

**William Neil Gowensmith, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Professor and Licensed Clinical & Forensic Psychologist**  
**Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Denver**  
**Director, Denver FIRST**

**Work Address**

2450 S. Vine St, University of Denver  
Denver, Colorado 80208

**Contact information**

(303) 871-4841  
[neil.gowensmith@du.edu](mailto:neil.gowensmith@du.edu)

**EDUCATION**

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**Post-doctoral Residency**

**Clinical and Forensic Psychology (APA Accredited)**

Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Washington D.C.

Forensic Inpatient Services & Bureau of Legal Services Divisions

September 1999 to September 2000

**Clinical Internship**

**Internship in Clinical Psychology (APA Accredited)**

Honolulu Veterans Affairs Medical & Regional Office Center, Hawaii

September 1998 to September 1999

**Ph.D.**

**Counseling Psychology (APA Accredited)**

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

Awarded: Summer 1999 *summa cum laude*

**B.A.**

**Psychology**

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Awarded: December 1992 *cum laude with honors*

**AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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- Licensed Psychologist, Colorado
- Member, American Psychological Association
- Member, American Psychology-Law Society

## **CLINICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

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### **Director, Denver FIRST (Forensic Institute for Research, Service and Training)**

Graduate School of Professional Psychology, University of Denver

July 2014 to present

### **Clinical Assistant Professor**

Graduate School of Professional Psychology, University of Denver

September 2011 to present

### **President and Lead Consultant**

Groundswell Services, Inc.

December 2013 to present

### **Forensic Evaluator**

Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, State of Colorado

September 2012 to May 2014

### **Technical Assistance and Research Psychologist**

Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education

September 2011 to August 2012

### **Chief of Forensic Services**

Department of Health, State of Hawaii

August 2006 to September 2011

### **Forensic Coordinator**

Department of Health, State of Hawaii

March 2004 to August 2006

### **Team Leader**

South Africa Community Fund, Western Cape, Republic of South Africa

University of Denver

May 2002 to August 2008

### **Academic Program Director / Instructor**

Global Stewardship Study Program (GSSP), Belize, Central America

January 2003 to January 2004, May 2005

**Staff Psychologist**

New Jersey State Prison, Trenton, New Jersey  
January 2001 to December 2002

**Psychology Post-doctoral Fellow**

John Howard Pavilion, St. Elizabeths Hospital, Washington D.C.  
September 1999 to September 2000

**Clinical Psychology Intern:**

Honolulu Veterans Affairs Medical & Regional Office Center, Honolulu, Hawaii  
September 1998 to September 1999

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Assistant Professor:**

University of Denver

Introduction to Statistical Methods (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Ethics in Forensic Psychology (2011, 2012, 2013)

Practicum / Case Conference (2012, 2013, 2014)

Treatment and Evaluation of the Adult Offender (2012, 2013, 2014)

Public Policy and Forensic Mental Health (2012, 2013, 2014)

Forensic Assessment (2012, 2013, 2014)

International Service Learning South Africa: Transitional Justice (2013)

### **Instructor:**

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Introduction to Statistical Techniques (2005, 2006, 2008)

Experimental and Research Methods (2006, 2007, 2008)

Introduction to Forensic Psychology (2008, 2009, 2011)

Introduction to Forensic Psychology online (2012, 2013, 2014)

Psychopathology online (2011)

### **Adjunct Faculty:**

Argosy University, Honolulu

Diagnostic and Assessment Practicum (2011)

Forensic Assessment (2011)

### **Instructor:**

Global Stewardship Study Program, Belize

Global Psychology (2003, 2005)

### **Instructor:**

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

Introduction to Psychology (1996)

Abnormal Psychology (1997)

Pre-practicum / Introduction to Counseling Techniques (1998)

### **Team Leader:**

South Africa Community Fund, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa

2002, 2003, 2005, 2009

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### Ongoing Research Interests:

- Reliability, validity and quality in forensic assessment
- Supervision practices for insanity acquittees released on conditional release
- Certification standards and training of forensic evaluators
- Outpatient competency restoration
- Decision-making and attitudes within forensic professionals and stakeholders regarding legally encumbered persons with mental illness
- Validity of risk assessment measures with frequent offenders

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Gowensmith, W. N., Bryant, A. & Vitacco, M.** (2014). Decision-making in post-acquittal hospital release: How do forensic evaluators make their decisions? Behavioral Sciences & the Law, in press.

