

## **LAUREN L. BEST, PSY.D.**

Licensed Psychologist  
Certified Forensic Evaluator  
best@lithiaforensics.com  
(971) 301-5080

### **EDUCATION**

Psy.D., Clinical Psychology  
M.S., Clinical Psychology  
Pacific University, School of Graduate Psychology (APA-accredited)  
Hillsboro, Oregon  
September 2011 to August 2016

B.A., Psychology  
B.A., Women's Studies  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, Indiana  
August 2007 to May 2011

### **EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

Lithia Forensics & Consulting, LLC  
Partner  
Licensed Psychologist and Certified Forensic Evaluator  
Keizer, Oregon  
October 2019 to present

Conduct forensic psychological evaluations that address a variety of referral questions, including fitness to proceed, criminal responsibility, capacity to waive Miranda rights, violence risk, mitigation, and general mental health/diagnostic clarification.

Provide expert witness testimony.

Provide consultation services, including reviewing completed evaluations, providing education regarding psycholegal issues, and assisting in trial preparation.

Oregon State Hospital: Forensic Evaluation Service  
Licensed Psychologist and Certified Forensic Evaluator  
Salem, Oregon  
September 2017 to present

Conduct court-ordered psychological evaluations.

Submit quality reports in a timely manner in accordance with court-imposed deadlines.

Provide expert witness testimony.

Lauren L. Best, Psy.D.  
Private Practice Owner  
Licensed Psychologist and Certified Forensic Evaluator  
Keizer, Oregon  
July 2018 to October 2019

Conducted forensic psychological evaluations that addressed a variety of referral questions, including fitness to proceed, risk of violence, mitigation factors to aid in sentencing, and general mental health/diagnostic clarification.

### **POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

University of Denver's Forensic Institute for Research, Service and Training (Denver FIRST)  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Forensic Psychology  
Denver, Colorado  
August 2016 to August 2017  
Supervisors: Neil Gowensmith, Ph.D., Apryl Alexander, Psy.D., and Lavita Nadkarni, Ph.D.

Conducted forensic psychological evaluations that addressed a variety of referral questions, including fitness to proceed, sanity, mental condition, juvenile transfer and reverse transfer, risk of violence and recidivism, mitigation, and resentencing pursuant to *Montgomery v. Louisiana* (2016).

Prior instructor and co-instructor of two courses in the M.A. in Forensic Psychology (MAFP) program.

Supervised MAFP students on outpatient competency restoration and competency evaluation.

Presented guest lectures, talks, and seminars at various educational and training programs.

Awarded a grant to research psychological factors among incarcerated adults in Colorado who were sentenced to life without parole as juveniles.

Participated in a weekly, interdisciplinary seminar on special topics pertaining to forensic psychology and psychiatry, including case law.

### **PREDOCTORAL INTERNSHIP**

Saint Elizabeths Hospital  
Clinical Psychology Intern  
Washington, District of Columbia  
July 2015 to July 2016  
Supervisors: Shilpa Krishnan, Ph.D., Pam Barrigher, Ph.D., Christy Lovelady, Psy.D., Meagan Grasmick, Psy.D.

Assisted in evaluating defendants' competency to stand trial.

Conducted comprehensive psychological evaluations to assess for malingering, violence risk, and

sexual reoffending risk.

Provided competency restoration treatment in individual and group formats.

Served as a member of a treatment team on long-term and admissions units.

Provided weekly individual therapy from an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) orientation.

Co-facilitated group therapy twice weekly that addressed coping skills.

Served on the externship selection committee.

## **PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE**

Linda Grounds, Ph.D., LLC

Practicum Student

Portland, Oregon

September 2014 to June 2015

Supervisor: Linda Grounds, Ph.D.

Conducted mitigation evaluations with male and female defendants in jail or a forensic private practice setting to assess for mitigation factors to aid in sentencing.

Integrated data and relevant research findings into assessment reports.

Oregon State Hospital

Practicum Student

Salem, Oregon

September 2014 to June 2015

Supervisor: Brian Hartman, Psy.D.

Conducted comprehensive evaluations to assess risk of violence, stalking, and/or fire-setting, and/or to clarify diagnoses for jurisdictional discharge.

Presented evaluation findings to the Risk Review Board.

Testified at a Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) hearing.

Observed competency to stand trial evaluations in Forensic Evaluation Service.

Oregon Department of Corrections:

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility

Practicum Student

Wilsonville, Oregon

September 2013 to July 2014

Supervisor: Claudia Kritz, Ph.D.

Conducted abbreviated psychological evaluations with male inmates upon intake to determine eligibility for developmental disability programming.

Conducted referral-based comprehensive evaluations with female inmates to clarify diagnoses and assess malingering.

Co-led DBT therapy groups for female inmates with comorbid cognitive impairments and borderline personality disorder.

Participated in treatment team meetings in the Mental Health Infirmary.

