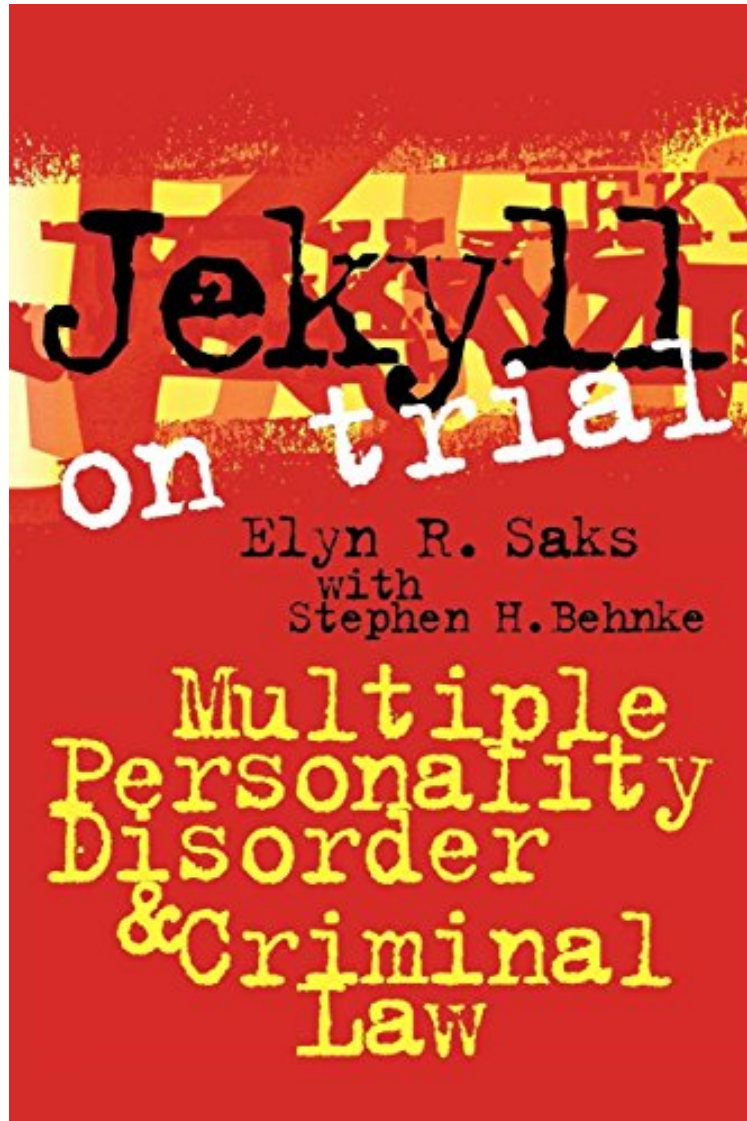


(Free) Jekyll on Trial: Multiple Personality Disorder and Criminal Law

Jekyll on Trial: Multiple Personality Disorder and Criminal Law

Elyn R. Saks, Stephen H. Behnke

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Elyn R. Saks, Stephen H. Behnke : Jekyll on Trial: Multiple Personality Disorder and Criminal Law before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jekyll on Trial: Multiple Personality Disorder and Criminal Law:

7 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Jekyll on Trial By A Customer My son who is now in his late 20s and in legal trouble has been diagnosed with multiple personality disorder and bipolar disorder. Reading this book has helped me tremendously understand the disease and assist in his legal defense as well as his healing. I highly recommend it due to its ease of reading and factual information. Had I read this book when he was in his teens,

perhaps the problems he now faces would not have occurred.

The idea that multiple personalities can exist within the same body has long captured the Western imagination. From *Three Faces of Eve* to *Sybil*, from *Pyscho* to *Raising Caine*, from *60 Minutes* to *Oprah* to *One Life to Live*, we are captivated by the fate of multiples who, divided against themselves, wreak havoc in the lives of others. Why do we find multiple personality disorder (MPD) so fascinating? Perhaps because each of us is aware of a dividedness within ourselves: we often feel as if we are one person on the job, another with our families, another with our friends and lovers. We may fantasize that these inner discrepancies will someday break free, that within us lie other personalities--genius, lover, criminal--that will take us over and render us strangers to our very selves. What happens when such a transformation literally occurs, when an alter personality surfaces and commits some heinous deed? What do we do when a Billy Milligan is arrested for a series of rapes and robberies, of which the original personality, Billy, is utterly oblivious? What happens when a Juanita Maxwell, taken over by her alter personality, Wanda, becomes enraged and commits a murder which would horrify Juanita? Who really committed these deeds? Are alter personalities people? Are they centers of consciousness which are akin to people? Mere parts of a deeply divided person? Who should held accountable for the crimes? Which is more appropriate--punishment or treatment? In *Jekyll on Trial*, Elyn R. Saks carefully delineates how MPD forces us to re-examine our central concepts of personhood, responsibility, and punishment. Drawing on law, psychiatry, and philosophy, Saks explores the nature of alter personalities, and shows how different conceptualizations bear on criminal responsibility. A wide-ranging and deeply informed book, *Jekyll on Trial* is must reading for anyone interested in law, criminal justice, psychiatry, or human behavior.

From *Library Journal* Were Dr. Jekyll and Norman Bates criminally responsible for their actions? Yes for Jekyll, no for Bates, according to law professor Saks. Like Daniel Robinson's *Wild Beasts Idle Humours: The Insanity Defense from Antiquity to the Present* (LJ 11/15/96), Saks's book is a scholarly examination of the intersection of mental illness and the criminal justice system. Saks focuses exclusively on multiple personality, a controversial and only recently recognized mental disorder. The philosophical underpinnings that frame the legal questions of culpability, punishment, and competence to stand trial are examined and provide the background for the author's proposals for applicable legal rules. A chapter is devoted to related disorders, such as dissociative amnesia, and an appendix examines the technical issues of assessment techniques, empirical studies of differences between multiple personalities, and treatment options. Highly recommended for academic libraries. ?Patrick Petit, Catholic Univ. Law Lib., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Saks focuses exclusively on multiple personality, a controversial and only recently recognized mental disorder. The philosophical underpinnings that frame the legal questions of culpability, punishment, and competence to stand trial are examined and provide the background for the author's proposals for applicable legal rules. Highly recommended." -*Library Journal* "A thoughtful and thought-provoking exploration of how our criminal justice system should handle an increasingly common mental illness known as multiple personality disorder." - *Georgetown Law Journal* "A provocative study of a controversial topic. . . . Saks' analyses are always clear and incisive, comprehensible even when their premises and reasoning are unfamiliar and their conclusions surprising." - *Psychiatric Services* From the Back Cover Why do we find multiple personality disorder (MPD) so fascinating? Perhaps because each of us is aware of a dividedness within ourselves: we often feel as if we are one person on the job, another with our families, another with our friends and lovers. We may fantasize that these inner discrepancies will someday break free, that within us lie other personalities - genius, lover, criminal - that will take us over and render us strangers to our very selves. What happens when such a transformation literally occurs, when an alter personality surfaces and commits some heinous deed? In *Jekyll on Trial*, Elyn R. Saks carefully delineates how MPD forces us to re-examine our central concepts of personhood, responsibility, and punishment. Drawing on law, psychiatry, and philosophy, Saks explores the nature of alter personalities, and shows how different conceptualizations bear on criminal responsibility. A wide-ranging and deeply informed book, *Jekyll on Trial* is must reading for anyone interested in law, criminal justice, psychiatry, or human behavior.