McCallum, K. E., Nassab, N., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2014). The impact of defendant ethnicity on the psycho-legal opinion of forensic evaluators. International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, in press.

Fuger, K.D., Acklin, M. W., Nguyen, A. H., Ignacio, L. A., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2013). Quality of criminal responsibility reports submitted to the Hawaii judiciary. International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, in press. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlp.2013.11.020>

**Gowensmith, W. N., Murrie, D. M., Boccaccini, M. T.** (2013). Forensic Mental Health Evaluations: Reliability, Validity, Quality, and Other Minor Details. The Jury Expert, 25, 1-8.

**Gowensmith, W. N., Murrie, D. M., Boccaccini, M. T.** (2012). How reliable are forensic evaluations of legal sanity? Law and Human Behavior, 37, 98-106. doi: 10.1037/lhb0000001

**Gowensmith, W. N.** (2012, winter). Are competency evaluators competent? American Psychology-Law Society Newsletter, 16-19.

Nguyen, A. H., Acklin, M. W., Fuger, K., **Gowensmith, W. N.**, Ignacio, L. A., & Low, S. (2011). Freedom in paradise: Quality of conditional release reports submitted to the Hawaii judiciary. International Journal of Psychiatry and Law, 34, 3410348. doi: 10.1016/j.ijlp.2011.08.006.

**Gowensmith, W. N.,** Murrie, D. M., Boccaccini, M. T. (2011). Field reliability of competency to stand trial evaluations: How often do evaluators agree, and what do judges decide when evaluators disagree? Law and Human Behavior, 36, 130-139. doi: 10.1037/h0093958.

Deffenbacher, J.L., Dahlen, E.R., Lynch, R.S., Morris, C.D., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2000). An application of Beck's cognitive therapy to general anger reduction. Cognitive Therapy and Research, 24, 689-697.

**Gowensmith, W. N.,** & Bloom, L. J. (1997). The effects of heavy metal music on anger and arousal. The Journal of Music Therapy, 34, 33-45.

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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**State of Colorado Jail-based Competency Restoration Program Development:** Member  
2013

**American Psychology-Law Society:** National conference dissertation review committee member  
2010-2013

**National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Forensic Div.:** Vice President 2010-2013;  
State of Hawaii Designee 2006-2011; Representative 2011-present

**Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant:** Vice Chair, Criminal Justice Taskgroup  
2006-2011

**Hawaii Mental Health and the Law Taskforce:** Standing member  
2007-2011

**Senate Committee Resolution #117 Legislative Taskforce:** Forensic mental health designee  
2007-2008

## **GRANTS**

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**Public Good Fund (January 2014, \$15,000 / 1 year).** *University of Denver:* marketing plan for the College Gateway Program at Red Rocks Community College, a community re-entry program designed for recently released ex-offenders in Colorado.

**Walton Family Foundation Bilingual Certificate Program (January 2014, \$450,000 / 3 years).** *University of Denver:* Creating a bilingual mental health certificate program to include international exchange with Spanish-speaking countries and an on-line bilingual mental health certificate program

**Front End Users Grant (January 2014, \$16,500 / 1 year).** *City and County of Denver:* jail-based and community-based assessment of criminogenic and clinical needs of frequent users of mental health and emergency services in Denver, CO.

**Incorporation of Trauma and Violence Against Women Assessment into a Community Mental Health Clinic (January 2013, \$2500 / 9 months).** *Federal Office on Women's Health:* updated and trained university-based community clinic on current strategies for assessing histories of trauma and victimization in potential female clients.

**Public Good Fund (September 2011, \$9000 / 1 year).** *University of Denver:* conducted program evaluation of the College Gateway Program at Red Rocks Community College, a community re-entry program designed for recently released ex-offenders in Colorado.

