Mental Disability Law
Mental Disability Law

Cases and Materials

Third Edition

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Carolina Academic Press
Durham, North Carolina
MLP: When I did the first edition of this casebook, my daughter, Julie, was a senior in high school, and my son, Alex, was in 9th grade. Julie is now a post-doc in developmental biology at Harvard Medical School; Alex is now a public defender with the Brooklyn Defender Service, working in Red Hook, Brooklyn. They—and my wife, Linda—remain the lights of my life. They bring me joy and laughter and happiness. Not a day goes by when I do not realize how lucky I am.

HEC: To my husband and daughter for their never ending love and support.

AJL: To my family, friends and colleagues: thank you for your support and love, and for your unwavering belief in the importance of these issues and the work we continue to do.
Contents

Table of Principal Cases xxvi

Introduction to the Third Edition xxvii

Chapter 1 · Background 3
A. Approaching the Material 3
B. An Overview 3
Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis CucoLo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 3
C. On Forensic Psychiatry 9
1. Robert L. Sadoff, Practical Issues in Forensic Psychiatric Practice 9
D. Some Jurisprudential Considerations 18
1. On Sanism 18
Introduction 18
2. On Pretextuality 22
Introduction 22
3. On Heuristics 26
4. On False “Ordinary Common Sense” 27
5. On Therapeutic Jurisprudence
a. David Wexler, Therapeutic Jurisprudence: The Law as a Therapeutic Agent 28
d. Bruce Winick, The Side Effects of Incompetency Labeling and the Implications for Mental Health Law 40
E. Other Recent Developments 46
1. Mental Health Courts 46
Adapted from Michael L. Perlin, “The Judge, He Cast His Robe Aside”: Mental Health Courts, Dignity and Due Process 46
2. International Human Rights 53
   c. Note 59

3. Neuroscience 59
   a. Note 59
   b. On the Use of Neuroscience 60
      Adapted from Stephen J. Morse, New Neuroscience, Old Problems: Legal Implications of Brain Science 60
   c. Note 63
   d. Another view 63
      (1) Adapted from Eyal Aharoni et al., Can Neurological Evidence Help Courts Assess Criminal Responsibility? Lessons from Law and Neuroscience 63
   e. Notes 64

4. Other Future Developments? 65
   a. Questions 65

Chapter 2 · Constitutional “Civil” Mental Health Law 69
A. Involuntary Civil Commitment 69
   1. Introduction 69
   2. Applying the Constitution 69
      a. Theon Jackson v. State of Indiana 69
      b. J.B. O’Connor v. Kenneth Donaldson 82
         (1) The Impact of O’Connor 94
            Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 94
         (2) Michael L. Perlin, Keri K. Gould & Deborah A. Dorfman, Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Mentally Disabled Persons: Hopeless Oxymoron or Path to Redemption? 95
            c. Alberta Lessard et al. v. Wilbur Schmidt et al. 96
               (2) Lessard Revisited . . . and Revisited 117
               (3) Questions 118
   3. On “Mental Illness” 120
      a. An Overview 120
Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, *Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal*

4. Dangerousness
   a. An Overview
   b. Dangerousness and Lessard
      State of New Jersey v. Stefan Krol
   c. On Lessard and Krol
   d. New Perspectives
      (1) The MacArthur Network
      (2) John Monahan, *The Scientific Status of Research on Clinical and Actuarial Predictions of Violence*
   e. Overt Acts
   f. Dangerousness to Self
   g. Dangerousness to Property
   h. Grave Disability
   i. Questions

5. Procedural Issues
   a. Introductory Note
   c. Frank O’Neal Addington v. State of Texas
      (1) Note
      (2) Eric Janus, *Preventing Sexual Violence: Setting Principled Constitutional Boundaries on Sex Offender Commitments*
   d. Note and Questions

