

# **JOSHUA D. FEDER, MD**

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, AND FAMILY PSYCHIATRY  
DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY

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415 NORTH HIGHWAY 101, SUITE E, SOLANA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92075  
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## **Description of Forensic Services with References**

### **Legal and Forensic Services**

Dr Feder provides psychiatric consultation, record review, psychiatric forensic assessment and reports, depositions, and trial testimony as an expert witness on a range of areas related to child and family neuropsychiatric and mental health issues.

### **Scope of Forensic Cases to Date**

Dr. Feder engages in forensic assessment and testimony for family court, criminal court, disability, educational planning, and related proceedings. Dr Feder's forensic work frequently involves questions about autism and other developmental challenges, and in particular cases of alleged sexual abuse and other trauma, working both on behalf of plaintiffs as well defendants, often in cases involving school districts. Dr. Feder has also worked on several cases involving a range of criminal allegations including stalking and harassment to separate successful defenses for charges of attempted murder and vehicular homicide for persons with developmental challenges. In the field of early childhood Dr. Feder has assisted on cases of alleged pre-natal trauma, and he has worked on multiple cases involving child custody and divorce where autism is involved. Beyond these areas, Dr Feder's cases have included a class action suit with the East Los Angeles Regional Center securing access to evidence-based care for persons with autism and related developmental challenges; one of the first Laura's Law cases in California to secure outside oversight for persons with recurrent severe psychiatric illness with an excellent outcome; one of the first Mental Health Diversion cases in California to offer treatment instead of prison on a series of felony offenses committed due to a severe mental health condition; and the first known long term Electroconvulsive Therapy case in San Diego County for life threatening medical illness.

### **Qualifications for Work with Developmental Conditions and Trauma**

Dr Feder has specific and extensive qualifications for forensic psychiatric work with persons with developmental challenges and trauma. He is a medical doctor currently licensed to practice medicine in California, Colorado, The District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Virginia. Dr Feder is the Executive Medical Director of Positive Development, a national company providing in home and community services for autistic children and adolescents and their families.

Dr Feder is trained as a child and adolescent psychiatrist, board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in both General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, later serving

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in faculty roles teaching child and adolescent psychiatry and related topics related to assessment and treatment of developmental disorders and research methodology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the University of California at San Diego School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry, and Fielding Graduate University Department of Psychology Program in Infant and Early Childhood Development. For the past seven years Dr Feder has served as the Editor in Chief of the *Carlat Child Psychiatry Report*, a continuing education publication in the field, where he has published numerous articles on autism, trauma, and related topics. In addition to an active clinical practice, Dr Feder conducts research focused on assessment and treatment of autistic children, adolescents, and young adults and those with other developmental challenges, including socialization and workability, with several publications relating to the field. Dr. Feder's groundbreaking research and clinical work in the field of autism spans nearly 45 years and includes the foundational first Practice Parameter on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder from the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry in 1999, theoretical applied mathematical brain theory related to neurodiversity, large scale program development at the national level for autistic children and families, never before achieved peer reviewed outcomes research, publication of a widely distributed peer reviewed algorithm for the care of autistic children and families that avoids overuse of medications, creation of a national board for ensuring quality for innovative evidence based autism care, and the landmark 2024 article *Developmental Relationship Based Intervention for Autistic Children* that defines the field for clinicians families researchers and payors.

In the field of psychiatric trauma, Dr Feder previously served on the review board for the journal *Child Maltreatment*, reviewing articles for publication; Dr Feder also served on the United States Navy Headquarters Child Sexual Abuse Team, based in Washington, DC, evaluating complex cases, often several years after the alleged incidents, and from locations in multiple cultural contexts worldwide. Dr Feder's scholarly work includes research and program development with populations impacted by trauma in the US, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, and the Middle East. Dr. Feder is actively involved in the care and research for helping families living in distressed communities to become more resilient through helping their parents and caregivers to be more responsive and less harsh. Dr. Feder serves as the Co-Chair of the Disaster & Trauma Issues Committee of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, where he is spearheading the development of a national and global network that responds to traumatic events impacting children and teens, often just as they reach the news and through to recovery and the long aftermath years later, including school shootings, terrorist attacks, armed conflict, pandemics, environmental disasters such as wildfires and storms, across the United States and Worldwide. Dr. Feder has published multiple articles, chapters, and books on trauma, including *Foundations for a Peaceful World: The Transformative Power of Early Childhood Education to Promote Peace and Social Cohesion* (2023), launched with Dr. Feder's speech at the 78<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly, *Supporting the Mental Health of Migrant Children, Youth, and Families* (2024), and *The Impact of Covid-19 on Child and Adolescent Mental Health* (2024).

Dr Feder's clinical work includes about fifty per cent patients with developmental challenges, and the other half includes highly complex neuropsychiatric challenges. Dr. Feder recently completed The American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies - Clinical Forensic Neuroscience-Informed Practitioner Certificate.

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## **Characterization of Forensic Cases to Date:**

Case log total as of June 2025: 84

(Does not include cases before July 2005, which are administrative, e.g. SSI or IHSS, and US Navy 1986-1996)

Depositions est. total as of 6/20/25: 16

Court appearances est. total as of 3/23/25: 16

Ratio of Plaintiff to Defendant /Respondent (non-school) 6:5

Ratio of Plaintiff to Defendant re school districts 8:10

References follow the Case Type Tally, Case Distribution, and Case Log

Table 1: Case Type Tally

| Case Type                 | Count |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Total                     | 84    |
| Benefits                  | 22    |
| Civil Defense             | 5     |
| Civil Plaintiff           | 6     |
| Conservatorships/ Probate | 7     |
| Criminal Defense          | 9     |
| Criminal Prosecution      | 0     |
| ECT                       | 3     |
| Family Court              | 14    |
| School Defense            | 10    |
| School Plaintiff          | 8     |

Table 2: Case Distribution by State

| State      | Number of Cases |
|------------|-----------------|
| California | 76              |
| Arizona    | 3               |
| Florida    | 1               |
| New Jersey | 1               |
| Minnesota  | 1               |
| Utah       | 1               |
| Wisconsin  | 1               |

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## **References:**

- Civil Law:

Marc Adelman [Adelmanmd@aol.com](mailto:Adelmanmd@aol.com)

- Conservatorships and Trusts:

Carol Battaglia and Mary Waltieri - 858 689 0613

Flora Calem – 858 793 4407

- Criminal Law:

Kerry Armstrong [Notguilty01@outlook.com](mailto:Notguilty01@outlook.com)

Mike Donaldson [mike@mikedonaldsonlaw.com](mailto:mike@mikedonaldsonlaw.com)

Lara Gressley [lara.esq@gmail.com](mailto:lara.esq@gmail.com)

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- Education/ School District Cases:

Seth Schwartz [seth@brightsidelawgroup.com](mailto:seth@brightsidelawgroup.com)

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Randy Winet [rwinet@wpgch.com](mailto:rwinet@wpgch.com)

- Family Law:

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Greg Torok [greg@yumalawyer.net](mailto:greg@yumalawyer.net)

Dr Feder is available to work in 48 US States (Excluded: NY an KS).