**Sequential Intercept Model Research (October 2010, \$65,000 / 2 years).** *Federal State Block Grant (SAMHSA):* hires research assistants to develop and implement a research program focused on program evaluation of inter-agency systems of care among mental health and criminal justice agencies throughout the state of Hawaii.

**East Hawaii Drug Court Evaluation (October 2010, \$36,500 / 1 year).** *Federal State Block Grant (SAMHSA):* hires a research assistant to perform program evaluation on innovative court program, in partnership with the judiciary.

**Maui County Police Training and Forensic Services Implementation (October 2010, \$90,000 / 2 years).** *Federal State Block Grant (SAMHSA):* Trains local police officers in Crisis Intervention Training, and provides funding for transition services for mentally ill offenders leaving correctional facilities or local hospitals. Developed in partnership with county police department, mental health providers, and the judiciary.

**Pre-doctoral Forensic Internship (August 2009, \$270,000 / 2 years).** *Justice Assistance Grant through the U.S. Department of the Attorney General:* funds the implementation of a post-doctoral psychology internship as well as implementation of key forensic and criminogenic programs and trainings.

**Pre-booking Jail Diversion (June 2009, \$300,000 / 2 years).** *Justice Assistance Grant through the U.S. Department of the Attorney General:* hires, trains and places multiple psychiatric nurses in police pre-adjudication cellblock.

**Translational and Outcome Research on Forensic Programs and Services (September 2009, \$20,000 / 1 year).** *Federal State Block Grant (SAMHSA):* funds implementation of implementation science research to assess viability and outcomes associated with new forensic programs implemented across multiple agencies.

**Forensic Licensed Crisis Residential Shelter (September 2009, \$40,000 / 1 year).** *Federal State Block Grant (SAMHSA):* funds planning of a 4-bed unit to be created to provide service and shelter to forensic consumers in crisis, either pre-trial or post-acquittal.

**Forensic Examiners and Forensic Professionals Training (September 2008, 2009, 2010, \$135,000 / 4 years).** *Federal State Block Grant (SAMHSA):* funds forensic trainings and collection of forensic resource materials to ensure workforce development.



## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Peer-reviewed presentations:**

- Gowensmith, W. N., Sledd, M., & Sessarego, S.** (2014, August). The Impact of Stringent Certification Standards on Forensic Evaluator Reliability. Paper presentation at the 122<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.
- Gowensmith, W. N. & Tassin, A.** (2014, March). Courts, cops, clinicians and community corrections: Differences in understanding violence risk in the mentally ill. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, New Orleans, LA.
- Therson, D., Speelman, D. & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2014, March). Adult outpatient competency restoration: Results from a nationwide survey. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, New Orleans, LA.
- Bryant, A., **Gowensmith, W. N.**, & Vitacco, M. J. (2014, March). Decision-making in post-acquittal hospital release: How do forensic evaluators make their decisions? Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, New Orleans, LA.
- Karas, A., **Gowensmith, W. N.**, & Pinals, D. A. (2014, March). States' standards for training and certifying evaluators of competency to stand trial. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, New Orleans, LA.
- Jul, E., **Gowensmith, W. N.**, Ignacio, L.A., & Tanji, J. (2014). Perceptions of Violence Risk Factors Amongst Judges Working with Criminal Offenders with Mental Illness. Unpublished manuscript, Argosy University, Honolulu, HI.
- Gowensmith, W. N. & McNichols, B. J.** (2013, August). Decisions, decisions: insanity acquittees, hospital discharge, and the forensic evaluator. Paper presentation at the 121<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI.
- Gowensmith, W. N., Skeem, J. L., & McNichols, B. J.** (2013, March). Specialty community supervision practices for insanity acquittees: How well do they work? Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.
- Nassab, N., McCallum, K. E., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2013, March). Reliability of diagnoses in forensic evaluation. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.
- Purta, M., McCallum, K. E., Nassab, N., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2013, March). Consistency of violence risk prediction across professional disciplines. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.
- Gowensmith, W. N., Musgrove, L., Muller, K., & Henry, K.** (2013, March). The College Gateway Program: Case study of a successful offender re-entry program. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Portland, OR.