6. Special Populations
   a. Juveniles
CONTENTS

b. Voluntary Patients
   (1) Marlus C. Zinermon, et al. v. Darrell E. Burch
   (2) Susan Reed & Dan Lewis, *The Negotiation of Voluntary Admission in Chicago; State Mental Hospitals*
   (3) Note

c. Institutional Transfers
   Joseph Vitek, etc., et al. v. Larry D. Jones

d. Intellectual Disabilities
   Leonard Heller v. Samuel Doe, by His Mother and Next Friend, Mary Doe

e. Insanity Acquittees
   (1) Note
   (2) Michael Jones v. United States
   (3) On *Jones*
   Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, *Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal*
   (4) Terry Foucha v. Louisiana
   (5) Bruce Winick, *Ambiguities in the Legal Meaning and Significance of Mental Illness*

f. Sex Offenders
   (1) Kansas v. Leroy Hendricks
   (2) Note on Seling v. Young, 531 U.S. 250 (2001)
   (3) Kansas v. Michael Crane
   (4) Note
   (5) On *United States v. Comstock*
      (a) Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, *Shaming the Constitution: The Detrimental Results of Sexual Violent Predator Legislation* (2017)
   (6) Questions

h. Other Commitments
   (1) Temporary Commitments
   (2) Emergency Commitments
   (3) Questions
CONTENTS

7. Counsel and Experts 322
   a. Right to Counsel 322
      (1) Historical Background 322
      (2) The Meaning of Vitek 323
      (3) Note, On C.P.K. 323
      (4) Michael L. Perlin, Fatal Assumption: A Critical Evaluation of the Role of Counsel in Mental Disability Cases 324
      (5) Joshua Cook, Good Lawyering and Bad Role Models: The Role of Respondent’s Counsel in a Civil Commitment Hearing 328
      (6) In the Matter of the Mental Health of K.G.F. 329
   b. The Right to Expert Assistance in Civil Cases 338
      (1) Lyle R. Goetz v. The Honorable Matthew Crosson 338
   c. Other Issues 343
d. Questions 344
8. Dispositional Issues 344
   a. Conditional Release 344
   b. Appeal 344
c. Periodic Review 344
d. “Discharged Pending Placement” 345
9. “Real Cases” 346
   a. Note 346
   b. In the Matter of the Commitment of E.G. 346
c. In the Matter of the Commitment of M.J. 353
d. Questions 378
10. Questions 378

B. The Right to Treatment 379
1. Historical Background 379
   Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 379
2. Statutory Roots 381
   a. Charles C. Rouse v. Dale C. Cameron 381
3. Constitutional Dimensions: The Wyatt Litigation 387
   a. Wyatt v. Stickney 387
   b. Wyatt v. Stickney 391
c. Ricky Wyatt v. Virginia Rogers, United States of America, Amicus Curiae 404
d. Questions 424
4. The Supreme Court Speaks 425
   a. Duane Youngberg v. Nicholas Romeo 425
   b. After Youngberg 436
      (1) Allen Bodine Scott, by and through his Guardian, Michael J. Weintraub v. Dr. Ingre Rudolph Plante 436
CONTENTS

(2) Thomas S., by His Next Friend, Joyce Brooks, Plaintiff, v. Sarah Morrow 438
(3) Thomas S., Joyce M. Brooks, appt’d guardian ad litem, v. Sarah T. Morrow 442
(4) Thomas S., by his guardian ad litem, Joyce M. Brooks v. David T. Flaherty 446
(6) Susan Stefan, What Constitutes Departure from Professional Judgment? 450
(7) Questions 459
c. Note 460
C. The Right to Refuse Treatment 460
1. Historical Background — The Advent of Psychiatric Drugs 460
Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 460
2. Forerunners 466
   a. James Boyd Mackey v. Raymond K. Procurier et al. 466
   b. Gary Knecht et al., v. James N. Gillman et al. 467
   c. Allen Bodine Scott v. Dr. Ingre Rudolph Plante, M.D. 469
3. Rennie and Rogers 472
   b. John E. Rennie v. Ann Klein (Rennie II) 489
   c. John E. Rennie v. Ann Klein (Rennie III) 510
   d. Mark J. Mills et al. v. Rubie Rogers et al. 521
   e. The Rennie Remand 526
   f. John E. Rennie v. Ann Klein (Rennie IV) 526
   g. Rubie Rogers v. Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health 536
   h. Note: Further Developments in Rogers 538
   i. Questions 538
4. Post-Rennie and Rogers 539
   a. Note on State Constitutional Law 539
   b. Mark Rivers v. Stephen Katz 539
   c. Notes and questions 545
5. A Therapeutic Jurisprudence Analysis 546
   Michael L. Perlin, Keri K. Gould & Deborah A. Dorfman, Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Mentally Disabled Persons: Hopeless Oxymoron or Path to Redemption? 546
6. An Empirical Analysis 551
CONTENTS


