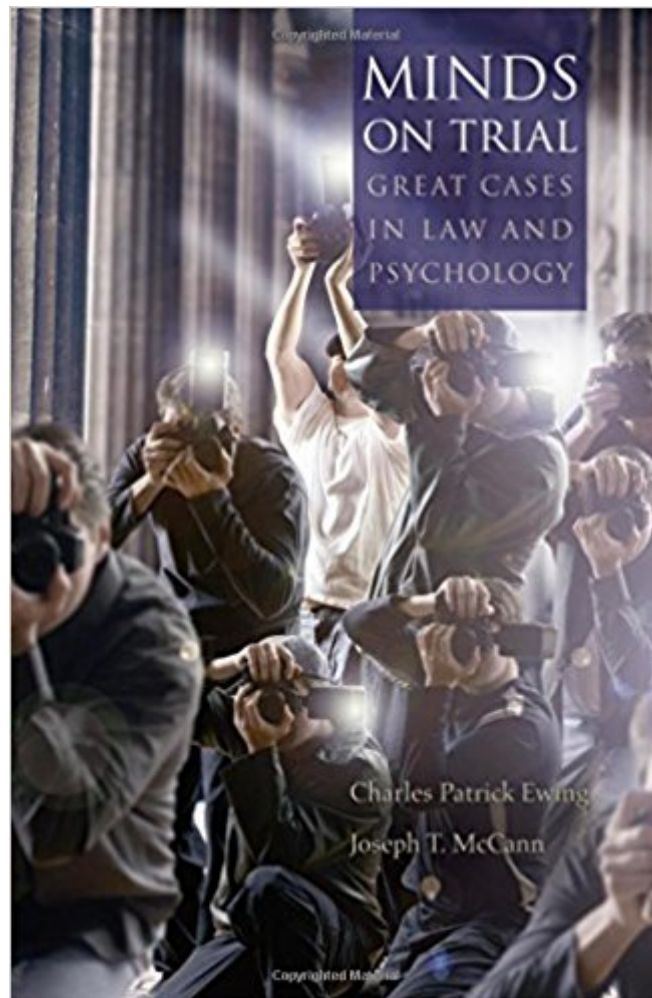


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Minds On Trial: Great Cases In Law And Psychology



Synopsis

In recent years, the public has become increasingly fascinated with the criminal mind. Television series centered on courtroom trials, criminal investigations, and forensic psychology are more popular than ever. More and more people are interested in the American system of justice and the individuals who experience it firsthand. *Minds on Trial: Great Cases in Law and Psychology* gives you an inside view of 20 of the highest profile legal cases of the last 50 years. Drs. Ewing and McCann take you "behind the scenes" of each of these cases, some involving celebrities like Woody Allen, Mike Tyson, and Patty Hearst, and explain the impact they had on the fields of psychology and the law. Many of the cases in this book, whether involving a celebrity client or an ordinary person in an extraordinary circumstance, were determined in part by the expert testimony of a psychologist or other mental health professional. Psychology has always played a vital role in so many aspects of the American legal system, and these fascinating trials offer insight into many intriguing psychological issues. In addition to expert testimony, some of the issues discussed in this entertaining and educational book include the insanity defense, brainwashing, criminal profiling, capital punishment, child custody, juvenile delinquency, and false confessions. In *Minds on Trial*, the authors skillfully convey the psychological and legal drama of each case, while providing important and fresh professional insights. Mental health and legal professionals, as well as others with an interest in psychology and the law will have a hard time putting this scholarly, yet readable book down.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...a thoughtful, well-researched and especially clearly written book that merits serious attention."--The National Psychologist

"This is a book that not only teaches, but entertains as well. The authors, well-respected forensic mental health professionals, make expert testimony come alive in a series of well known and not so well known cases, providing examples of expert testimony at its best and worst. Their analysis of the testimony proffered in these cases should serve to remind all experts of their accountability and the effects their opinions have on the lives of others."-- Alan M. Goldstein, Ph.D., ABPP, Board Certified Forensic Psychologist, John Jay College of Criminal Justice - CUNY