- Nadkarni, L., Gorgens, K., Henderson-Metzger, L. & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2012, August). Does this ivory tower have a changing table? Managing multiple roles and identities in a professional graduate program. Roundtable presentation at the 120<sup>th</sup> meeting of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.
- Gowensmith, W. N.**, McCallum, K. & Nassab, N. (2012, August). Does a defendant's ethnicity impact the psycholegal opinion of a forensic expert witness? Paper presentation at the 120<sup>th</sup> meeting of the American Psychological Association, Orlando, FL.
- Gowensmith, W. N.**, McNichols, B. J., Bauer-Smith, B., & Dolder, S. (2012, June). New dawn or new nightmare? The impact of new mental health legislation in Hawaii. Roundtable presentation at the meeting of the Law and Society Association, Honolulu, HI.
- Kemp, K., **Gowensmith, W. N.**, Boccaccini, M. T., & Murrie, D. C. (2012, March). Predictors of competency to stand trial opinions in 1,318 evaluations of Hawaiian defendants. In L. Kois (Chair), Multicultural considerations in competence to stand trial evaluations. Symposium accepted for presentation at the meeting of the American Psychology Law Society, San Juan, PR.
- Gowensmith, W. N.**, Murrie, D. & Boccaccini, M. (2011, March). Evaluator agreement in assessing violence risk and need for hospitalization. Paper presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference (Miami, FL).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** & Frost, L. (2011, March). Outpatient competency restoration: Promising results from a new frontier. Paper presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference (Miami, FL).
- McNichols, B., **Gowensmith, W. N.** & Jul, E. (2011, March). Forensic evaluators and conditional release evaluations: Is evaluator agreement of CR readiness related to longer community tenure? Paper presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference (Miami, FL).
- McNichols, B., Jul, E., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2011, March). Conditional release in the state of Hawaii: A qualitative and quantitative analysis. Poster presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference (Miami, FL).
- McNichols, B., Jul, E., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2010, October). Is conditional release working in the state of Hawaii? Rehospitalization and recidivism rates for insanity acquittees. Poster presentation at the Hawaii Psychological Association Conference (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.**, Murrie, D. & Boccaccini, M. (2010, August). How reliable are forensic evaluations? Evaluator agreement in sanity evaluations. Paper presentation at the American Psychological Association Conference (San Diego, CA).
- Gowensmith, W. N.**, Murrie, D. & Boccaccini, M. (2010, March). How reliable are forensic evaluations? Evaluator agreement in competency to stand trial evaluations. Paper presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference (Vancouver, Canada).

- Gowensmith, W. N.** & Frost, L. (2010, March). Outpatient competency restoration: State of the practice for juvenile and adult restoration. Paper presentation at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference (Vancouver, Canada).
- Miller, R., **Gowensmith, W. N.**, Cunningham, S., & Bailey-Smith, K. (2009, October). Community-Based Treatment to Restore Competency to Stand Trial. Symposium conducted at National Association of State Mental Health Directors Forensic Division National Conference (Virginia Beach, VA).
- Morris, J., Pinals, D., Griffin, P., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2009, October). National Jail Diversion Options. Symposium conducted at National Association of State Mental Health Directors Forensic Division National Conference (Virginia Beach, VA).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2009, April). Evidence-Based Assessment of Dangerousness. Paper presented at Best Practices in Forensic Mental Health: Responsibility and Recovery in the Legal System (Honolulu, HI).
- Polokoff, R., Steffen, J., **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2009, April). Analysis of the Conditionally Released Population in Hawaii. Poster at the Forensic Mental Health: Responsibility and Recovery in the Legal System Conference, (Honolulu, HI).
- Ehrhorn, E., & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2009, April). Outcomes of the CREST (Conditional Release Exit and Support Transition) Program. Poster at the Forensic Mental Health: Responsibility and Recovery in the Legal System Conference, (Honolulu, HI).
- Gundaya, D., Steffen, J., **Gowensmith, W. N.**, & Crisanti, A. (2009, April). Forensic Involvement and Victimization Among AMHD Consumers. Poster at the Forensic Mental Health: Responsibility and Recovery in the Legal System Conference, (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2008, October). Current Practices in Assessment of Competency. Symposium (Chair), Hawaii Forensic Examiner Training (Honolulu, HI with statewide video-teleconferencing).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2008, March). The Conditional Release Program in Hawaii: Successes and Challenges. Paper presented at the National GAINS Center Conference (Washington, D.C.).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** & Pedro, D. (2008, March). Specialized Forensic Programs in Hawaii: Hale Imua and Community-Based Competency Restoration. Symposium conducted at National GAINS Center Conference (Washington, D.C.).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2008, February). Overview of Forensic Mental Health. Invited presentation for International Public Health course offered by the University of Hawaii at Manoa (videoconferencing to Hawaii and several Pacific Island nations).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2007, September). The Big Kahuna: The Conditional Release Program in Hawaii. Symposium conducted at National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Forensic Division National Conference (San Antonio, Texas).

- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2007, September). Effectiveness and Future Directions for Forensic Mental Health. Symposium conducted at State of Hawaii Forensic Examiner Training Conference (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2007, January – April). Reducing Risk for Violence in Mentally Ill Offenders. Trainings and consultations to judiciary staff, mental health providers, housing providers, correctional staff, and police. (Statewide, Hawaii).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2007, January). Forensic Services in Hawaii. Presentation to Senate Committee 117 Task Force of the Hawaii State Legislature (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2006, December). The Intersection of Adult Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System on Oahu. Presentation to Senate Committee 117 Task Force of the Hawaii State Legislature (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2006, April). The Conditional Release Process. Symposium conducted at Hawaii Forensic Examiner Training Conference (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2001, 2002, 2003, Summers). Psychology, Racism, and Peace-building. Trainings and consultations for South Africa Community Fund (Cape Town, South Africa).
- Deffenbacher, J., Dahlen, E., Lynch, R., Morris, C. & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (1998, August). Application of Beck's cognitive therapy to general anger reduction. Paper presented at the American Psychological Association conference (San Francisco, CA).

**Invited Presentations:**

- Lachman, C. & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2014). The College Gateway Program: Matching Ex-Offenders with their Purpose and Passion. Invited keynote presentation for the Colorado Career Development Association (Aurora, CO).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2013, September). Outpatient competency restoration programs: A national survey. Invited presentation at the Annual Forensic Examiners Training Conference (Denver, CO).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2013, June). Program evaluation of the College Gateway Program: Success in the face of defeat. Invited presentation for Campus Compact of the Mountain West (Breckenridge, CO).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2013, January). Program evaluation of the College Gateway Program: Success in the face of defeat. Invited presentation for Red Rocks Community College administration (Denver, CO).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2012, September). Forensic evaluation: Reliability, validity, quality, and other minor details. Invited presentation at the Annual Forensic Examiners Training Conference (Denver, CO).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2012, June). Forensic evaluation: Reliability, validity, quality, and other minor details. Invited presentation at the Annual Forensic Examiners Training Conference (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2012, June). Assessment and management of violence risk. Invited presentation at the Annual Forensic Examiners Training Conference (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2010, September). The roles of the police, providers and the public with the criminally mentally ill. Invited symposium for the Society of Police and Criminal Psychologists national conference (Honolulu, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2010, September). The reliability of forensic evaluations in Hawaii. Invited presentation for the State of Hawaii Forensic Examiner Training (Honolulu, HI).
- Amano, R., Iboshi, C. & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2009, September). Intersection of the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Systems: Collaboration or Competition? Symposium conducted at Professionals Redefining Options for the Mentally Ill through Skills and Education (PROMISE) Conference (Hilo, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2008, March). Eco-worriers to Eco-warriors: The Role of Ecopsychology. Invited keynote at Laulima Conference on Environmental Awareness and Action (Honolulu, HI).
- Amano, R. & **Gowensmith, W. N.** (2007, September). Mental Health Courts and Calendars: Reducing Recidivism & Risk for Violence. Invited symposium conducted at Kauai Judicial Complex (Lihue, HI).
- Gowensmith, W. N.** (2005, May). Ecopsychology: It's not Easy Being Green. Invited symposium for Watada Lecturer of Excellence Series at University of Hawaii. (Honolulu, HI).