Pacific Psychology Clinic

Student Clinician

Hillsboro, Oregon

August 2012 to July 2013

Supervisor: James Lane, Ph.D.

Provided individual therapy from an ACT orientation to adult outpatient clients.

Conducted diagnostic assessments for veterans referred by Washington County Veterans' Services.

Attended monthly grand rounds.

## **DISSERTATION**

Physical Aggression, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Affective Instability Among Minimum-Security Inmates

Chair: Genevieve Arnaut, Psy.D., Ph.D.

Reader: Michael Daniel, Ph.D.

## **THESIS**

Infant Homicide and Availability of Reproductive and Mental Health Services: A Comparison of Democratic and Republican States

Chair: Genevieve Arnaut, Psy.D., Ph.D.

## **ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant for a Master's Thesis project

Pacific University School of Professional Psychology

Thesis Chair: Genevieve Arnaut, Psy.D., Ph.D.

March 2012 to June 2012

Research Assistant in the Clinical Psychology Laboratory

Purdue University

August 2010 to December 2010

Research Assistant in the Social Psychology Laboratory  
Purdue University  
January 2010 to August 2010

### **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

Best, L., Arnaut, G., Gowensmith, W. N., Daniel, M., Gorgens, K., Dettmer, J., & Curran, C. (2017, March). *Traumatic Brain Injury, Physical Aggression, and Violent Offending: A Multi-State Analysis*. Paper presentation at the annual American Psychology-Law Society Conference, Seattle, WA.

Gowensmith, W. N., & Best, L. (2017, January). *A Service Learning Model in Professional Forensic Psychology: Out of the Classroom and Into the Community*. Session presented at the annual Council for Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology Conference, Long Beach, CA.

Shean, M., Bellinger, S., & Best, L. (2014, May). *Modification of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Latino Families*. Poster presented at the Oregon Psychological Association's 2014 Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Best, L., & Hagen, C. (2013, November). *Mood Disorders*. Lecture presented at Washington County Sheriff's Office's Crisis Intervention Training, Hillsboro, OR.

Best, L., Carson, K., Reese, M., & Shada, K. (2013, May). *Ms. Latte: An Atypical Evaluation from Washington County Veterans' Services*. Lecture presented at Pacific Psychology Clinic's Grand Rounds, Hillsboro, OR.

### **SELECTED WORKSHOPS/TRAININGS ATTENDED**

Capital Sentencing Evaluations (7 hours)

Presented by Daniel Murrie, Ph.D.

Portland, Oregon

March 2019

Official Psychopathy Checklist (Revised) Training Program (16 hours)

Presented by J. Reid Meloy, Ph.D.

Live webinar

April 2017

The Essentials of Growing, Developing, and Sustaining a Private Practice in Forensic Psychology: Soup to Nuts (3.5 hours)

Presented by Virginia Barber-Rioja, Ph.D., Jessica Pearson, Psy.D., and Chriscelyn Tussey, Psy.D., ABPP

Seattle, Washington

March 2017

Competency to Stand Trial Evaluations (8 hours)

Presented by Tom Gray, Ph.D., ABPP

Pueblo, Colorado

September 2016

Evaluation of Criminal Responsibility and Insanity (16 hours)

Presented by Ira Packer, Ph.D., ABPP

New York, New York

June 2016

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Instructor for Group Interventions course (3 credit hours)

University of Denver, Graduate School of Professional Psychology

M.A. in Forensic Psychology Program

March 2017 to May 2017

Independently prepared and presented lecture material.

Graded assignments and rated students' performance at the end of the term.

Discussed students' progress during faculty meetings.

Assisted students individually during my office hours.

Co-Instructor for Practicum III course (3 credit hours)

Co-Instructor: Apryl Alexander, Psy.D.

University of Denver, Graduate School of Professional Psychology

M.A. in Forensic Psychology Program

March 2017 to May 2017

Collaborated with co-instructor regarding lecture material.

Presented lecture material alongside co-instructor.

Discussed students' progress during faculty meetings.

Provided input regarding students' performance at the end of the term.

Teaching Assistant for Personality Assessment course (3 credit hours)

Pacific University, School of Graduate Psychology

Professor: Michelle Guyton, Ph.D., ABPP

May 2014 to July 2014

Assisted in grading written assignments.

Presented a lecture and case study on the PAI.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Volunteer for the Rape Survivor Advocacy Program  
Lafayette, Indiana  
February 2011 – June 2011

Served as a source of support for rape survivors during evidence collection at local hospitals.  
Remained on-call for 48 hours a month.  
Facilitated communication between law enforcement, hospital staff, and family members of the survivor.  
Connected survivors with community resources.

Volunteer for the Lafayette Crisis Line  
Lafayette, Indiana  
October 2009 – June 2011

Provided crisis counseling via telephone approximately 4 hours per week.  
Referred callers to community resources.