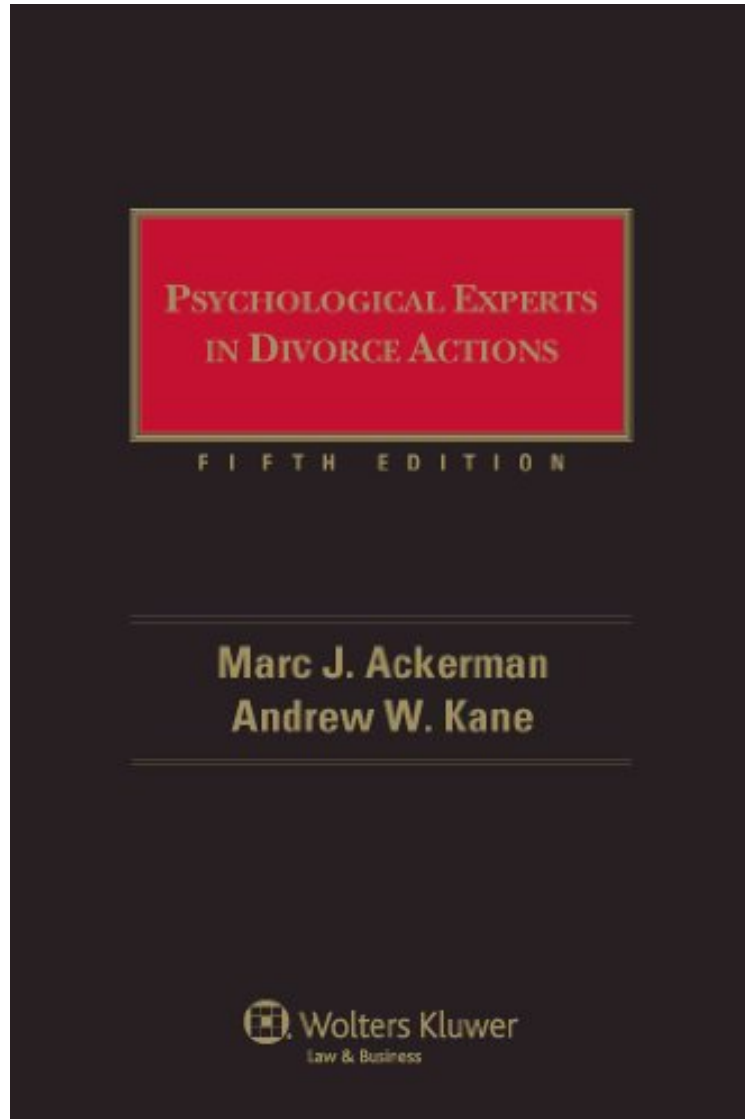


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Psychological Experts in Divorce Actions, 5th Edition

Marc J. Ackerman, Andrew W. Kane

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Marc J. Ackerman, Andrew W. Kane : Psychological Experts in Divorce Actions, 5th Edition before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Psychological Experts in Divorce Actions, 5th Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a classic in the field By FromAtlantaSuburb If you are a family law attorney or forensic mental health professional, this is the book for you. It highlights the latest research on most of the major psychological issues that come up in family law cases. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. How to skin, bone, and roast an expert witness By Derek Grimmell This guide was written for attorneys, not

psychologists or psychiatrists. It's on the American Board of Forensic Psychology's recommended reading list for board certification. While aimed at divorce actions and, thus, custody battles, it has sound advice for every attorney dealing with a psychiatrist or psychologist. The advice is summed up on p. 167, where the authors quote a research paper as saying: "In a study in which 120 psychological reports in mental disability cases were reviewed, only five (4 percent) of the reports 'were considered to be free of errors, biases, or slanted points of view.'" As the law relies on cross-examination to test the quality of evidence, this book is, in essence, a manual on how to cross-examine a behavioral expert until they wish they'd never been born -- if, that is, they belong to the majority who practice in the forensic arena without sufficient preparation. Organized according to legal standards, the book walks through the credentials an expert may have, the right and wrong ways to select and administer tests, fundamental research on the effect of divorce on families, biases in child witnesses, statistical concepts that can render some tests vulnerable to evidentiary challenges and potentially get the expert's testimony excluded, weaknesses of intelligence, personality, and projective tests, and some specialty tests like the justly-neglected ASPECT. There are some pretty good, short, punchy summaries of the knowledge base of physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental disorders, drug abuse, criminal history in the parents, and diagnostic schemes. So an attorney who bought this book and studied it carefully would probably know more about this area than the expert witness does, which is always the position an attorney wants to be in. In short, if you are a psychologist or psychiatrist looking to enter the lucrative world of custody evaluation and parental fitness, this book is what the cross-examining attorney probably read to figure out how to roast you alive. This area of practice is lucrative precisely because it's a minefield. This book is the map to the mine-field. It's about 50% longer than the previous edition, too, which indicates how much the mine-field has grown, so if you have any interest in this area at all, save yourself getting blown up and get the up-to-date map. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "The" book on the issue By D. Davis I learned of this book after seeing it in two different judges' chambers. It is "the" reference and is quoted often by courts. My primary gripe is the price - even used ones are \$200+. But for a professional who is litigating these issues, citing it can be extremely helpful / persuasive to the court.

Emotionally charged issues abound in matrimonial practice, especially in custody disputes. Expert testimony can have a dramatic impact on the outcome of a case, and when matters are highly sensitive or sensational the seeming objectivity of an expert can be dispositive. To effectively reinforce or question that testimony, certain specialized knowledge is essential. Scientifically accepted standards and theories are constantly evolving. Keeping up with the data had been a challenge, but one integrated resource has made it simple. *Psychological Experts in Divorce Actions, Fifth Edition* pulls all the research together into the definitive guide to understanding the role of psychological evaluations in divorce and custody actions. Focused on providing the best approach to protecting your client's interests, this work explains all the leading testing instruments, what conclusions may be drawn and how to challenge or support those conclusions. In addition to offering effective examination and cross-examination strategies, it assists you in handling the gamut of psychological factors that affect clients in divorce and custody cases. Authors Marc J. Ackerman, Ph.D., and Andrew W. Kane, Ph.D., are licensed psychologists who have been involved in hundreds of custody cases. Drawing on their extensive experience testing parties to a divorce and treating psychological patients in the clinic and as psychological experts in the courtroom, they identify the most important psychological evaluation research used in divorce and custody decision-making and distill the information into clear terms lawyers can readily apply. They also examine vital issues including: Ethics confidentiality, privilege, duty to warn or protect (Tarasoff), sharing raw data, test integrity Sexual abuse bona fide or fabricated allegations, psychological effects of sexual abuse, profiles of abuser and abused Testing personality tests (including MMPI-2, and the new MMPI-2-RF, Rorschach, Millon, TAT); intelligence tests (Wechsler scales, Kaufman scales, Stanford Binet); custody tests (ASPECT, PCRI, PASS, BPS); and many more How divorce affects families custody, placement, age and gender differences, grandparents, sexual preference, psychological problems