7. The Role of Counsel 557


Note 559

8. Other Modalities 559
a. On Seclusion and Restraint 559
b. Questions and Other Treatments 562

9. Looking at the Empirical Data 562

10. The Development of a Newer Generation of Medications 563

Douglas Mossman, Unbuckling the “Chemical Straitjacket”: The Legal Significance of Recent Advances in the Pharmacological Treatment of Psychosis 563

11. Note 567
a. Other Criminal Statuses 567
Michael L. Perlin, Decoding Right to Refuse Treatment Law 567
b. Note 569
Question 569

D. Other Institutional Rights 570

1. Due Process and Institutional Life 570
John Davis v. William Balson 570

2. Other Institutional Rights 580

3. Sex 580
c. Douglas Mossman, Michael L. Perlin, and Deborah A. Dorfman, Sex on the Wards: Conundra for Clinicians 595
d. A Model Policy (from Sex on the Wards . . . ) 597

4. Money 601
Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 601

5. Questions 603

E. Community Rights 603

1. Is There a Substantive Right to Aftercare? 603
a. Statutory Approaches 603
(1) Catherine Lake v. Dale C. Cameron 603
(2) William Dixon v. Caspar Weinberger 609
(3) After Dixon 613
Melissa Warren & Robert Moon, Dixon:  
*In the Absence of Political Will, Carry a Big Stick*  
613

b. Constitutional Approaches  
615

(1) Terri Lee Halderman v. Pennhurst State School & Hospital  
615
(2) Notes on Subsequent Developments in *Pennhurst*  
628
(3) The Second Supreme Court Decision in *Pennhurst*  
629
Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, *Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal*  
629
(4) *Pennhurst*, the Final Chapter (?)  
631
(5) The Impact of *Pennhurst*  
632
(6) Note  
633
c. Deinstitutionalization and Homelessness  
633

(1) Michael L. Perlin, *Competency, Deinstitutionalization, and Homelessness: A Story of Marginalization*  
633
(2) Questions  
646

2. Other Community Rights  
647

a. Zoning  
647

(1) City of Cleburne, Texas v. Cleburne Living Center  
647
b. Other Civil Rights of Individuals with Mental Disabilities in Community and Aftercare Settings  
662
Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo,  
*Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal*  
662
c. On Guardianship  
664

3. Questions  
664

Chapter 3 · Federal Statutory Rights  
665
A. The Americans with Disabilities Act  
665

1. Introduction  
665

a. Michael E. Waterstone, Michael Ashley Stein & David B. Wilkins, *Disability Cause Lawyers*  
665

2. The Statute  
667

3. Before *Olmstead*  
676

676
b. Michael L. Perlin, “Make Promises by the Hour”: *Sex, Drugs, the ADA, and Psychiatric Hospitalization*  
684

4. ADA Amendments Act of 2008  
688

Questions  
691

5. Post ADAAA  
692

a. Margaret E. Vroman, *Mentally Disabled Employees and the ADAAA: What’s An Employer To Do?*  
692
b. Hoback v. City of Chattanooga  
696
Questions 700

c. Tommy Olmstead v. L.C., by Jonathan Zimring 700
   (1) After Olmstead 716
   (2) The significance of Garrett? 721
   (3) Distinguishing Garrett 724
   (4) On Tennessee v. Lane 724
   (5) Questions 726

B. Other Federal Statutes 727
   1. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 727
   2. The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 728
   3. The Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights Act 728
   4. Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act 728

C. Oregon Advocacy Center et al. v. Bobby Mink et al. 728

Chapter 4 · Civil Mental Health Law 733

A. Torts 733
   1. Persons with Mental Disabilities as Plaintiffs 733
      a. In the Commitment Process 733
         (1) Becky S. Moore v. Wyoming Medical Center 733
         (2) Fair Oaks Hospital v. Susan L. Pocrass 740
         (3) Notes 747
         (4) Question 748
      b. Questions of Medication and Treatment 748
         (1) Timothy Floyd Clites v. State of Iowa 748
         (2) Note 753
      c. Other Tort Issues 754
         (1) Sexual Misconduct 754
            Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 754
         (2) Suicide 757
            Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 757
         (3) Note and Question 759
   2. Persons with Mental Disabilities as Defendants 759
      a. State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. v. James C. Wicka 759
      b. Questions 767
   3. Persons with Mental Disabilities as Third Parties 767
      a. “Duty to Protect” 767
         (1) Vitaly Tarasoff v. The Regents of the University of California et al. 767
            Michael L. Perlin, Tarasoff and the Dilemma of the Dangerous Patient: New Directions for the 1990's 781
         (2) Questions 786
b. Other Applications of Tarasoff
   (1) Christopher Ramos, *Adolescent Brain Development, Mental Illness, and the University–Student Relationship: Why Institutions of Higher Education Have a Special Duty-Creating Relationship With Their Students* 787

