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**WEBINAR: Dr. Sarah Vinson**

**Defense Strategies to Challenge Personality Disorder Diagnoses**

**a. Date** – Webinar: April 30, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. EDT

**b. Description**

Has your client been diagnosed with Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder or Antisocial Personality Disorder? Has a scale of criminogenic risk factors been used to categorize them as high risk? Has your team raised challenges to these characterizations which negatively impact each and every stage of your client’s case? At times, mental health practice, including that of forensic specialists, makes these determinations without taking into account interpersonal or structural traumas. These experiences, which may have occurred either in childhood or adulthood - and often both in those with criminal justice involvement -  can play a central role in thoughts, feelings or behaviors that may be framed as stigmatizing personality disorders or criminogenic risk factors. Dr. Vinson will discuss the factors involved in this erasure of context of discounting of trauma, including the inequities at play in the mental health field.  This session will discuss strategies that defense teams can use to reframe a client’s mental health defense and mitigation story.

*Start time is 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (10:00 a.m. PST).*

**c. Presenter**

Dr. Sarah Vinsonis a physician who specializes in adult, child & adolescent, and forensic psychiatry. She is the founder of the Lorio Psych Group, an Atlanta, GA based mental health practice providing expert care and consultation. She has consulted on cases in eight different states. Additionally, she has testified and been admitted as an expert in state, federal, criminal and family courts. She has been a speaker at multiple local and two national law conferences. Dr. Vinson graduated Summa Cum Laude from Florida A & M University. After graduating from medical school at the University of Florida with Research Honors and as an Inductee in the Chapman Humanism Honors Society, she completed her general psychiatry training at Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School. While there, she also received specialized training in trauma through the Victims of Violence Program. She then returned to the South to complete fellowships in both child & adolescent and forensic psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine. In addition to providing mental health care services such as psychotherapy, consultation and psychopharmacology through her private practice, Dr. Vinson is an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at Morehouse School of Medicine. Just two years after joining the faculty she was honored as Psychiatry and Faculty of the Year in 2015. In 2018, she was selected as the Outstanding Young Alumni for the University of Florida College of Medicine and was a finalist for the Atlanta Business Chronicle Healthcare Hero Award. She is also Adjunct Faculty at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Vinson has been elected and/or appointed to national and statewide office by her professional peers. She is the immediate past President of the Georgia Council on Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and is the current Secretary of the Georgia Psychiatric Physicians Association Board. Additionally, she serves on the Communications Council of the American Psychiatric Association and is the Southern Regional Rep. for the American Association of Community Psychiatrists. She has been a speaker at regional and national conferences including the Southern Regional Juvenile Defender Conference, The National Bar Association – Young Lawyer Division Conference and Retreat, the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Annual Meeting. Dr. Vinson was recently appointed to Georgia’s State Advisory Group through the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) by Governor Brian P. Kemp.