

Vivian Chern Shnaidman, MD: A Trailblazer in Forensic Psychiatry and Legal Consultation

Bridging the Gap Between Mental Health and the Legal System with Expertise, Insight, and Dedication



New York City, New York Aug 24, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Vivian Chern Shnaidman, MD, is a distinguished board-certified forensic psychiatrist whose remarkable career spans more than three decades at the nexus of psychiatry and the law. Renowned for her expertise, eloquence, and insightful analyses, Dr. Shnaidman has become a sought-after authority in both legal and academic circles, as well as in media and public forums. Her work demonstrates a profound commitment to advancing the understanding of mental health in judicial contexts while fostering the well-being of her patients.

A graduate of Bryn Mawr College with a Bachelor of Arts in Experimental Psychology, Dr. Shnaidman went on to earn her Medical Degree from the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. She completed her internship in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, before pursuing rigorous psychiatric residencies at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx and at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Shnaidman then distinguished herself through the prestigious New York University Fellowship Program in Psychiatry and the Law, a program designed to integrate psychiatric expertise into the legal system at the highest level.

Credentialed in both General Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Dr. Shnaidman has provided expert psychiatric evaluations in more than 1,000 court cases and has appeared before the courts approximately 200 times across New Jersey and New York. Her professional acumen has made her an invaluable resource for attorneys navigating complex legal matters, including criminal, civil, and family law cases. Through her meticulous analyses and articulate testimony, she has contributed substantially to judicial understanding of mental health issues, serving as a bridge between the legal system and psychiatric science.

In addition to her work in the courtroom, Dr. Shnaidman is a committed clinician who maintains a thriving private practice in Princeton, New Jersey, under Jersey Forensic Consulting, LLC. She is deeply invested in patient-centered care, seeking to work with individuals who value themselves and are ready to commit to improving their mental health. She emphasizes collaborative exploration of treatment options, striving to identify modalities that yield the best long-term outcomes. Dr. Shnaidman's approach is grounded in the belief that while medication can play a critical role, the ultimate goal is to empower patients to realize their potential, achieve happiness, and create fulfilling lives. She describes the experience of seeing her patients thrive as "extremely rewarding," reflecting her passion for psychiatry and commitment to ongoing learning in the field.

As an academic, Dr. Shnaidman serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Rutgers University's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, New Jersey. In this role, she mentors medical students, residents, and fellows, imparting her extensive knowledge of psychiatric principles and forensic applications. Her academic contributions extend beyond teaching, as she is a prolific speaker at both national and international conferences, discussing developments in forensic psychiatry, the integration of mental health in legal contexts, and best practices for evaluation and treatment.

Dr. Shnaidman is also an accomplished author whose written work spans both professional and creative arenas. Her landmark text, *Forensic Psychiatry: A Lawyer's Guide* (Elsevier, 2016), serves as an essential resource for legal practitioners seeking to understand psychiatric concepts and integrate expert testimony effectively in court proceedings. The book reflects her unique ability to translate complex psychiatric concepts into clear, practical guidance for legal professionals. Beyond her academic contributions, Dr. Shnaidman has published two works of fiction—*Loosening of Associations* and *Homicidal Intent* with Random House—highlighting her versatility and narrative skill. Her writings, both factual and fictional, showcase her ability to blend insight, storytelling, and a deep understanding of human behavior.

Her expertise is frequently sought by media outlets, where she has shared her insights on numerous television and radio programs ranging from local to international platforms. Through these appearances, Dr. Shnaidman educates audiences on the nuances of forensic psychiatry, legal mental health issues, and the intersection of psychological science and judicial decision-making. Her public commentary demonstrates a rare combination of authoritative knowledge and accessible communication, making her a respected voice in the public discourse on mental health.

Dr. Shnaidman maintains active membership in several leading professional organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law. These affiliations reflect her commitment to professional development, collaborative practice, and staying at the forefront of advancements in psychiatric research and forensic application.

Throughout her career, Dr. Shnaidman has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to both her patients and the broader field of psychiatry. Her forensic evaluations, which have been cited in over fifty published court cases and countless additional proceedings, are characterized by meticulous attention to detail, impartiality, and clarity. In the clinical setting, she prioritizes individualized treatment planning, incorporating evidence-based interventions while maintaining a compassionate, patient-focused approach.

Whether in courtrooms, lecture halls, media studios, or clinical practice, Dr. Shnaidman exemplifies the fusion of intellectual rigor, empathy, and communicative excellence. She is deeply passionate about psychiatry, viewing every day as an opportunity to learn, teach, and contribute meaningfully to the mental health and legal communities. Her dedication to guiding patients toward improved mental health, coupled with her extensive legal expertise, positions her as a pioneering figure in forensic psychiatry.

Dr. Shnaidman's career trajectory reflects not only a profound mastery of her field but also a remarkable capacity to educate, inspire, and empower others. She continues to influence the evolution of forensic psychiatry through her clinical work, scholarly contributions, media presence, and public speaking engagements. By integrating rigorous scientific methodology, ethical practice, and compassionate care, she has set a benchmark for excellence in both psychiatry and the law.

In summary, Dr. Vivian Chern Shnaidman's multifaceted career is a testament to her exceptional expertise, dedication, and versatility. With a foundation built on rigorous education, board-certified specialization, and decades of experience, she remains a preeminent authority in forensic psychiatry. Her contributions have shaped legal proceedings, advanced psychiatric understanding, and enriched the lives of her patients and the professional community alike. Through her work, Dr. Shnaidman continues to demonstrate the transformative potential of combining clinical acumen with a profound understanding of the law, embodying the ideal of a psychiatrist who serves both the individual and society.

Learn More about Dr. Vivian Chern Shnaidman:

Through her findatopdoc profile,

<https://www.findatopdoc.com/doctor/627346-Vivian-Chern-Shnaidman-Psychiatrist> or through Jersey Forensic Consulting, LLC, <https://jerseyforensicconsulting.com/about-vivian-shnaidman>

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Media Contact

Your Health Contact

*****@yourhealthcontact.com

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