c. Other Tort Issues 798

Chapter 5 · The Criminal Trial Process 799
A. Competency 799
   1. To Stand Trial 799
      a. Background 799
         (1) Bruce Winick, *Restructuring Competency to Stand Trial* 799
         (2) Claudine Ausness, *The Identification of Incompetent Defendants: Separating Those Unfit for Adversary Combat from Those Who Are Fit* 802
         (3) Bruce Winick & Terry DeMeo, *Competence to Stand Trial in Florida* 804
         (4) Questions 805

   b. Substantive Rights 806
      (1) Milton R. Dusky v. United States of America 806
      (2) James Edward Drope v. Missouri 807
      (3) The Evaluation Process in “Real Life” 813
         Bruce Winick, *Restructuring Competency to Stand Trial* 813
      (4) Questions 821

   c. Procedural Standards 822
      (1) Frank J. Pate v. Theodore Robinson 822
      (2) Burden of Proof 830
         (a) Teofilo Medina, Jr. v. California 830
         (b) Byron Keith Cooper v. Oklahoma 842
      (3) Questions 850

   d. Role of Counsel 850
      (1) Introduction 850
         (a) Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, *Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal* 850
      (2) James Earl Hill v. State of Nevada 851
      (3) Tommy S. Groover v. State of Florida 852
      (4) Questions 853

   e. Non-Psychiatric Disorders 854
      (1) Introduction 854
(2) James Ellis & Ruth Luckasson, *Mentally Retarded Criminal Defendants* 854
(3) Amnesia 864
(4) Questions 865

f. Some History 866
   (1) Note, Before *Jackson v. Indiana* 866
       (a) Historical Background 866
       (b) Institutional Conditions 866
       (c) Reread *Jackson v. Indiana* (see supra p. 69–82). 867
   (2) Grant Morris & J. Reid Meloy, *Out of Mind? Out of Sight?: The Uncivil Commitment of Permanently Incompetent Criminal Defendants* 867
   (3) Questions 875
   (4) On Restoration of Competency 876

   g. Abolition 876
      (2) David Wexler, *Criminal Confinement and Dangerous Mental Patients: Legal Issues of Confinement, Treatment and Release* 880
      (3) Questions 880

h. Waiver 881
   (1) A Viable Option? 881
   (2) Questions 881

i. Experts 881
   Jones v. State 881

j. The Relationship between the ADA and the Incompetence Process 883

k. Notes 883

2. Other Incompetency Issues 884
   a. To Plead Guilty/Waive Counsel 884
      (1) History 884
      (2) Salvador Godinez v. Richard Allan Moran 884
      (3) Note, After *Godinez* 896
      (4) Questions 897
      (5) State of Indiana v. Ahmad Ewards 897
      (6) Questions 904
   b. Other Issues 904
      (1) The Interplay between Incompetency and Insanity 904
         (a) On *Coolbroth v. District Court* 904
         (b) Notes 905
      (2) Other Incompetency Questions 905

