In The Handbook of Forensic Rorschach Assessment, editors Carl B. Gacono and Barton Evans underscore the unique contribution the Rorschach makes to forensic practice. The chapters, all of which include the expertise of a licensed practicing forensic psychologist, offer a systematic approach to personality assessment when presenting use of the Rorschach in specific forensic contexts.

The book opens with essential information related to the scientific and legal basis of the Rorschach. This section covers fundamental elements for preparing informed court testimony, including admissibility of the Rorschach, the authority of the Rorschach, Rorschach assessment of malingering and defensive response, and presenting and defending Rorschach testimony. Part II addresses models for using the Rorschach in typical forensic evaluations in both criminal and civil cases. The section to follow presents updated references samples for various forensic populations. Gacono and Evans conclude with useful models for the Rorschach use in specialized areas of forensic practice, such as battered women, immigration court assessment, assessing impaired professionals, and working within the field of police psychology.

The Handbook of Forensic Rorschach Assessment is a comprehensive resource designed to guide psychologists in their forensic practice.

Covert art by Carl B. Gacono
My Personal Review:
Since John Exner's passing I have worried that there would be a drop off in solid publication regarding the Comprehensive System. I needn't worry. This book, and several others by good scientists and clinicians, is a good example of the sort of text that is needed.

Useful data for preparing for court appearances in here, along with excellent reviews of a number of areas. Some of the old material is melded nicely with newer data and interpretive approaches.

The chapters are pretty objective and based on strong, broad evidence. Many topics are covered well, and an example is the discussion of Lillenfeld's criticism of the Comprehensive System. No hysteria in the discussion, no venom, just effective and inclusive review.

The whole book is like that. This is refreshing to see, particularly since so much clinical psychology has become nothing but correlational studies and misleading statistical approaches (I'll scream if I see another ROC discussion).

The writing is good. Most edited books are, to me, pretty boring. This one is not. Every chapter is readable and informed, and the editing was done well.

This one goes near my desk, where I can reach it easily.

Now, if we could only see a good book on the MMPI-2-RF ...