

## **THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY RECORDS**

The Oskar Diethelm Library  
DeWitt Wallace Institute for the History of Psychiatry  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
525 East 68th Street  
New York, New York 10065

Arranged and described by:  
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### **Provenance**

The records of the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry was a gift of the Board to the Archives of Psychiatry (now the Oskar Diethelm Library), New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. The collection was donated in 1982 through the former president, Dr. Maier I. Tuchler, and constitutes all the records as of 1980, with some dated 1981. Dr. Jonas R. Rapoport, Secretary, donated a small amount of material to the Archives in 1979. This has been placed at the end of the collection.

The collection is comprised of .8 cubic ft. housed in two .4 cubic ft. boxes.

There are no restrictions regarding the use of the collection.

### **History**

The American Board of Forensic Psychiatry was formally organized in 1976. According to Maier I. Tuchler, M.D., former president, the prehistory of the development of the Board began in approximately 1968 when he was president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. He called a select committee to determine the future of the AAFS and the committee decided that the Academy needed a Forensic Sciences Foundation and a certification program for the forensic sciences.

The Foundation was established with a small group of the officers of the current year of the AAFS. Three years later, when the Academy decided a foundation would be helpful in the training of forensic scientists, this group returned the Foundation to the Academy.

During this three year period the group undertook research projects for the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. On the success of these programs, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration awarded the Foundation five or six years of sustaining money under which certification programs could be developed in the forensic sciences. Since the 1970's, the Board has developed its own executive offices and administrative staff apart from the Forensic Sciences Foundation and American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

The Board recognizes the need to identify forensic scientists qualified to provide essential professional services for the nation's judicial and executive branches of government. The Board provides a program to certify such specialists. In purpose, function and organization, the ABFP is analogous to the certifying boards in various medical specialties and scientific fields.

The objects of the Board are to establish, enhance, and revise as necessary standards of qualification for those who practice forensic psychiatry, and to certify as qualified Specialists those voluntary applicants who comply with the requirements of the Board. In this way, the Board aims to make available to the judicial system and other interested parties a practical and equitable system of identifying those who possess the requisite qualifications and competence and profess to be specialists in forensic psychiatry.

Certification is based upon the candidate's personal and professional record of education and training, experience and achievement, as well as on the results of a formal examination.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection is comprised of the records of the Board emanating from the Office of the President, Dr. Maier I. Tuchler, beginning in 1976 and terminating in 1981. Dr. Tuchler shipped the records in six loose leaf notebooks and some isolated folders, which were largely in chronological order with the exception of the last notebook. The archivist has maintained this original arrangement.

The records consist of correspondence, some minutes of meetings, and lists of applicants for certification. The ABFP based some of its standards and forms on the American Board of Forensic Odontology and the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, and some of these records are included in the collection. All three of these forensic boards were organized in 1975 and 1976 and were sponsored by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Correspondence also relates to the Forensic Sciences Foundation.

## Inventory

### Box #1

Folder 1	Brochure explaining nature and purpose of ABFP	1987
2	Office of the President. By-laws and standards of Certification of the American Board of Forensic Odontology annotated to conform to the ABFP	1976
3	Office of the President. Articles of incorporation of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology annotated to conform to the ABFP	1975
4	Office of the President	3-4/1976
5	Office of the President. Includes by-laws and articles of Incorporation	4-6/1976
6	Office of the President. Includes standards for certification	6-8/1976
7	Office of the President. Includes minutes of meetings and revised standards of certification	9-10/1976
8	Office of the President	10-12/1976
9	Office of the President. Includes minutes	1-2/1977
10	Office of the President	3-4/1977
11	Office of the President	6-7/1977
12	Office of the President. Includes samples of administrative Records of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology	6-8/1977
13	Office of the President. Includes printed version of application and brochure and records relating to the Forensic Sciences Foundation	8-1978-6/1979
14	Office of the President. Includes minutes	10/1978-6/1979

15	Office of the President	9-12/1977
<b>Box # 2</b>		
Folder 1	Office of the President. Includes list of applicants for certification	1/1978
2	Office of the President	2-4/1978
3	Office of the President. Includes syllabus for examination for certification	5-7/1978
4	Office of the President. Includes minutes, list of applicants for certification, sample of format of examination	12/1978-2/1979
5	Office of the President	10-11/1978
6	Office of the President. Includes minutes and list of applicants	8/1978-8/1979
7	Office of the President	1-10/1981
8	Office of the President	9/1977-12/1980
9	Office of the President. Includes samples of information packet including brochures and application	5/1977
10	Office of the President. Includes proposed syllabus for ABFP, list of applicants, statement of income and expenses, guidelines for grading essay questions	7/1977-9/1978
11	Office of the President. Arrangements for annual meetings	1976-1977
12	Office of the President. Certification activities	1976-1979
13	List of applicants for certification and their status	1/1980
14	Forensic Sciences Foundation. Forensic Sciences Certification Program-periodic report	9/1978
15	Publication about training in forensic psychiatry and notes	1974

16	Proposed syllabus	1977-1978
17	Written examination	1978