Forensic Psychological assessment in the area of immigration law presents unique and complex challenges for the assessment psychologist. Psychologists are increasingly being asked to offer expert opinions in a wide variety of immigration court proceedings, including asylum/Convention Against Torture, Violence Against Women Act self petition, Relief for Victims of Trafficking, Relief for Victims of Criminal Activity, and Cancellation/Withholding of Removal (Deportation). In each of these areas, qualified psychologist experts have relevant knowledge and skills probative to the legal issues, for example, assessment of the effects of torture in asylum proceedings. Dr. Evans will provide an introductory review of relevant areas of forensic psychological assessment in immigration court, including brief exposure to the underlying immigration law of asylum, extreme hardship, spousal abuse self petition, relief from sexual trafficking and as they relate to the psycholegal questions to be addressed by forensic psychological evaluations. Additionally, he will discuss psychological evaluation methods pertinent to each area of assessment. Finally, he will discuss important aspects of this area of forensic practice such as cross-cultural issues and powerful countertransference in the assessor and immigrant relationship.

Fee: NCPA Members - $15.00; Non-members - $30.00

Instructional Level: Intermediate

Educational Format: Lecture and Discussion

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the institute, participants will be able to:

1. Identity relevant areas where forensic psychological assessment is useful in Immigration Court proceedings.

2. Describe evaluation methods (including interviews, psychological testing, and assessment of malingering) and the importance of obtaining collateral information.

3. Explain the unique aspects in the evaluation of immigrants applying for visas for asylum, VAWA, and U-Visa, including cross-cultural, ethical, and counter-transference issues.

Instructor:

F. Barton Evans, PhD is a retired clinical and forensic psychologist in Asheville, NC and formerly Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, East Tennessee State University College of Medicine. He has published 4 books including one on the work of Harry Stack Sullivan, co-authored two books on the Rorschach in forensic practice, and co-authored a book on forensic psychological assessment in Immigration Court. He has published numerous book chapters and papers on the Rorschach and other personality assessment in psychological trauma. These days Barton is enjoying being a grandfather of 3 grandchildren (with another on the way) and his revival of playing fingerstyle guitar after a 40-year hiatus from performing.

Continuing Education Information:

This workshop is sponsored by the North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA). NCPA is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer Continuing Education (CE) for psychologists. NCPA maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This workshop is offered for 1 hour of Category A credit.

Attendance Requirement for CE Credit:

To receive CE credit, you must attend the entire workshop. No credit will be given to participants who are more than 15 minutes late at the beginning of the workshop. You must be present at the close of the workshop and sign-in and sign-out. You may not be excused early. Partial credit is not provided.