

# FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP 2022-23

ABFP Experience Waiver 2021-25



**Application Deadline:  
January 7, 2022**



**SCHOOL  
OF MEDICINE**

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY  
& BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Division of Community Behavioral Health  
in collaboration with NM Behavioral Health Services  
Division & NM Second Judicial District Court

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES



## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

# Overview

Interested in advanced training in forensic mental health assessment and forensic mental health policy? This is the postdoctoral fellowship for you!

The Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship represents a partnership between The University of New Mexico School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Behavioral Health, the New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division and the New Mexico Second Judicial District Court.

The primary goal of the Fellowship is the development of skills necessary to conduct high-quality forensic mental health assessments. By the end of the training year, you will be able to demonstrate competency regarding:

- Forensic ethical principles;
- Forensic mental health assessment, including familiarity with specialized forensic assessment instruments (FAIs);
- Forensic evaluation report writing;
- Interdisciplinary communication and consultation; and
- Fundamentals of mental health case law, statutory law, and regulatory guidance.

During the training year, you will also gain mental health policy experience via consultative work with New Mexico's Behavioral Health Services Division. Policy activities include:

- Facilitating an ongoing Learning Community developed for current competency to stand trial evaluators contracted with the Behavioral Health Services Division;
- Developing and delivering training on forensic assessment and issues related to the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health;
- Providing consultation regarding evidence-based approaches to forensic evaluations and best practices in forensic mental health assessment; and
- Participating in a state clinical policy work group.



# Clinical Rotations

As a fellow, your core rotations provide the opportunity to learn in a variety of settings. You'll receive advanced training in both forensic mental health assessment and mental health policy. You'll have two six-month clinical rotations: (1) the Second Judicial District Court Rotation and (2) the Private Practice Rotation.

## SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

In this rotation, you'll conduct court-ordered competency evaluations for the New Mexico Second Judicial District Court Clinic Competency Pilot Project.

Your experience will include conducting clinical and competency interviews; administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological tests; authoring forensic evaluation reports; providing testimony and/or recommendations in court cases and hearings; and providing peer consultation/supervision.

All of your evaluation reports shall comply and be in accordance with the State of New Mexico's Interagency Behavioral Health Service Requirements and Utilization Guidelines, New Mexico state statutes, national professional standards and applicable court rules and law.

## PRIVATE PRACTICE ROTATION

In this rotation, you will devote the majority of your clinical time to working with private practice forensic psychologists.

You will complete attorney-retained evaluations pertaining to a wide variety of civil and criminal referral questions, including mitigation, criminal responsibility, future dangerousness, ability to waive *Miranda* Rights, psychological damages/personal injury, disability, and fitness for duty. You may also conduct court-ordered evaluations.

You'll see for yourself how private practice psychologists approach and manage their work, and gain insight into the difference between forensic mental health assessment in public versus private settings!

During this rotation, you will also devote one day per week to completing competency evaluations for the Court Clinic Competency Pilot Project.





## Policy Experience

One day per week you will assist the efforts of the New Mexico Behavioral Health Services Division and the New Mexico Consortium for Behavioral Health Training and Research (CBHTR) on various policy-related issues. Typical activities include facilitating the Competency Evaluators Learning Community, reviewing behavioral health bills for proposed legislation and drafting white papers on mental/behavioral health-related topics. Acting in this capacity, you'll have a unique opportunity to learn about and be involved in policy and the intersection of the criminal justice system and the mental/behavioral health system at the systemic or organizational level. You will also consult and build relationships with state and court employees and will develop and hone skills in communication, leadership and administration.

## Didactic Training

In addition to hands-on training, you will attend the weekly UNM Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Division of Community Behavioral Health's Law and Mental Health didactic series. Presentations cover a breadth of topics including forensic assessment; the legal system; landmark cases; criminal law; correctional and community forensic psychology/psychiatry; and child and adolescent forensic psychology/psychiatry. The didactic series is taught by internationally-recognized forensic experts in mental health and law, including legal professionals, forensic psychologists, forensic social workers, and forensic psychiatrists. The series has a national audience including postdoctoral psychology fellows, psychology graduate students, law students, attorneys, social workers, and medical residents. You will also have an opportunity to present in the series! At the end of the training year, you will also participate in a mock trial with the aid of volunteer attorneys and a judge. You'll have an opportunity to experience first-hand what it is like to be subject to *voir dire*, direct examination, and cross examination under simulated courtroom conditions!

