

**Both Sides Now:
Navigating the Intersection of Ethics and Law in Psychology Practice**

**Sponsored by:
The California Psychological Association and the California Board of Psychology**

Description

Psychologists in all areas of practice encounter ethical dilemmas, from the common to the extremely complex. These situations require knowledge of the Code of Ethics and the laws that govern practice. Decisions require attention to ethical, legal, clinical, and risk management considerations in order to arrive at a sound decision that protects the psychologist and benefits the client. Some examples: "Do I have to be an expert in everything my Psychological Assistant is doing?" "Should I call the police if my patient's wife tells me he threatened to kill her?" "Can I provide individual therapy to someone I once saw in couple's therapy?" "Can I terminate therapy with a client who's threatening to complain about me to the Board?" "Do I have to talk to a custody evaluator if my informed consent says I won't?" "Do I have to report a colleague who is cognitively impaired?" "Can I go to a client's wedding?"

In this program, participants will receive up to date information about laws governing psychologists' practice, including clarification on laws that frequently cause confusion. A member of the Board of Psychology will review the Board's disciplinary activity and provide guidance on how to remain within the standard of care. Through the use of vignettes the audience will have the opportunity to apply ethical reasoning and to explore multiple, acceptable options that may be available in a given situation. Discussions will be in both small and large groups, and participants will also observe a discussion and debate on several complex professional situations with our content leaders.

After attending this program, participants will be able to:

1. *Identify key ethical issues when faced with complex ethical and practice situations.*
2. *Apply ethical decision-making in complex practice situations, to protect the psychologist and the client, using the APA Ethics Code and the relevant laws of California as resources.*
3. *Describe new laws relevant to the practice of psychology in California.*
4. *Describe the disciplinary process used by the California Board of Psychology.*

Participants

Stephen H Behnke, JD, PhD, MDiv earned his JD from Yale Law School, his PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan, and his MDiv from Harvard Divinity School. In 1996, Dr. Behnke was made chief psychologist of the Day Hospital Unit at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, a position he held until 1998, when he was named a faculty fellow in Harvard University's program in Ethics and the Professions. Dr. Behnke then directed a program in research integrity in the Division of Medical Ethics at Harvard Medical School. In November of 2000, he assumed the position of director of ethics at the American Psychological Association. He holds an appointment in clinical ethics in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Behnke co-leads an ethics discussion group at the meetings of the American Psychoanalytic Association. Dr. Behnke's research interests focus on issues at the convergence of law, ethics, religion and psychology. He has written on multiple personality disorder and the

insanity defense, on issues involving competence and informed consent to treatment and research, on forced treatment of the severely mentally ill, and on state laws relevant to the work of mental health practitioners.

Bram Fridhandler, PhD *has been a member of the CPA Ethics Committee since 2006 and is in his third year as Chair. He is an Expert Reviewer for the California Board of Psychology. He was Chair of the 2004 Expertise Task Force, which produced authoritative documents on legal and ethical topics for California psychologists. In 2011, he received the CPA Silver Psi award. He has taught at UCSF, the University of San Francisco and Alliant University and was Director of Internship Training at California Pacific Medical Center. He practices psychotherapy and family law forensic psychology in downtown San Francisco.*

Ellen Stein, PhD *is Vice-Chair of the CPA Ethics Committee, and teaches Law/Ethics CE trainings across the State. She maintains a private practice in San Diego as a forensic/clinical psychologist, providing expert witness testimony in Civil, Criminal and Courts Martial matters, as well as Board complaint consultation.*

Member of the California Board of Psychology (or 2): TBD

Attorney from the California Board of Psychology (potential)

Program Logistics

Date: TBD

Time: 9:00 am-4:30 pm (6 CE credits)

CPA will assume responsibility for the logistical planning and the administration of the CE credits. It is hoped that the costs for the meeting space, if any, and the food and beverage can be shared by CPA and The BOP. A fee will be charged for CPA members and non-members.