

**Topic:** Effects of Vicarious Trauma on Criminal Justice Professionals

**Speaker:**

- Name: Judith V. Becker, Ph.D.
- Title & Organization: Professor at the University of Arizona School of Sciences, Psychology Department.
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**Speaker Bio:**

Judith V. Becker, Ph.D., is a professor for UA School of Sciences, Psychology Department, where she teaches and researches issues regarding vicarious trauma, including research on victims of sexual abuses, those who commit sexual crimes, and those who have sexual disorders. She has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and started practicing in 1975. Today, she consults and testifies in criminal cases and focuses on work with attorneys exposed to trauma. She also conducts research on rapists and how they gain access to their victims.

**Attendance Numbers**

- 30 Students (roughly)
- 3 Professors and community members

**Review of Topic:**

The talk focused on vicarious trauma and how it affects professionals who deal with it throughout their career, i.e. attorneys, therapists, etc. Judith gave a fairly in-depth background on vicarious trauma, who is at risk, and the risk factors. She then touched on attorneys and gave a few tips, such as “Don’t read your case materials in bed or while eating.” She also suggested some aids available to attorneys who need helping dealing with vicarious trauma.

**Review of Speaker:**

I thought the speaker’s topic was great. However, I wish she had gone into more depth about the topic and how to deal with vicarious trauma throughout your career. The turnout was a bit low (likely due to conflicting events, such as the Lexis training session), and there were not many questions during the Q&A.