

# THE WETC PSYCHOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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"Find the Truth, Tell the Story"

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May, 2017  
Volume 1, Issue 100

## Resources to Utilize When Preparing to Cross-Examine Psych Doctors

Providing resources for attorneys so that they may become equipped to better understand the essentials of psych reports and to effectively cross-examine psych doctors is one of my passions. In 2008 I published my book Psychological Evaluations In Litigation: A Practical Guide for Attorneys and Insurance Adjusters, a reference intended to help attorneys, insurance adjusters, and anyone else interested in psychological evaluations evaluate the credibility of psychological and psychiatric reports, take trial and deposition testimony from psychologists, psychiatrists and patients, and to decide which doctors to hire. The second edition was published in 2011, a free copy of which is available for download from my website: <http://drleckartwetc.com/freeresources/book>

In 2009 I started writing the WETC Psychology Newsletter, published monthly, with information about a wide variety of topics related to understanding medical-legal reports from psychologists and psychiatrists. My newsletter is free and all 100 newsletters are available for download: <http://drleckartwetc.com/freeresources/newsletters>

Then, in 2013 and 2014 I wrote a series of newsletters dedicated to providing readers with information to understand the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5 (DSM-5). The DSM-5 was published in May, 2013 and immediately became a controversial manual, particularly to the medical-legal community. The

*"An Apricot™ is a written-analysis of a psych report that you have that may not be in your favor. I find every flaw in the report, explain why they are flaws, and provide documentation from the published psychological and psychiatric literature that supports the contention that these flaws exist."*

DSM-5 eliminated the GAF Scale and the Five Axis Diagnostic System, to name just a few controversial issues.

Subsequently, in the summer of 2014 I published three newsletters in a series called "The Ten Commandments." This series of publications provides information essential to understanding psychological testing, Mental Status Examinations and Medical-Legal Psychological Reporting.

Following "The Ten Commandments" series, in 2014 and 2015 I published "Leckart's Rules" in a series of seven newsletters. Contained in "Leckart's Rules" are six rules that I created for attorneys to follow when cross-examining psych doctors.

In 2016, with the New Year, came the launch of my blog. "The Med-Legal Psych Professor" blog (<http://drleckart.blogspot.com>) is a space with content updated weekly offering tips for attorneys to use when cross-examining psych doctors.

Finally, in summer 2016, I began publishing a series of newsletters devoted to providing helpful information for attorneys and insurance adjusters to consider when cross-examining psych doctors. This series of newsletters provides three or four tips each month aimed at leveling the playing field for attorneys choosing to depose a psychologist and/or psychiatrist.

Browse Dr. Leckart's Book at  
[www.DrLeckartWETC.com](http://www.DrLeckartWETC.com)

In providing all of the resources discussed above, my most enjoyable effort is writing Apricots™. An Apricot™ is a written-analysis of a psych report that you have that may not be in your favor. I find every flaw in the report, explain why they are flaws, and provide documentation from the published psychological and psychiatric literature that supports the contention that these flaws exist. I also provide multiple questions for the attorney to use in cross-examining the doctor as well as specific techniques to use on Cx. When the doctor will not be deposed, an Apricot™ contains all the psychological information needed to prepare a brief for the court that the attorney can use if they decide that they wish to petition to have

the court throw out the doctor's report or otherwise entertain the nature of its flawed nature. A sample Apricot™ can be downloaded from my website: <http://drleckartwetc.com/apricots>

In summary, every attorney who has a psych report that is not in their favor, and who plans to depose the psych doctor, should review the report and identify the flaws that exist. Using the tools and resources discussed above will help attorneys plan an approach for the cross-examination and to develop questions that will expose the flaws that exist in the doctor's report.

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for more information)

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This is the one-hundredth of a series of monthly newsletters aimed at providing information about pre-deposition/pre-trial consultations, psychological evaluations and treatment that may be of interest to attorneys and insurance adjusters working in the areas of workers' compensation and personal injury. If you have not received some or all of our past newsletters, and would like copies, send us an email requesting the newsletter(s) that you would like forwarded to you.