## ABFP Experience Waiver

UNM's fellowship has been approved for the ABFP Experience Waiver, which allows trainees who successfully complete the fellowship to skip the five-year waiting period to apply for board certification as a forensic psychologist. To adequately prepare you for the rigorous board certification process, UNM has devised an intensive curriculum designed to cover key areas of focus on the board certification exam, including best practices in forensic mental health assessment, foundational case law, forensic ethics, cultural issues in forensic assessment, communicating forensic opinions, etc. Our curriculum also includes readings regarding forensic mental health treatment, reentry of offenders, the Sequential Intercept Model, and other policy-relevant topics. The curriculum will be regularly discussed/reviewed with you at a weekly Group Supervision session.



## Supplemental Training Opportunities

Completing fellowship at UNM confers many opportunities to access supplemental training resources (time-permitting). You will have opportunities to attend other training offered through the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (e.g., Grand Rounds, CIT ECHO, Rural Psychiatry Didactic Program) and a mental health law course co-taught by Jim Ellis, Esq., Ann Delpha, Esq., and Julie Brovko, PhD. You will also attend a once-a-month Professional Development Seminar with other postdoctoral fellows in the Division of Community Behavioral Health, as well as a monthly policy seminar taught by CBH staff!

## Commitment to Dissemination of Forensic Mental Health Knowledge

Completing fellowship in an academic environment carries with it expectations of teaching others! You will present both in the CIT ECHO series (attended by members of law enforcement), as well as in the LMH series. You will also be expected to complete a third dissemination project, such as presenting at a conference or working on a journal or newsletter article.

GREETINGS *from*







## Fellowship Term & Salary

Two postdoctoral fellows will be hired for the 2022-23 training year. The training year lasts for 12 months, commencing September 2022 and terminating August 2023.

Commencement and termination date are somewhat flexible, based on individual circumstances. Salary is determined according to National Institutes of Health guidelines. For FY 2021 it is approximately \$53,760.00 plus benefits (PTO, sick time, medical insurance, etc.), depending on experience.

Funding to attend a professional conference may also be available, pending approval.

## Application Qualifications

All applicants need to demonstrate the following minimum qualifications prior to commencing the fellowship:

- Completed an APA/CPA-approved pre-doctoral internship;
- Obtained a doctorate degree in clinical, counseling, or school psychology from an APA/CPA-approved doctoral program; and
- Eligible to work in the United States.

Additionally, the following represent preferred qualifications:

- Forensic psychology specialization/experience during graduate training;
- Experience conducting psychological and forensic evaluations;
- Knowledge of forensic issues in psychology;
- Experience working with individuals with serious mental illness;
- Experience working with correctional or forensic populations;
- Experience working with individuals with substance abuse issues;
- Experience with psychological testing, including forensic assessment instruments;
- Educational and teaching experiences with a variety of trainees.
- Mental/behavioral health policy experience.

Applicants of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.



# Application Process

## APPLICATION MATERIALS & PROCEDURE

To apply, please email the following materials to Dr. Jaymes Fairfax-Columbo, Training Director, at [jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu) by Friday, January 7, 2022:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Cover letter addressing minimum and preferred qualifications, as well as your background, career trajectory, and career interests;
- Three letters of recommendations from academic/professional references, submitted by the reference directly to Dr. Fairfax-Columbo ([jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu));
- A sanitized forensic evaluation report, preferably regarding competence to stand trial.

If you have questions prior to submitting your application, please submit them to Dr. Jaymes Fairfax-Columbo at [jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu).

## INTERVIEWS

Interview offers will be made before the end of January. Interviews will be conducted circa the beginning and middle of February and will occur via Zoom.

**Note:** UNM is participating in the Uniform Acceptance Date (UAD) process for forensic fellowships. **The UAD is February 22, 2022.** Under the UAD process, offers may be extended at any time prior to February 22, 2022. However, applicants are **not required** to accept an offer prior to that date. Please be advised that the UAD is distinct from the Uniform Notification Date (UND) utilized by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC).





## **Living & Working in the Land of Enchantment**

Fellowship can represent a challenging year, and having a supportive community and an abundance of recreational activities at your disposal can ease stress levels and greatly enhance the training year! Albuquerque (ABQ) is an excellent place to live and work.

Year-round sunshine and warm weather (though still with weekend skiing at your disposal); excellent food; the world's second-longest tramway to the peak of the Sandia Mountains; breweries and brunch spots galore; rich history and culture; gorgeous landscapes and hiking; rafting on the Rio Grande; the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta; the Albuquerque Isotopes and New Mexico United sports teams; a low cost of living--these are just a sample of the awesome things that come along with living in The Duke City!

In addition to ABQ, the surrounding area hosts an array of recreational activities. Whether taking in the Pueblo Revival architecture and vibrant art scene of Santa Fe; exploring the Taos Pueblo and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Taos; fishing in the Jemez Mountains; driving the Turquoise Trail; or immersing yourself in Meow Wolf (try it--you'll thank us!); the area surrounding ABQ offers an abundance of adventure.

