

Eric Ström, JD, PhD, LMHC

**Part 1: Evolving Law & Ethics Standards of The Clinical
Use of Artificial Intelligence**

**Part 2: Retirement, Incapacity, Changes in Plans,
and Unforeseen Emergencies:**

Law & Ethics of Planning for Client Continuity of Care

**Fox Hall Events Center
1661 W. Bakerview Rd.
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON
Friday, May 1, 2026
8:20 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

THE PRESENTER: Eric Ström, JD, PhD, LMHC

Eric Ström is an attorney and Licensed Mental Health Counselor. As an attorney, Eric provides legal counsel, consultation, and guidance to mental health professionals. Eric's counseling practice is focused on providing counseling services to combat veterans and their families. Eric currently serves on the American Mental Health Counselors Association Ethics Committee and is the ethics advisor for the Washington Mental Health Counselors Association.

Eric also provides clinical supervision and consultation to mental health providers and has taught a range of courses in counseling and professional ethics at a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs.

Eric holds a PhD in Counseling from Oregon State University. He has also earned a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling Psychology from the Northwest School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Seattle, graduated cum laude from Wayne State University School of Law in Detroit, Michigan, attended the Hague Academy of International Law in the Hague, Netherlands, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics from the University of Michigan.



Part 1: Evolving Law & Ethics Standards of The Clinical Use of Artificial Intelligence

Part 2: Retirement, Incapacity, Changes in Plan and Unforeseen Emergencies: Law & Ethics of Planning for Client Continuity of Care

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Part 1

While new and emerging technologies can provide clinicians with powerful and effective clinical tools, such technologies also have the potential to create a range of new challenges. In this workshop we will address the specific legal and ethical implications of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning within the practice of behavioral health. We will identify and discuss the evolving standards found in federal law, state law, and in the professional codes of ethics. Participants will gain the ability to identify and implement a legally and ethically sound approach evaluating and implementing new AI technologies in clinical practice.

Part 2

Clinicians have an ethical and legal duty to ensure continuity of care when practice circumstances change—whether it be through retirement, relocation, illness, incapacity, or unexpected emergencies. This workshop provides a practical, law-and-ethics-centered roadmap for proactive planning for continuity of care across multiple circumstances.

This workshop will examine regulatory requirements, ethical standards, risk-management considerations, and real-world case examples. Topics include professional wills, transfer-of-care procedures, records management, communication plans, and strategies for minimizing client harm and clinician exposure to liability. Attendees will leave with concrete tools and concepts to strengthen preparedness and uphold best practices across the full life cycle of clinical practice.

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WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

After taking part in this training, participants will be able to:

Part 1:

1. Identify the emerging ethical standards relating to clinical use of AI
2. Apply federal HIPAA standards to the use of AI powered clinical tools
3. Create strategies to effectively evaluate the clinical applicability of new technologies
4. Apply legal and ethical standards regarding the use of AI to clinical practice

Part 2:

1. Identify the legal requirements related to continuity of care and maintenance of client records
2. Develop a continuity plan to address planned and unplanned termination of client services.
3. Create advance planning for ending a clinical practice such as through retirement.
4. Apply ethical and legal standards of client abandonment to the process of developing policies and procedures for termination and transfer of care.

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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

8:20 - 8:30 Opening Remarks

Part 1

8:30-8:45 Sources of Law and Ethics Standards

8:45-10:00 Artificial Intelligence: What is it? How is it being used in the clinical setting?

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-10:45 Clinical Standard of Care When Using AI

10:45-11:15 Ethical Considerations of the Clinical Use of AI

11:15-12:00 Legal Considerations of the Clinical Use of AI

12:00-1:00 Lunch Break

Part 2

1:00-1:30 Client abandonment; Terminations; Transfers of care

1:30-2:00 Estate Planning Documents: What is a Will? What is a PoA? "Professional wills;" Personal Representatives

2:00-2:30 Continuity Plans & Records; Custodians

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:15 Records retention rules

3:15-3:45 Closing a practice

3:45-4:15 Q&A

WHAT IS NWBHIPA?

What is NWBHIPA?

The Northwest Behavioral Health Independent Provider Association is a not-for-profit group of over 320 mental health providers throughout Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan counties in Washington State. The NWBHIPA is now in its 22nd year and is dedicated to providing quality mental health care that is safe and confidential to patients and collegial support and excellent educational opportunities to members. Membership in the NWBHIPA is available for a one-time fee of \$150. Benefits include discounted tuition to all NWBHIPA sponsored continuing education workshops.

This workshop is approved for 6 continuing education credits by the Northwest Behavioral Health Independent Providers Association (NWBHIPA). NWBHIPA is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. NWBHIPA maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

\$150 IPA members

\$180 Non IPA members

\$75 Student with current ID (limit of 10)

Late fee of \$15 added after April 23

\$150 IPA Membership one-time fee

Certificates of completion available to all attendees.

Registration includes lunch.

Pay ONLINE using Stripe or by check or money order payable to NWBHIPA and mailed to NWBHIPA, PO Box 1661, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1661.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Full refunds minus a \$25 processing fee will be offered with written requests received by April 23, 2026

ACCOMMODATIONS

Special room rates have been made available at the Best Western in Bellingham for \$119.00 per night plus 10.8% sales tax and \$3.00 per night Bellingham Tourism Promotion Tax. Reservations: (360) 676-7700. OR, COPY AND PASTE INTO YOUR WEB BROWSER TO BOOK YOUR ROOM ONLINE: https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotelrooms.48188.html?groupId=9U1LI9M7

PART 1: EVOLVING LAW & ETHICS STANDARDS OF THE CLINICAL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

PART 2: RETIREMENT, INCAPACITY, CHANGES IN PLANS, AND UNFORESEEN EMERGENCIES: LAW & ETHICS OF PLANNING FOR CLIENT CONTINUITY OF CARE

MAY 1, 2026

Register online here.

Register by mail here.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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