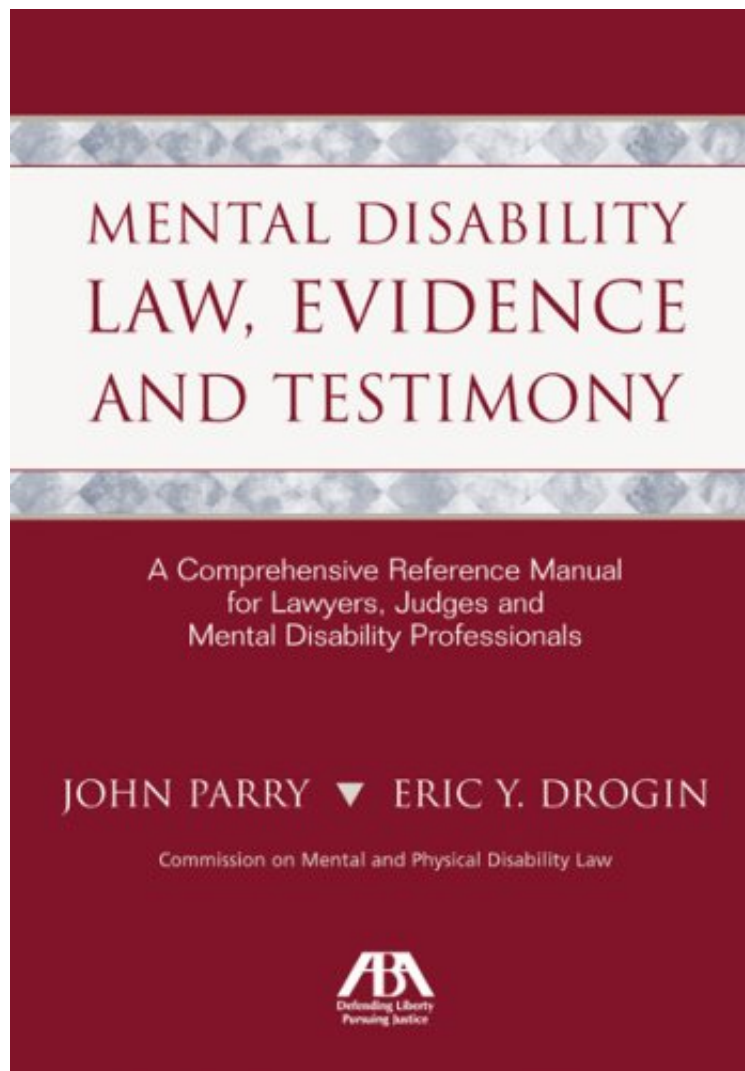


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Mental Disability Law, Evidence and Testimony: A Comprehensive Reference Manual for Lawyers, Judges and Mental Disability Professionals

John Parry, Eric Y. Drogin

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A book searching for an editorBy Derek Grimmell'm in the section on criminal incompetence. I am finding about a quarter of the text to be vague or inconclusive when citing precedent. That is to say, after the text quotes and discusses a case, just as often as not I am left wondering what the court's decision was. Thus, on p. 88, discussing how to reconcile the Faretta and Godinez precedents, they describe the 8th Circuit ruling that "the Supreme Court in the former case considered all three elements of informed consent, while in the subsequent case the justices were focusing only on the competency prong." Huh? Nowhere did they describe "all three elements" of anything. In other cases where I have read the underlying decision, the book gets it flatly wrong. Thus, on page 84, discussing waiver of Miranda rights, The book says there are two questions: a) was a waiver knowing and intelligent? b) Was there an absence of police coercion? They then say that if BOTH questions are answered "no," the waiver of Miranda rights was faulty and any confession inadmissible. In fact, they should say that if EITHER question is answered no. This is pretty pathetic for a book published by the American Bar Association. Evidently their name doesn't mean much to them any more. So overall I'm re-opening my search for a one-volume manual. If you study this book preparing for a test -- like, say, a trial -- make sure that the test author has relied on this book too. If the test author relied on the actual law, you may fail.

This new book written by ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law Director, John Parry, J.D. and forensic psychologist, Eric Y. Drogin, J.D., Ph.D., Manual has been formatted and written to guide lawyers, judges, law students, and forensic and other mental disability professionals through the maze of civil and criminal laws, standards, and evidentiary pitfalls, and forensic practices that characterize this area of the law. Moreover, it summarizes what empirical evidence exists to support or raise concerns about these legal standards and forensic practices when they are introduced in the courtroom.