult@pfgexperts.org**

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**EDUCATION**

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**Psy.D., Clinical Psychology** August 2016  
University of La Verne, La Verne, California  
(Accredited by the American Psychological Association)

**Master of Science, Psychology** September 2013  
University of La Verne

**Bachelor of Science, Psychology** December 2010  
University of La Verne

**CERTIFICATIONS**

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**American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)**  
Board Certified in Forensic Psychology  
November 2022

**CURRENT POSITIONS**

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**Senior Psychologist, Specialist** March 2021 – Present  
California Department of State Hospitals – Patton  
Forensic Evaluation Department  
*Maximum Security Forensic State Hospital*  
Patton, California

- Forensic psychology consultant to interdisciplinary teams at DSH – Patton on matters related to risk of dangerousness, extension of commitment, competency to stand trial, and malingering.
- Prepare court reports addressing patient suitability for discharge into the California Forensic Conditional Release Program (CONREP)
- Prepare court reports and psychological assessments addressing competency to stand trial, malingering, and cognitive functioning.

**Forensic Evaluator** August 2018 – Present  
Los Angeles County Superior Court - Juvenile Delinquency Court  
General Expert Witness Panel and Juvenile Competency Panel  
Los Angeles, CA

- Qualified as a court-appointed expert to address issues related to juvenile competency, transfer, disposition, and dangerousness.
- One of nine forensic mental health professionals completing first-contact juvenile competency evaluations for the Los Angeles County Delinquency Court. Members of the panel also serve as subject matter experts for juvenile competency policies in Los Angeles County.

**Forensic Psychologist  
Private Practice**

February 2018 – Present

Covina, CA

- Private forensic psychology practice focusing on assessment and consultation for a variety of psycho-legal referral questions.
- Expertise in adult and juvenile forensic psychological evaluations pertaining to competency to stand trial (fitness to proceed), competency restoration, mental state at the time of the offense (insanity evaluation), malingering, violence risk, Miranda waiver, juvenile transfer, and sentencing.
- Experience providing expert testimony in multiple jurisdictions.

**POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

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**University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)  
Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology**

September 2016 – August 2017

*Academic Medical Center/ Forensic State Hospital*  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Supervisors: Mark Peacock, Ph.D., Benjamin Silber, Ph.D., Melissa Dannacher, Psy.D.

- Formal postdoctoral fellowship in forensic psychology offered through the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas State Hospital.
- Approved for five-year experience waiver by the American Board of Forensic Psychology (ABFP).
- Conducted forensic evaluations secondary to competence to stand trial, mental state at the time of the offense, malingering, culpable mental state, and assessment of future dangerousness.
- Conducted preemployment post-offer psychological evaluations of Arkansas State Hospital police officers.
- Conducted both inpatient and outpatient forensic evaluations with juvenile and adult defendants.

**PRE-DOCTORAL INTERNSHIP**

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**Arkansas Division of Behavioral Health Services  
Arkansas State Hospital (ASH) (APA Accredited)**

August 2015 – August 2016

*Forensic State Hospital*  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Inpatient Forensic Treatment /Forensic Evaluation Rotation I and II**

Supervisors: Brittani Baldwin-Gracey, Psy.D., Michael Simon, Ph.D., Benjamin Silber, Ph.D., Melissa Dannacher, Psy.D.

- Conducted forensic evaluations and made recommendations to the courts regarding competency to stand trial, malingering, violence risk assessment, mental state at the time of the offense, juvenile sentencing, and culpable mental state.
- Co-facilitated weekly Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) psychotherapy groups with male and female forensic inpatients.
- Identified antecedents and functions of patient behaviors to create positive behavior support plans for patients exhibiting problematic behaviors.

**Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment/Adolescent Civil Commitment Rotation**

Supervisors: Hillary Hunt, Ph.D., Taisha Jones, Ph.D.

- Conducted psychodiagnostic evaluations with adolescent males ages 13-17 upon admission to the Arkansas State Hospital Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Program.

