

## **HEATHER WITTENBERG, Psy.D.**

Forensic and Clinical Psychology

[DrHeatherWittenberg.com](http://DrHeatherWittenberg.com)

### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Dr. Heather Wittenberg is a psychologist with more than 25 years of experience conducting over 1,200 complex psychological evaluations for legal, medical, educational, and governmental agencies. She has completed these assessments across family, judicial, civil, school, healthcare, and administrative-court settings, including Workers' Compensation, Independent Medical Evaluations (IMEs/IPEs), Child Welfare Services, educational, criminal, and custody-related matters. She is also a QME for the State of California, and a Qualified Forensic Evaluator for the State of Hawaii.

Dr. Wittenberg has been qualified as an expert witness and has provided both written and oral testimony in court proceedings, as well as IMEs for both plaintiff and defense. She is also an experienced director and developer of mental health programs that served over 6,000 clients yearly (including for Family Court/Drug Court) for over 25 years. Dr. Wittenberg has extensive experience providing speaking engagements for the public and also for professional audiences of up to 500 attendees.

### **EDUCATION & LICENSURE**

- **PsyD Clinical Psychology** – California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP/Alliant University), 1994
- **MA Psychology** – CSPP/Alliant University, 1992
- **BA Psychology** – California State University, Northridge, 1990
- **Licensed Psychologist:** California (since 1996; PSY 14686 ) | Hawai'i (since 1998; PSY 639)

## FORENSIC , EVALUATION, and CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- **Independent Medical Evaluator (QME/IME/AME)** – Performs complex psychological evaluations for the California and Hawai'i Workers' Compensation Systems (trained by neurologist Lorne Direnfeld, M.D.).
- **Qualified Forensic Examiner, State of Hawaii** Certified to conduct criminal competency, penal responsibility, and other psycho/legal evaluations for the State of Hawaii.
- **Court-Qualified Expert Witness** – Admitted by Maui County Family Court as an expert in child development and early childhood attachment as contracted by the State of Hawaii Attorney General's Office. Other court consultation experiences include adult SMI cases, including psychological evaluations of parents referred by CPS/CWS for diversion programs.
- **Clinical Director and Consultant, Maui Family Court/Drug Court** – Advised judges and attorneys on mental-health aspects of custody, parental fitness, substance abuse treatment, and treatment planning (2005 – 2010) and was the key program developer of the Family Court/Drug Court program in the Courtroom of Hon. Geronimo Valdriz, Jr.
- **Forensic and Clinical Evaluator** – Delivered more than 1,200 Court, DOE, and DOH-mandated psychological evaluations, including over 1,000 “Felix Class” and ~ 200 Child Welfare Services evaluations of suspected parental perpetrators (1997 – 2010).
- **Accreditation, Administrative, and System-Level Expert Consultant** – Designed and oversaw behavioral health programs meeting judicial and regulatory standards; supervised multidisciplinary clinical teams; ensured compliance with state/federal reporting protocols and was point of responsibility for ensuring CARF accreditation for programs that served over 6,000 clients yearly in all 3 islands of Maui County for over 25 years.

## MANAGEMENT & PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

- **Co-Founder & Director** – Pacific Counseling Group and Behavioral Health Services of Maui (1997 – present). Managed multidisciplinary clinics serving 6,000+ individuals annually; delivered 50+ successful proposals responsive to public RFP processes resulting in \$3-4M/year revenue YOY for over 25 years; oversight of clinical quality, compliance, and risk management in regulated behavioral-health settings.
- **Developer of Crisis and Disaster Response Services** – Established and directed FEMA and DOH-funded programs for Maui wildfire-related disaster recovery (2023 – 2025) and Kona Low Storms (2026); co-managed \$1.3M in funding.
- **Supervisor & Trainer** – Mentored/supervised 100+ clinicians; provided training in evaluation methods, documentation standards, and ethics.

## TEACHING, PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Keynote Speaker, State of Arizona Home Visitors Conference and continuing-education presenter on developmental psychology and applied assessment and parenting topics (2025 and ongoing, 2026).
- *Handbook of Private Practice* (Oxford University Press, 2017) – Chapter Author, “The Use of Social Media in Marketing a Practice.”
- APA Conference Presenter and Panel Moderator – “The Ethics of the Psychologist’s Online Presence” and “Speed Mentoring” events (2017).
- Graduate and undergraduate instructor in developmental psychology, psychodiagnostics, and psychopathology (CSPP-LA/Alliant University; Mount St. Mary’s College 1994 - 1996).

## **PRACTICUM, INTERNSHIP, and POST-DOCTORAL TRAINING**

- **Santa Anita Family Services:** Practicum. Clinical interviewing, psychodiagnostic assessment, individual, adult, couples, family, child, and group psychotherapy for diverse clinic population including adult SMI and court-mandated substance abuse treatment. 1991 - 1992; 500 hours. Monrovia, CA.
- **Airport-Marina Counseling Services:** Pre-doctoral Internship. Clinical interviewing, psychodiagnostic assessment, individual, adult, couples, family, and group psychotherapy for diverse clinic population including adult SMI population. 1992 - 1993; 900 hours. Westchester, CA.
- **Wright Institute Los Angeles:** Pre-doctoral Internship. Psychodynamic clinic training program in intensive psychotherapy approaches plus 4 hours weekly of intensive supervision by training analysts and 8 hours weekly of additional clinical coursework. 1993 - 1994; 900 hours. West Los Angeles.
- **Wright Institute Los Angeles:** Post-Doctoral Internship. FEMA-funded position to provide public education to preschool families and teachers/staff on disaster recovery best practices. 1994 - 1995, 500 hours.
- **Ventura County Mental Health:** Post-Doctoral Internship. Forensic consultations, disaster-recovery fieldwork (migrant farmworkers post-earthquake and wildfires); emergency response support to First Responders, CISM training; mental health first aid, community presentations post-disaster. FEMA-funded. 1995 - 1996; 1,000 hours. Ventura County, CA.

## **SELECT COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP**

- Member, American Psychological Association
- Member, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)
- Member, California Society of Industrial Medicine & Surgery (CSIMS)
- Member, Society of Consulting Psychology (Division 13/APA)
- Founder, BabyShrink.com – Public education platform on child development and parenting, social media, traditional media, video, and podcasts (2008 – present).
- Advisory Board Member, Maui Family Support Services (2003 - 2005)
- Board President/Member, Carden Academy of Maui (2014 - 2022).
- Advisory Board Member, University of Hawai'i NIH-funded MamaMove Study (2011 - 2013).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Born in Detroit, raised on Oahu and Maui, trained in Los Angeles. Mom of 4, all born and raised on Maui.
- Splits time between Hawaii and California, and nationwide for speaking engagements, interviews, podcast appearances, forensic evaluations; QMEs/IMEs/IPEs, competency, and civil or other complex psychological evaluations.
- Additional clinical specialization in early childhood development and parenting (ages 0 - 7).