"Minds on Trial accomplishes a rare feat: it is both solidly academic and utterly fascinating. Ewing and McCann present vivid accounts of the twenty most memorable moments that psychologists have had in the courtroom. The reader will learn a great deal about psychology and about law from this book, not least because he or she will not be able to put it down."-- John Monahan, Doherty Professor of Law and Psychology, University of Virginia

"Ewing and McCann have achieved the remarkable objective of a readable and scholarly reexamination of twenty of the most important criminal & forensic cases. In a style as engrossing as a good novel, they delve into defendants like Andrea Yates and Jeffrey Dahmer and experts like Park Dietz, Elizabeth Loftus, and Gisli Gudjonsson, and what their lives and work teach us about law, justice, and the nature of psychiatric disorders. This terrific combination of psychological substance and engaging writing style illuminates personal and the professional aspects of the famous crimes of our time. Even with cases like Tarasoff, about which I was conversant, I learned a great deal. I loved reading this book. Minds on Trial is destined to be a classic. Three cheers for this wonderful book!"-- Stanley L. Brodsky, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychology, The University of Alabama

"Minds on Trial...provides a thoughtful and interesting review of the sometimes controversial role of expert psychological evidence."--Applied Cognitive Psychology

Charles Patrick Ewing is at SUNY Buffalo. Joseph T. McCann is at Binghamton University.

I picked this book up for class. The narratives are good, and this is an interesting read; however, since I was having to do more research for class for these cases, I did find quite a bit of info left out of the cases. In some instances, the book will completely stick with the common myths for the cases and not tell the whole truth behind the story. Case in point is the story of "The Mad Bomber." Rather than, tell the true story of the resolution which simply involves a secretary finding a forgotten record, the book concludes that the Mad Bomber was caught by some high-profile forensic scientist which is simply not true. This is a decent supplemental to keep class interesting, but be weary of the

book's accounts. Stay Vigilant!

The authors provide a scholarly yet entertaining look behind the scenes to the expert psychological evidence in 20 renowned cases. Some of the cases involve household names - Lee Harvey Oswald, Patricia Hearst, Jeffrey Dahmer, John Hinckley Jr., Dan White, Judas Priest, Woody Allen, Mike Tyson. Others are seminal cases in which the names are less well known - the fascinating 1956 case of "mad bomber" George Metesky, credited with initiating the field of criminal profiling, the Guildford Four IRA bombing case in 1974 that led to psychological interest in false confessions (and Icelandic psychologist Gisli Gudjonsson's development of an instrument to measure interrogative suggestibility), and the case of Daryl Atkins, in which the U.S. Supreme Court abolished the death penalty for the mentally retarded. This book is appropriate for both professionals in forensic psychology and law and also for laypeople who enjoy fact-based accounts of true crime. I assign my graduate students several chapters as examples of forensic topics. In particular, the chapter on the USS Iowa explosion, which catalogues the failure of the "equivocal death analysis" technique, is a great example of the shortcomings of forensic profiling. And the chapter on Colin Ferguson provides a vivid example of the whittling down of competency jurisprudence in the wake of the 1993 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Godinez v. Moran*. *Minds on Trial* is well-written, factually accurate, and educational. Yet it still works as entertaining bedtime reading. I recommend it highly.

I bought this book to be used in a college class but plan on keeping it in my personal collection. The book arrived fast and in great condition!

This was given to a family member who is a lawyer. He enjoyed receiving the book.

The stories are interesting. Lawyers on both side on the trial are convincing. Good story, almost funny sometimes.

This book has been very helpful to in my class but it is also a very interesting read! The trials that are being discussed are very fascinating, especially the use of social science in the trials. Very good book, in great condition

I had to purchase this for my class, but it is an awesome book. Many interesting facts from many cases you would remember from the news. Great seller would purchase from this seller again!

It is an intelligent encapsulation of criminal behaviors, trials and outcomes. More importantly the book brings the law and the sciences into the spot light on equal footing demonstrating how they are now intertwined.

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