- Performed exit evaluations for adolescent males being released from the ASH Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Program.
- Co-facilitated four weekly DBT groups with adolescent male sex offenders and civilly committed male and female adolescents.
- Created positive behavior support plans for patients exhibiting problematic behaviors.

### **Community Mental Health Rotation – Counseling Center Inc.**

Supervisor: Shea Stillwell, Psy.D.

- Managed a caseload of approximately 25 racially and socioeconomically diverse outpatients in a community mental health center.
- Completed weekly intake assessments of patients referred by various community agencies.
- Submitted monthly treatment plans and collaborated with probation officers, substance abuse counselors, and agency social workers to provide updates on treatment progress and establish aftercare placement.

## **PRIOR CLINICAL AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

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### **Staff Psychologist**

September 2017 – March 2021

#### **California Department of State Hospitals – Patton**

*Maximum Security Forensic State Hospital*

Patton, California

- Staff psychologist on an acute admission unit housing individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial pursuant to PC 1370.
- Prepare court reports and psychological assessments addressing competency to stand trial, malingering, and cognitive functioning.

### **California Department of State Hospitals – Patton**

September 2014 – July 2015

#### **Psychology Assessment Clerk**

*Maximum Security Forensic State Hospital*

Patton, California

Supervisors: Allen Kilian, Ph.D., Alexandra Linscott, Ph.D.

- Completed comprehensive psychological evaluations addressing competency to stand trial, malingering, neuropsychological functioning, and psychodiagnostic clarification in a 1200-bed State Forensic Psychiatric Hospital housing patients adjudicated incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, and mentally disordered offenders.
- Consulted with multidisciplinary teams to provide recommendations to courts regarding competency to stand trial, community release, and alternative placement.
- Attended weekly advanced forensic seminars discussing validity testing, risk assessment, psychometrics, and an introduction to landmark mental health cases.

### **Sharper Future**

August 2013 – August 2014

#### **Predoctoral Practicum Student**

*Federally Contracted Sex Offender Management Program*

Los Angeles, California

Supervisor: Adam Yerke, Psy.D., David Cordero, Psy.D.

- Provided intensive group and individual psychotherapy to economically and racially diverse male adult sex offenders who were federally and state mandated to treatment.
- Maintained a case load of approximately 10 adult offenders and developed quarterly treatment plans addressing problematic sexual behaviors, antisocial attitudes, and various mental health concerns.

- Utilized a manualized treatment curriculum integrating relapse prevention, The Good Lives Model, and the Risk, Needs, Responsivity principles.
- Conducted structured risk assessments evaluating risk factors for recidivism.
- Prepared and completed reports within state mandated time frames and communicated outcomes to parole agents, primary therapists, and supervising staff per the Containment Model.
- Received training in the development of polygraph questions, sex-offender specific assessment instruments, and psychometric considerations in assessing risk of sexual offending.

**Aurora Charter Oak Hospital  
Predoctoral Practicum Student**

September 2012 – August 2013

*Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital*  
Covina, California

Supervisors: Philip Snyder, Ph.D., Alejandra Lopez, Psy.D., Lori O'Rourke, Psy.D.

- Provided crisis intervention, individual psychotherapy, and collateral family meetings with severely mentally ill and dually diagnosed patients presenting with schizophrenia, bipolar, major depression, PTSD, substance abuse, trauma, and personality disorders.
- Conducted group psychotherapy focused on the development of coping skills and processing of thoughts and emotions with civilly committed adult and adolescent inpatient populations.

**SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE**

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**Coordinating Supervisor**

August 2018 – Present

Department of State Hospitals – Patton

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology

- Coordinating supervisor for forensic psychology postdoctoral fellows.
- Provide weekly supervision of cases involving assessments of trial competency, malingering, and violence risk assessment.

**Assessment Seminar Coordinator**

August 2018 – Present

Department of State Hospitals – Patton

APA-Accredited Internship Program in Clinical Psychology

- Coordinator of assessment seminar for interns in the APA-accredited Patton State Hospital Clinical Psychology Internship.
- Topics include assessment of malingering, psychometrics, competency to stand trial, violence risk assessment.

