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Hypnosis and the Law Symposium

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Hypnosis & The Law Symposium

The HYPNOSIS & THE LAW SYMPOSIUM thanks the FORUM and Editor Brad Sures for providing valuable background in hypnosis for the upcoming Spring Symposium on Hypnosis & The Law. All persons in the legal or mental health field should become acquainted with Forensic Hypnosis and with the increasing interaction between hypnosis and the law.

Hypnosis is a most valuable tool and resource for the attorney. No one can question the sheer physical (let alone psychological) power of hypnosis. One can readily validate this power through major surgery and chronic pain control at both George Washington Medical School and at the Walter Reed Center for Pain Control run by Symposium Faculty Member, Dr. Hal Wain. To examine forensic hypnosis closely, one must cut away the folklore, fantasy and fiction surrounding it.

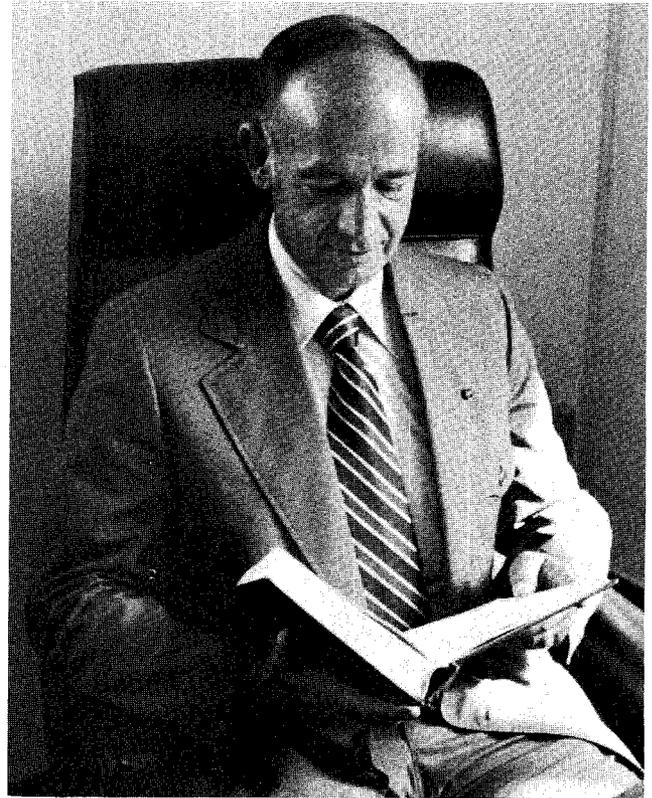
This is the purpose of the upcoming Spring Symposium scheduled for March 14th and 15, 1980. Attendees will explore the many uses and applications of hypnosis in legal practice.

This unique sortie of Continuing Legal Education was approved enthusiastically by UB Law Dean Lawrence Katz. The Symposium will be a joint venture with the Maryland Morton Prince Center for Hypnotherapy.

Hypnosis is a legitimate psychiatric method of inquiry. So say the top professional associations in their respective fields, the American Psychological Assoc. and the American Medical Assoc. The AMA goes on to call hypnosis a "valid medical technique" (Ref: PSYCHIATRY & THE LAW, Slovenko, Ralph; Little, Brown and Co., Boston, '73; p. 55). This recognition of the legitimate role of hypnosis in the fields of psychology and medicine buttresses the growing acknowledgement of the contribution hypnosis is making and can make to the law.

Lawyers and the courts can and do use hypnosis for specific purposes. Among these are to assist the defendant and his defense; to assist victims; to aid the prosecutor and the prosecution itself; etc. The overall goal of forensic hypnosis is to aid in getting closer to the truth, a flying goal at best. Thus, areas of credibility, enhancing recall, refreshing memory, and rehabilitation of witnesses are a few of the legal issues touched upon.

The search for the truth is enhanced by the following imperfect yet worthwhile tools available to the attorney. Both the mental and medical fields continue in these ongoing efforts and have used techniques like the polygraph, the PSE "voice stress" test, so-called "truth serums", etc. Thus, the effort to court the truth and approach justice goes forward (not without some criticism). Knowledgeable attorneys use such techniques to better arm for combat in the adversary arena (e.g. F. Lee



Program Chairman Dr. Robin Goodenough, Professor, University of Baltimore Law School.

Bailey of Boston and Jim White of UB Law and Baltimore who both adroitly use the polygraph to their advantage).

As you can see from a reproduction of the program, the areas of convergence of hypnosis and the law are fascinating and far-reaching. The Symposium Faculty will consist of prominent members of the local judiciary and reach out to international leaders in forensic hypnosis.

Hypnosis is real. It works. It's very useful. Sometimes it is the only alternative left. "Try it — you'll like it!". You may even become entranced by it and possibly use it to very good advantage. At least you won't be caught sleeping when someone else is inducing, infusing or seducing your clients by use of mysterious forces beyond your ken.

The program is printed herein to save the thousand proverbial words. As it is with all quality products, RES IPSA LOQUITUR. If you are interested, you can help us help you by planning ahead and by putting your name on our mailing list. Please send your address and phone number, too. You may also register now if you wish. And like all good lawyers, please mark your calendar for the "Ides of March", Mar. 14th and 15th. The Staff, Faculty and I look forward to meeting you at the Spring Symposium!

Robin Goodenough
Professor of Law & Psychiatry