B. The Right of Forensic Patients to Refuse Medication 906
   1. Before Trial 906
CONTENTS

2. At Trial
   a. David Riggins v. Nevada 915

3. In Prison
   a. Washington v. Walter Harper 927

4. Questions 946

C. Insanity
   1. Introduction 950
      Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 950
   2. Substantive Standards
      a. Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 953
      b. Something Less than M’Naghten? 962
         (1) Eric Michael Clark v. State of Arizona 962
      c. Guilty But Mentally Ill (GBMI) 966
         (1) People v. William Lee Seefeld 966
         (2) Arthur C. Whitt v. State of Indiana 968
         (3) Linda Fentiman, “Guilty But Mentally Ill”: The Real Verdict is Guilty 969
      (4) Ira Mickenberg, A Pleasant Surprise: The Guilty But Mentally Ill Verdict Has Both Succeeded in Its Own Right and Successfully Preserved the Traditional Role of the Insanity Defense 976
      (5) Diminished Capacity 979
         Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 979
      (6) After Hinckley 981
         (a) The Insanity Defense Reform Act 981
         Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cucolo, Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal 981
         (b) Lisa Callahan, Connie Mayer & Henry Steadman, Insanity Defense Reform in the United States Post-Hinckley 982
      (7) Questions 986
   3. Procedural Issues 988
      a. Burden of Proof 988
         (1) Michael L. Perlin, The Jurisprudence of the Insanity Defense 96–100 988
      b. Why Hinckley Was Decided as It Was 990
         (1) Michael L. Perlin: “God Said to Abraham/Kill Me a Son”: Why the Insanity Defense and the
## CONTENTS

Incompetency Status Are Compatible with and Required by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Basic Principles of Therapeutic Jurisprudence 990

c. Privilege Against Self-Incrimination 990
   Michael L. Perlin, *Law and Mental Disability* 990
d. Informing the Jury of the Consequences of an NGRI Plea 992
   Terry Lee Shannon v. United States 992
e. The Right to Not Plead Insanity 1000
f. Experts and Counsel 1001
   (1) Glen Burton Ake v. Oklahoma 1001
   (2) United States ex rel. Gilbert Rivera v. Gayle Franzen (*Rivera I*) 1011
   (3) United States ex rel. Gilbert Rivera v. Gayle Franzen (*Rivera II*) 1018
   (4) Gary Eldon Alvord v. Louie L. Wainwright 1020
g. Questions 1024
   (1) Quality of Counsel 1024
   (2) Refusal to Enter the Plea 1026
4. Defendants with Other Disabilities 1026
a. Intellectual Disabilities 1026
   James Ellis & Ruth Luckasson, *Mentally Retarded Criminal Defendants* 1026
b. Physiological Disorders 1030
   Michael L. Perlin, *“Big Ideas, Images and Distorted Facts”: The Insanity Defense, Genetics, and the “Political World”* 1030
c. Notes and Questions 1034
5. Alternate Bases for the Insanity Defense 1034
a. Syndromes 1034
   (1) State of Louisiana v. Wayne Robert Felde 1034
   (2) United States of America v. Bridget M. Denny-Shaffer 1039
   Questions 1051
6. Insanity Defense Myths 1052
a. Empirical Myths 1052
   Adapted from Michael L. Perlin & Heather Ellis Cuocolo, *Mental Disability Law: Civil and Criminal* 1052
b. Question 1055
c. John Hinckley: The Saga Continues 1055
7. Abolition 1056
CONTENTS

a. Michael L. Perlin, Unpacking the Myths: The Symbolism
Mythology of Insanity Defense Jurisprudence 1056

8. Post-Acquittal Commitment 1060
9. Questions 1061

C. Trial Process 1062
1. Privilege against Self-Incrimination 1062
   a. W. J. Estelle, Jr. v. Ernest Benjamin Smith 1062
   b. David Buchanan v. Kentucky 1071
   c. John T. Satterwhite v. Texas 1081
   d. Note: On Powell v. Texas 1088
   e. Note: On Kansas v. Cheever 1089
2. Confessions 1089
   a. Louie L. Wainwright v. David Wayne Greenfield 1089
   b. Colorado v. Francis Barry Connelly 1096

D. Death Penalty 1110
1. Dangerousness 1110
   Thomas A. Barefoot v. W.J. Estelle, Jr. 1110
2. Mitigation 1128
   On Mitigation 1128
   Adapted from Michael L. Perlin, Mental Disability and
   the Death Penalty: The Shame of the States 29–44
   (2013) 1128
3. The Role of Counsel 1131
   The meaning of Strickland 1135
4. Competence to Be Executed 1139
   a. Defendants with Mental Illness 1139
      (1) Alvin Bernard Ford v. Louie L. Wainwright 1139
      (2) Scott Louis Panetti v. Nathaniel Quarterman 1152
5. Cases construing Panetti 1159
   a. Defendants with Intellectual Disabilities 1159
      (1) Daryl Atkins v. Virginia 1159
      (2) Freddie Lee Hall v. Florida 1173
         On Perry v. Louisiana 1181
      (3) David Wexler & Bruce Winick, Therapeutic
         Jurisprudence and Criminal Justice Mental
         Health Issues 1181
6. Questions 1184

E. Sentencing 1186
   Adapted from Michael L. Perlin, “I Expected It to Happen/I Knew
   He’d Lost Control”: The Impact of PTSD on Criminal
   Sentencing after the Promulgation of DSM-5 1186
1. Sentencing and the ADA 1192

Index 1193
Table of Principal Cases

Cases are listed in alphabetical order by last name of plaintiff, or defendant where the state is the plaintiff.