**Psychotherapy Seminar Co-Coordinator**

November 2017 – August 2018

Department of State Hospitals – Patton

APA-Accredited Internship Program in Clinical Psychology

- Co-coordinator of psychotherapy didactic seminars for interns in the APA-accredited Patton State Hospital Clinical Psychology Internship

**Peer Clinical Supervisor**

September 2014 – August 2015

Psy.D. Program in Clinical Psychology

University of La Verne

- Provided individual supervision of psychotherapy and assessment cases to 2nd and 3rd year graduate students enrolled in the University of La Verne Psy.D. program in Clinical Psychology.
- Met weekly with supervisees and provided formal written feedback of performance in psychotherapy and assessments.
- Reviewed session transcripts, audio files, and video recordings with each supervisee to identify clinical strengths and areas for professional growth.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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### **Author Approved Trainer – HCR 20v3**

- Completed the 2021 Official HCR-20v3 Train-the-Trainer Program
- Approved by Kevin Douglas, Ph.D., LL.B to provide foundational HCR-20v3 trainings within the California Department of State Hospitals system.

### **Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider**

California Sex Offender Management Board  
Apprentice Practitioner Level

September 2013 – September 2015

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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State of California Violence Risk Assessment Template Committee

September 2019 – Present

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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### **HCR-20v3 Foundational Training**

DSH – Patton (12 hours)

December 12, 2021 to December 13, 2021

### **Use of the HCR-20 V3 in a Forensic Psychiatric Setting: Case Law, Practice, and Standards**

DSH – Patton Forensic Evaluation Department

March 10, 2021

### **Violence Risk, Structured Professional Judgement, and the HCR-20 V3**

CONREP Annual Training

March 10, 2020 to March 11, 2020

### **Developmental Considerations in Juvenile Forensic Mental Health Assessment**

October 2, 2018

University of La Verne Psychology Department

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### **Co-Investigator**

October 2020 – Present

Elise Yenne, Ph.D., David Contreras, Psy.D., Sean Evans, Ph.D., and Gabriele Trupp, Ph.D.

### **Computational Linguistic Analysis of Forensic Mental Health Reports**

Department of Psychology, DSH – Patton, Patton, California

- Study utilizing Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC) to examine linguistic characteristics between opinion type and defendant characteristics in a sample of competency to stand trial evaluations in a large inpatient psychiatric facility.

### **Dissertation**

Defended April 27, 2016

Chair: Richard Rogers, Ph.D.

Title: *An examination of the relationship between competitive anxiety, neuroticism, stress, and coping in student-athletes*

- Study examining the relationship between psychosocial factors and multidimensional competitive trait anxiety (somatic, cognitive) in a sample of non-scholarship collegiate student-athletes.

**Research Assistant**

September 2012 – August 2016

**Health Psychology Research Lab Supervisor: Luci Martin, PhD.**

- I assisted with research projects focused on health promotion and disease prevention. Tasks include conducting literature reviews, abstract, poster and manuscript preparation, and data collection and management.
- Responsible for maintaining health psychology research lab database and integrity of physiological data (salivary cortisol) collected through numerous studies relating broadly to the field of health psychology.
- Attended weekly meetings to address study design, contemporary topics in health psychology, and lab funding.
- Projects include:
  - *Psychological, Behavioral and Sociocultural Predictors of Cardiovascular Health*
  - *Psychological Predictors of Physiological Reactivity during Social and Cognitive Activities*
  - *Stretch Yourself: Strengthening Emotional Health and Resiliency in Athletes*

Rodriguez, D., Contreras, D., Martin, L., & Granquist, M. (2013). *Differences in the health behaviors of student athletes and nonathletes*. Presented at the Western Psychological Association 94th Annual Conference, Portland, OR