Elsewhere in NM, Las Cruces (check out White Sands National Park), Carlsbad Caverns, and Roswell (don't get abducted by aliens) are all easy and popular weekend trips. ABQ International Sunport is also readily accessible!



# Meet Our Faculty

## TRAINING DIRECTORS



**Jaymes Fairfax-Columbo, JD, PhD** is an Assistant Professor and serves as the fellowship's Training Director. His clinical interests include forensic mental health assessment, competency restoration, and reentry of both criminal offenders and psychiatric patients. Regarding forensic mental health assessment, his evaluative work has included a variety of referral questions with both juveniles and adults, including: civil commitment, competence to stand trial, competence to waive Miranda Rights, criminal responsibility, personal injury, state and federal sentencing and violence/sexual violence risk. His research interests include competency restoration, mental/behavioral health policy, psychopathy, reentry, therapeutic jurisprudence and violence risk assessment. Recreationally, he is an avid practitioner of 10th Planet Jiu Jitsu.



**Jeffrey (Jeff) Younggren, PhD, ABPP (Clinical)**, serves as the fellowship's Co-Director. He is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. A Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a Distinguished Member of the National Academy of Practice, he has had a long and distinctive career as a clinical and forensic psychologist. He has extensive forensic experience in trauma, child abuse, memory, delayed recall, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Military Courts, Military Forensic Psychology, general forensic issues and general court-martial cases. He has published extensively on law and ethics and recently edited the book *Forensic Psychology in Military Courts*, published by the APA. He is currently on the committee to revise APA's Specialty Guidelines for Forensic Psychology and has served on a previous revision committee. Additionally, he serves as a Risk Management Consultant to The Trust, a position that he has had for over 20 years.

## OTHER DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES FACULTY



**Deborah Altschul, PhD** is a psychologist and Professor who also serves as Vice Chair of Community Behavioral Health Research for the Division of Community Behavioral Health. Her work is primarily focused on examining the connection between behavioral health disparities, cultural competency, consumer outcomes, and evidence-based practice. She works closely with tribal communities and the State of New Mexico's child and adult behavioral health authorities, helping to develop a sustainable, culturally competent behavioral health infrastructure.



**Carli Bonham, MD** is a psychiatrist with interest in access to care and developing community partnerships. She has been on faculty at UNM since 2010. Along with Dr. Altschul, she oversees the Division of Community Behavioral Health, which addresses health disparities among individuals with mental illness in New Mexico through community-partnered research, clinical, and educational initiatives. In the Division, she also serves as Vice Chair of Community Behavioral Health Policy. Additionally, she serves as the psychiatric consultant for the New Mexico Behavioral Health Collaborative. Clinically, she provides direct care through the UNMH Assertive Community Treatment team and to rural communities through the UNM Telebehavioral Health program.



**Brian Isakson, PhD** is a clinical psychologist and Associate Professor. He is the Clinical Director of Behavioral Health Integration and Expansion and the Clinical Director of the Division of Community Behavioral Health. He supervises postdoctoral fellows in clinical, policy, and research activities. His research, clinical, and training interests include reactions to trauma, torture, and other stressful life events; trauma-informed systems of care; child maltreatment prevention; refugee mental health; child-serving systems of care and behavioral health and primary care integration.

# Meet Our Faculty

## CORE COMMUNITY CLINICAL FACULTY



**Julie M. Brovko, PhD** is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and a Clinical Associate in the Department of Psychology. She

provides clinical supervision to the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellows in the Private Practice rotation, as well as serves as one of the Clinical Directors of the Second Judicial District Court Competency Pilot Project. She also co-teaches two case law and mental health courses at the UNM School of Law. She has a private forensic practice and takes both federal and state cases focusing on criminal and civil topics. She earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from UNM!



**Simone Viljoen, PhD**, is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and is an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Psychology. She

provides clinical supervision to the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellows in the Private Practice rotation, as well as serves as one of the Clinical Directors of the Second Judicial District Court Competency Pilot Project. Her professional work has included forensic mental health assessments in numerous referral contexts, as well the delivery of training and workshops in law and mental health-related topics to various agencies. She has co-authored a book chapter and several publications related to violence risk assessment and management, in

particular, the use of protective factors in these assessments; gender issues in forensic psychology; and diagnostic issues in personality disorders.

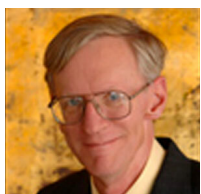


**Heath Hodges, PhD, MLS, ABPP (Forensic)**

is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He is currently licensed in the states of Ohio and New Mexico. He

previously served as the co-director for the forensic psychology postdoctoral fellowship at Bridgewater State Hospital. He presently conducts forensic mental health assessments in the private sector through Best Forensic Practice, LLC.

