



TEAM BIOS

Brenda Frye, Ph.D.

Clinical Forensic Psychologist

My forensic evaluation experience dates back to 2001 and includes working with the courts on case with both adults and adolescents. I use a variety of testing tools depending on the forensic question. My approach is always based in evidence, comprehensive and focused.

"Forensics is eloquence and reduction"-Gertrude Stein

Michelle Johnston, Ph.D.

Industrial Organizational Psychologist

I have spent the past 20+ years conducting various types of evaluations in the context of employment to include Fitness for Duty and Pre-Employment. My approach is always based in evidence. I utilize a foundation in clinical acumen and expertise in business and human resource management and knowledge about leadership. I have worked with several large companies, counties and city departments.

Stephen Butts, Ph.D, J.D., MBA

Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Butts is a Forensic Psychologist, licensed in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He is currently conducting competency, parenting capacity, civil commitment, and psychosexual evaluations.

Dr. Butts has a dual degree in law and psychology (J.D./Ph.D.), a Master's Degree in Addiction Counseling (M.A.), and a Master's Degree in Business Administration (M.B.A.).

He has practiced throughout the country, evaluating and treating sexual, compulsive, personality, and co-occurring disorders in a variety of forensic settings: a civil commitment hospital, a maximum-security prison, two medium security prisons, a jail, and even residential addiction-treatment facility. His most recent position was as a risk assessor for the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Dr. Butts is dedicated to advancing psychology within the legal system. As a Doctor of Jurisprudence, he thrives in forensic settings that require maneuvering through the complexities of this integration. Dr. Butts offers an advantageous perspective by incorporating his understanding of legal professionals' needs, making his interpretations more useful to judges and lawyers. He has written extensively on the integration of these two fields as a Law Review Writer and Editor, an intern for the Unified Family Court and ACLU, as well as while he was a Civil Commitment Unit Law Clerk.

Dr. Butts enjoys mentoring future Forensic Psychologists, helping students prepare for the EPPP, educating others about Non-Violent Communication (based on Marshall Rosenberg's teachings), and empowering others to seek self-actualization.

His favorite quote is by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee."

Sydney Darrell

Paralegal and Psych Administrator

Sydney adds versatility to the IFP team with her background in art. Sydney attended Talladega College and Concordia University as an art studio major with a focus in ceramics and held her first show (Love is patient at the Salon De Refuses studio). Sydney has also done security for Children's Hospitals which is where she found her passion for forensic psychology, assisting mainly on the mental health floor. Sydney working on obtaining a paralegal certificate and taking Spanish classes to further her education so she can assist IFP a broader and diverse scale. Sydney began working with Dr Brenda Frye as an organizer for nonprofit she founded in the early 2000's; organizing social events to positively impact the youth of metropolitan area. Now she is back as Dr Frye's administrative and legal assistant and is eager to continue supporting and learning under Dr Frye.

Linda Spooner

Psych Assistant

Caleb Picker, M.A.

IFP Advanced Statistician

Caleb holds a Master of Arts in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he was part of the Experimental Psychology PhD program. His academic work focused on how time-delayed mechanisms of everyday forgetting impact recognition memory, and he developed expertise in mathematical modeling using dual process signal detection model frameworks, signal detection theory, and ROC curves.

Caleb has also conducted research in psychometrics, evaluating computer scoring for an emotional awareness scale. His advanced coursework in Structural Equation Modeling and a passion for statistical analysis, particularly using Posit (formerly R), have further honed his quantitative skills. Caleb is currently applying his strong academic background at Tesla, where he is on track to become an engineer, and is eager to collaborate and contribute to innovative projects in his field.

Rob Parody, Ph.D.

IFP Advanced Statistician

Meliyah Anderson-Tyron

IFP, Doctoral Student Researcher

Meliyah is a recent graduate from The College of Saint Scholastica. She graduated summa cum laude and holds a Bachelor of Arts in both Psychology and Health Humanities. This fall, she will begin a Clinical Psychology Doctoral program at the University of North Dakota. Through her undergraduate education and extracurricular experiences, Meliyah found a research interest in the relationship between personality characteristics and aggressive tendencies and/or criminality. Broadly, Meliyah is both research and clinically interested in working with and understanding individuals who have committed violent crimes and other high-risk offenses. Meliyah began working with Dr. Brenda Frye last summer and thus far have completed one study together. Meliyah looks forward to continuing her education and experiences in the field of Forensic Psychology.

Ryley Frye

IFP Undergraduate Research Assistant