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**Subject:** Why is it important to use available scientific research when representing DV survivors in court?

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**"A must for every practitioner who is representing abuse survivors ..."**

## Representing the Domestic Violence Survivor

By Barry Goldstein, J.D. and Elizabeth Liu, J.D.

### Why is it important to use available scientific research when representing DV survivors in court?

Advocates can use current research to challenge incompetent mental health professionals as well as seek genuine experts to provide the court with more accurate information. There are many court decisions on the books with incorrect conclusions and dangerous rulings that were based on the use of outdated or discredited approaches and practices. If new, up-to-date research is raised at the trial level, attorneys can use it to help support an appeal or as a change of circumstance.

### This important new book helps you present domestic violence cases in the most effective way possible and provide better protection for survivors and children. You'll discover:

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- \* What current scientific research is telling us about violence and victim behavior and how to use this new knowledge on your client's behalf
- \* How common practices used in custody and other courts fail to protect victims of domestic violence and how to prevail against these unfair and harmful practices
- \* How to focus the court's attention on issues and approaches that promote the safety of mothers and children

"Abusers and their allies have a seemingly endless series of legal tricks up their sleeve. The publication of this book is a blow for justice." — **Lundy Bancroft**, author of *The Batterer as Parent*

"... this book will help attorneys overcome the advantages abusers have in court and in the process help good judges learn the best ways to protect children and avoid being manipulated by common abuser tactics." — **Rita Smith, Executive Director, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

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## Successful advocacy for DV survivors begins here...

Build a compelling case by proving a pattern of abuse

Prepare for and respond to unfair legal tactics abusers are known to employ

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Effectively work with—and challenge, if necessary—court-appointed "neutral" parties such as guardians ad litem and forensic psychologists

Create a "safety plan" for every victim

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"Goldstein and Liu have given those who serve survivors the platform for competent advocacy."

—\*Margaret B. Drew, J.D., LL.M.,  
Domestic Violence Consultant