## UNM SCHOOL OF LAW FACULTY



**Jim Ellis, JD** is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus and has worked tirelessly on behalf of people with mental disabilities in the civil and criminal justice systems. He has filed briefs in over two dozen cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, and in 2002 argued *Atkins v. Virginia*, in which the Supreme Court held that that execution of individuals with intellectual disabilities violated the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. Ellis taught full time at the School of Law for four decades, specializing in Constitutional Rights, Introduction to Constitutional Law, Rights of Children, Criminal Law, Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Law, and Mental Disabilities in Criminal Cases. When not teaching, he has spent his career writing articles and amicus briefs and appearing before congressional committees and state legislative committees across the country arguing for the rights of people with disabilities. Ellis has received numerous national awards, including the National Law Journal's "Lawyer of the Year" honor in 2002; the Paul Hearne Award by the ARC of the United States; the Champion of Justice Award by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; and recognition by the National Historic Trust on Mental Retardation as one of 36 significant individuals in the field of mental retardation in the 20th century.

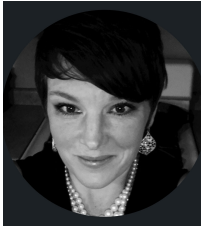
**Ann Delpha, JD** is an attorney who specializes in the intersection of law and mental disabilities--both mental illness and intellectual disability--pertaining to both adults and children. She is a Staff Attorney at the UNM School of Law. She previously worked on the school's Innocence and Justice Project, and currently works on the Leaffer Border Justice Initiative. She has taught Criminal Law, Constitutional Rights I and II, and has co-taught Mental Disabilities in Civil Cases and Mental Disabilities in Criminal Cases with Distinguished Professor Emeritus Jim Ellis. She has also been counsel on numerous briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the implementation of *Atkins v. Virginia*, representing disability organizations in *Hall v. Florida* and *Moore v. Texas*. She has co-authored an extensive article on best clinical practices for diagnosing intellectual disability in the context of implementing *Atkins*.



## OTHER ASSOCIATED COMMUNITY FACULTY



**David J. Ley, PhD**, is a clinical psychologist and a board-certified sex therapist. Since 2012, he has served as an expert witness in numerous high-profile forensic matters around the country regarding claims involving sexual behaviors. He is Executive Director of New Mexico Solutions, a large community mental health nonprofit and has also testified as an expert witness regarding Medicaid and mental health services. He has published numerous academic and mainstream books and articles and also appears in national media ranging from the Daily Show to Time Magazine and the New York Times.



**Tiffany Wynn, PhD, LPCC**, is the Deputy Director of Treatment and Programs at the Behavioral Health Services Division. She has served her communities as a therapist, clinical director, and executive director. Her fields of service have included adolescent and adult mental health and substance use, forensic and neuropsychology, and intensive trauma care. She and her teams oversee all state-funded behavioral health services. Her research includes intersectional approaches to behavioral health services and outcomes, gender, neuroscience, trauma, and adventure-based psychotherapy.



**William (Bill) E. Foote, PhD, ABPP (Forensic)**, has been a forensic psychologist in private practice in Albuquerque since 1979. He has taught in the UNM Department of Psychology, the Department of Psychiatry, and the School of Law. He has held several professional offices including: President of the New Mexico Psychological Association, Representative on APA Council, member and chair of the APA Committee on Legal Issues, President of the American Psychology-Law Society (Div. 41), and President of the American Board of Forensic Psychology. He is the author of many peer-reviewed professional articles and book chapters. He is the co-author, with Jane Goodman-Delahunty, of three books on psychological evaluation in sexual harassment and employment discrimination cases.



**Nils Rosenbaum, MD**, has worked with law enforcement officers for ten years. He is employed full-time by the Albuquerque Police Department where he evaluates clients in the field, works alongside detectives, and helps with the overall direction of the police response to people living with mental illness. He is the director of the Behavioral Sciences Section at APD and is involved in almost all aspects of mental health-related subjects within APD, including officer self-care and resilience. He has published articles in the field of mental health and law enforcement and first responders. He is an avid practitioner of mindfulness and has begun to introduce it to the APD in their mental health training. He also teaches mindfulness to police officers all over the country via a videoconference platform used to give officers continuing education and case support (CIT ECHO).



# Interested?

Please reach out to Jaymes Fairfax-Columbo, JD, PhD with questions!  
**[jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu](mailto:jfairfaxcolumbo@salud.unm.edu)**

For additional information, please visit our website:  
**[hsc.unm.edu/medicine/departments/psychiatry/education/forensic/](http://hsc.unm.edu/medicine/departments/psychiatry/education/forensic/)**