Frank O’Neal Addington v. State of Texas, 441 U.S. 418 (1979), 156
Daryl Atkins v. Virginia, 536 U.S. 304 (2003), 1159
Thomas A. Barefoot v. W.J. Estelle, Jr., 463 U.S. 880 (1983), 1110
City of Cleburne, Texas v. Cleburne Living Center, 473 U.S. 432 (1985), 647
Timothy Floyd Clites v. State of Iowa, 322 N.W.2d 917 (Iowa App. 1982), 748
Colorado v. Francis Barry Connelly, 479 U.S. 157 (1986), 1096
Byron Keith Cooper v. Oklahoma, 517 U.S. 348 (1996), 842
United States of America v. Bridget M. Denny-Shaffer, 2 F.3d 999 (10th Cir. 1993), 1039
James Edward Drope v. Missouri, 420 U.S. 162 (1975), 807
State of Indiana v. Ahmad Ewards, 554 U.S. 164 (2008), 897
In the Matter of the Mental Health of K.G.F., 306 Mont. 1, 29 P. 3d 485 (2001), 329
State of Louisiana v. Wayne Robert Felde, 422 So.2d 370 (La. 1982), 1034
Terry Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71 (1992), 256
Virgie Foy and Reffie Foy v. Bradley Greenblott, 190 Cal.Rptr. 84 (App. 1983), 580
Lyle R. Goetz v. The Honorable Matthew Crosson, 967 F.2d 29 (2d Cir. 1992), 338
Tommy S. Groover v. State of Florida, 489 So.2d 15 (Fla. 1986), 852
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Title</th>
<th>Court</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terri Lee Halderman v. Pennhurst State School &amp; Hospital</td>
<td>612 F.2d 84 (3d Cir. 1979)</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>615</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoback v. City of Chattanooga</td>
<td>2013 WL 6698042 (6th Cir. 2013)</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Knecht et al., v. James N. Gillman et al.</td>
<td>488 F.2d 1136 (8th Cir. 1973)</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>467</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Lake v. Dale C. Cameron</td>
<td>364 F.2d 657 (D.C. Cir. 1966)</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>603</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Boyd Mackey v. Raymond K. Procuiner et al.</td>
<td>477 F.2d 877 (9th Cir. 1973)</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>466</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States ex rel. Gilbert Rivera v. Gayle Franzen (Rivera II)</td>
<td>794 F.2d 314 (7th Cir. 1986)</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubie Rogers v. Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health</td>
<td>458 N. E.2d 308 (Mass. 1983)</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>536</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas S., by his guardian ad litem, Joyce M. Brooks v. David T. Flaherty</td>
<td>902 F.2d 250 (4th Cir. 1990)</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>446</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case</td>
<td>Citation</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Bodine Scott v. Dr. Ingre Rudolph Plante, M.D.</td>
<td>532 F.2d 939 (3d Cir. 1976), 469</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Sell v. United States</td>
<td>539 U.S. 166 (2003), 906</td>
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<td>State Farm Fire &amp; Casualty Co. v. James C. Wicka</td>
<td>474 N.W.2d 324 (Minn. 1991), 759</td>
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<td>Sharon Suzuki v. George Yuen</td>
<td>617 F.2d 173 (9th Cir. 1980), 144</td>
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<td>Vitaly Tarasoff v. The Regents of the University of California et al.</td>
<td>131 Cal.Rptr. 14 (1976), 767</td>
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<td>Ricky Wyatt v. Virginia Rogers, United States of America, Amicus Curiae,</td>
<td>985 F. Supp. 1356 (M.D. Ala. 1997), 404</td>
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Introduction to the
Third Edition

