

AAPL EXAMINER



American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law

AAPL Annual Meeting

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AAPL's 55th Annual Meeting will take place October 24th-27th, 2024 in the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Center in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The coastal city is known for its beautiful landscapes, outdoor activities, restaurants, and shopping. Vancouver is committed to lowering its carbon footprint. AAPL also is committed to climate action. This year, AAPL will be using an app-based program instead of a paper one. Attendees will be able to download the program to their smart devices and computers. The expense of the program app will be offset by the savings from reduced printing and shipping fees.

The theme for the meeting is *Forensic Treatment, Ethics and Administration*. The dynamic program will have sessions suited for residents, fellows, early-career and more experienced forensic psychiatrists and correctional psychiatrists. The three featured speakers are diverse, innovative and forward-thinking professionals who will share their experiences and offer their perspectives on the legal system and forensic mental health.

Forensic psychiatrist and psychotherapist Dr. Gwen Adshead, MBBS FRCpsych, MA, MSt first spoke to AAPL at the 1996 Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She has spent more than three decades with the UK's National Health Services and has provided forensic consultation services to Broadmoor Hospital in England. She invites readers to learn about her work with patients in forensic hospitals and prisons in *The Devil You Know: Encounters in Forensic Psychiatry*. Through case studies, Dr. Adshead describes her growth from an early career forensic psychotherapist. She affirms that with proper training, support and commitment, psychotherapy can rehabilitate forensic patients beyond that which can be achieved from medication alone.

In 1982, Hon. Ladoris Hazzard Cordell (retired) became the first female African American judge to be appointed in Northern California. During her judicial career, she adjudicated cases in family, probate, criminal and other courts. This allowed her to examine the legal system from various vantage points. In 2021 Judge Cordell published *Her Honor: My Life on the Bench... What Works, What's Broken and How to Change It*. She invites the reader to experience legal proceedings from the judge's perspective. Judge Cordell describes the challenges presented by the media and the public in high-profile cases. Perhaps most important, Judge Cordell offers a thoughtful ten-point plan for judicial reform that is informed by her experiences behind the bench.

The Honorable Senator Lillian Eva Quan Dyck, PhD (ret.) of Saskatchewan, Canada, has had a distinguished career in neuroscience, politics and advocacy. She is First Nations and first-generation Chinese Canadian. She became the first Indigenous woman in Canada to earn a PhD in the sciences before pursuing an academic career, that included research on antidepressants and antipsychotics, and serving as an associate dean at the University of Saskatchewan.

Senator Dyck (ret.) represented Saskatchewan in the Canadian Senate from 2005 -2020. As the first Indigenous and first Canadian-born Chinese senator, she advocated for racial and gender equity for Canadians, including improved access to mental health services, employment and educational opportunities for Indigenous people. She has advocated for antiracist policies and practices in Canada's criminal justice system. Also, Senator Dyck supports harsher sentences for perpetrators of violence against Indigenous women. Senator Van Dyck will talk about how Canada has managed the problem of missing aboriginal women.

In addition to the stellar speakers, the program includes posters and presentations on a variety of topics that are timely, novel and thought-provoking. See you there!