



CALIFORNIA  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

## CPA's Board of Directors Responds to APA Independent Review

To our Members,

The CPA Board of Directors, like you, has spent the last few days reviewing the independent report provided to the APA Board of Directors by Mr. David Hoffman, a partner in the law firm of Sidley Austin in Chicago, IL. APA requested that Mr. Hoffman address the question of whether APA officials colluded with the Department of Defense, CIA, or other government officials "to support torture". Mr. Hoffman reports that APA fully cooperated with the investigation. The 500+-page report is extraordinarily detailed and thorough and is available in its entirety at [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org). Our response is based on this profoundly important report.

We are appalled and disheartened at what the report reveals. The findings reveal not only an initial collusion between APA officials and those from the Department of Defense, but a continuing pattern of deceit that was aimed at misleading APA members and the public about this collusion. The report does not conclude that APA or anyone within it promoted torture. However, in its extensive effort to "curry favor" with the Department of Defense, APA lent support to the Department's interrogation program and thereby contributed to abuse by DoD and the CIA. It is disturbing and repellant to learn that our parent organization contributed to these abhorrent acts. The report describes a motivation to maintain intentionally "loose and porous" ethical constraints that allowed psychologist to participate in enhanced interrogations in the manner that DoD preferred, and to present a positive image to the public at the same time, during what was admittedly a very difficult and frightening time in our country. This was a violation of their responsibility and a betrayal of APA members and of our profession. These actions do not reflect who we are or our values as psychologists.

Our profession has a crucial role in society. CPA members and leaders share in the responsibility to ensure that our national organization safeguards the ethics of our field. We will watch, with you, to see how the APA Board of Directors moves forward with the recommendations included in their response to the report. Those of us who trusted the leaders of APA learn from this report that our trust was, in many cases, wholly misplaced. To the critics of APA, including CPA members, Chapters, and particularly our Monterey Bay Chapter that pushed tirelessly for accountability, we extend our humble thanks.

CPA will be submitting editorial comment to the news media to assure California consumers that psychology is a profession that values human dignity and human rights. CPA will also be communicating these same thoughts to APA in a letter that will be shared with our members.

Actions of central figures within APA over the past decade have wounded all of us. It is now incumbent on APA to move forward in a manner that will restore the integrity not only of APA but of our profession.

The CPA Board of Directors

Stephen Pfeiffer, PhD, President  
Jorge Wong, PhD, President-Elect  
Robert deMayo, PhD, ABPP, Past-President  
Harold Slater, PhD, Treasurer  
Cheryl Bowers, PhD, Director-at-Large  
April Fernando, PhD, Director-at-Large  
Janet Hurwich, PhD, Director-at-Large  
Paul Marcille, PhD, Director-at-Large  
Alyssa Aguilar, MA, CPAGS Representative to the Board  
Jo Linder-Crow, PhD, CEO, Staff