Granquist, M., Contreras, D., Washington, L., & Martin, L. (2013). *What is an athletic injury?: Definition and measurement issues*. Presented at the Association for Applied Sport Psychology Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

Contreras, D., Sullivan, R., Bosshart, K., Assouline, S., Riverayra, P., & Quezada, M. (2012). *The effects of stigma on college student's mental health seeking*. Presented at the Western Psychological Association 92nd Annual Convention, Burlingame, CA

Sullivan, R., Contreras, D., Bosshart, K., Assouline, S., Riverayra, P., & Quezada, M. (2012). *The effects of college standing on concealment of mental health difficulties*. Presented at the Western Psychological Association 92nd Annual Convention, Burlingame, CA

Contreras, D. (2010). *The effects of perceived drinking norms and motives of college athletes*. Presented at the Western Psychological Association 91st Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA

**RELEVANT TRAINING**

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**Principles of Competency-Based Clinical Supervision****February 13, 2020**

Norwalk, California

- Workshop addressing approaches to clinical supervision, presented by Carol Falender, Ph.D.

**Kids' Court School Remediation Overview****February 12, 2020**

- Competency remediation overview presented to the Los Angeles County Juvenile Competency Panel by Kimberly Larson, Ph.D. and Rebecca Nathanson, Ph.D.

**Advanced Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START) Training****April 23, 2019**

Patton, California

- Advanced workshop discussing the administration and scoring of the START; presented by the author of the START, Sarah Desmarais, Ph.D.

**STATIC-99 Certification Training**

**April 9-10, 2019**

Patton, California

- Certification training addressing the administration and scoring of the STATIC-99.

**Short Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START) Training**

**January 22-23, 2019**

Norwalk, California

Training discussing the administration and scoring of the START; presented by the author of the START, Sarah Desmarais, Ph.D.

**Assessing and Managing Risk for Violence Using the HCR-20 Version 3**

**September 26-27, 2017**

Patton, California

- Advanced workshop discussing administration and scoring of the HCR-20 version 3; presented by the author of the HCR20v3, Kevin Douglas, LL.B., Ph.D.

**Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START)**

**February 12-13 2019**

- Workshop discussing administration and scoring of the START presented by the author of the START, Sarah Demarais, Ph.D.

**American Academy of Forensic Psychology Workshops**

**November 9-13, 2016**

Seattle, Washington

- Test-Based Evaluation of Feigning in Clinical Forensic Assessments; presented by Richard Frederick, Ph.D., ABPP
- Evaluation of Competence to Stand Trial; presented by Candyce Shields, Ph.D., ABPP
- Effective Ethical Expert Testimony; presented by Randy Otto, Ph.D., ABPP
- Improving Clinical Judgment and Decision Making in Forensic Psychological Evaluation; presented by Randy Otto, Ph.D., ABPP
- Effective Report Writing; presented by Randy Otto, Ph.D., ABPP

**Clinical Psychology Seminar Series**

**August 2015 – August 2016**

Little Rock, Arkansas

- Weekly clinical psychology seminar series discussing empirically supported treatments such as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and CBT for Psychosis.

**Division of Behavioral Health Services – Arkansas Forensic Examiner Training**

**December 2015**

Little Rock, Arkansas

- Attended mandatory day long workshop leading to certification as a forensic examiner in the state of Arkansas.

**Comprehensive DSM-5 Workshop**

**December 7, 2013**

La Verne, California

- Five hour workshop held at the University of La Verne highlighting changes in the DSM-5 presented by Drs. Richard Rogers and Kristi Peterson.

**Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) Training**

**August 2013**

Colton, California

- Six hour training seminar conducted by the State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders Committee (SARATSO) covering the administration, scoring, and uploading of the LS/CMI to the MHS database.

**Structured Risk Assessment – Forensic Version Light Training**

**August 2013**

Colton, California

- Six hour training seminar conducted by the State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders Committee (SARATSO) covering the administration and scoring of the SRA-FVL.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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APA Division 41 American Psychology-Law Society  
American Psychological Association