The first edition of Mental Disability Law: Cases and Materials was published in the spring of 1999 and the second edition in 2005. Over these years, the explosion of case law and legislation documented in those volumes has continued unabated. United States Supreme Court decisions have restructured the law as it applies, inter alia, to the relationship between the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and institutionalized persons with mental disabilities (see Olmstead v. L.C., pp. 700–716) and questions involving access to the courts (see Tennessee v. Lane, p. 724), to persons charged under Sexually Violent Predator Acts (SVPA) (see, e.g., Kansas v. Crane, p. 292), to persons with serious mental disabilities who wish to represent themselves at trial (see Indiana v. Edwards, pp. 897–904), to persons incompetent to stand trial who wish to resist the imposition of antipsychotic medication (see Sell v. United States, pp. 906–915), to persons pleading the insanity defense in jurisdictions with narrow definitions of that term (see Clark v. Arizona, pp. 962–966), and to the relationship between mental disability and the death penalty (see Atkins v. Virginia, pp. 1159–1173, and Hall v. Florida, pp. 1173–1181). Further, dissatisfied with some Supreme Court decisions on the ADA, Congress responded by enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008, legislatively overruling some of the Court’s jurisprudence in that area of the law (see pp. 688–691).

Other courts have continued to fine-tune the law of involuntary civil commitment, of institutional rights (especially the right to refuse treatment in civil cases), of community care, and of all aspects of the criminal trial process. State legislatures have enacted—not without controversy—new sorts of outpatient commitment laws (now mostly known as AOT (“assisted outpatient treatment”) acts), and state judiciaries have expanded—again, not without controversy—the role of “mental health courts,” a very specific sort of “problem-solving court” (drug courts and domestic violence courts are its forerunners). And, as in so many other areas of the law, litigators and advocates have begun—perhaps somewhat tardily—to look at questions of international human rights law in a mental disability law context. The bulk of newly-reported mental disability law litigation has come in three areas—SVPA cases, ADA cases, and criminal procedure cases—but virtually every area covered in the first and second editions of this casebook has seen unprecedented growth in the past sixteen years. It is also crucial that those who study mental disability law be familiar with other areas of the law that have significant application to
this specific area: international human rights law, the school of therapeutic jurisprudence and the application of new insights from the field of neuroscience.

Careful readers will note the use of the word “we” in this Introduction, as opposed to the word “I” that was used in the Introductions to the first two versions of this casebook. This is now a joint effort: besides the original editor (MLP), there are two additional ones this time around: New York Law School (NYLS) Adjunct Professor Heather Ellis Cucolo and Alison J. Lynch, a litigator with Disability Rights of New York. We have written multiple books and articles together in the past,¹ and this was a logical next step for us to take. We believe that our multiple perspectives will be of great value to student readers as well. Also, since the publication of the second edition, MLP has retired from the full-time faculty at NYLS, and has created, along with HEC, a consulting company, Mental Disability Law and Policy Associates (MDLPA), where AJL is an instructor. MDLPA was developed to offer mental disability law and policy training to both domestic and international students, lawyers, and mental health professionals. The training offered covers a wide array of mental disability and criminal law topics and incorporates all of the subject areas discussed in this casebook.

We also wish to thank MLP’s student assistants over the years, many of whom helped prepare some of the more recent law review articles that are excerpted here, and all of whom have helped me with the pocket parts to the treatise, MENTAL DISABILITY LAW: CIVIL AND CRIMINAL, which we draw on for many of the ideas incorporated here: Jenna Anderson, Jeannie Bliss, Marissa Costales, Betsy Fiedler, Jackie Halpern, Ryan Hild, Nikki Hirsch, Zev Holzman, Danielle Horowitz, Diana Moss, Naomi Schneidmill, Amanda Wichot, Megan Crespo, Mia Luna, Rachel Hisler, Jessica Cohn, Mia Luna, Katherine Davies, and Krystina Drasher, we thank you all. We also want to thank colleagues whose thoughts and insights, help, encouragement and encouragement have meant so much over the years: Bob Sadoff, David Wexler, the late Bruce Winick, Joel Dvoskin, Doug Mossman, Debbie Dorfman, Pam Cohen, Henry Dlugacz, Steve Ellmann, Rick Friedman, Eric Rosenthal, Richard Sherwin, Eva Szeli, and Karen Owen Talley for their help and encouragement and inspiration. Finally, we wish to thank former NYLS Dean Rick Matasar and current Dean

Anthony Crowell for their faith in us and their ongoing support. These words are not enough to reflect our appreciation.

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March 11, 2016