

William C. Howell, Ph.D.

Biography:

William C. Howell, PhD is currently retired but holds Adjunct Professorships at both Arizona State and Rice Universities. After earning his doctorate in 1958 from the University of Virginia, he joined the Aviation Psychology Laboratory at Ohio State University, eventually serving as its Director and holding a professorship in the OSU psychology department. In 1968 he moved to Rice University where he was instrumental in establishing the doctoral-level psychology department that he chaired for 17 years. On leave from Rice, he served as Chief Scientist for Human Resources for the USAF from 1989-92, and following that, was appointed Executive Officer for Science of the American Psychological Association (APA)—a position he held until his retirement in 1997. His research, mostly on topics in human performance and engineering psychology, has resulted in over 125 archival publications, and he has served on the editorial boards of ten journals including the associate editorship and editorship of *Human Factors*, the associate editorship of the *Journal of Applied Psychology* and currently, the associate editorship of the *American Psychologist*. He has held a variety of elected offices in the profession including President of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, President of the Applied Experimental and Engineering Psychology Division of APA, and Chair of both the Publications and Communications Board (current) and Board of Convention affairs of APA. He has served by appointment on over thirty advisory boards and committees, including the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Foundation and the National Research Council (NRC) Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (both current), and the Technical Advisory Board for the Navy's TADMUS program, which he chaired. He also has chaired the NRC standing Committee on Human Factors and four other NRC committees and study panels.

CERI Brown Bag Lunch Presentation Topic:

HF/E and Litigation: the rest of the story

Abstract: In a recent brown-bag, Michael Kuzel illustrated nicely and accurately the expert witness role for Human Factors and Ergonomics professionals in litigation. However, there's a lot more to it than any aspiring HF/E professional should know. My aim in this talk is to complete the picture by explaining the actual processes involved in engagement by attorneys, pre-trial activities, and actual litigation. Using examples drawn from several kinds of cases, we'll examine the ethical, scientific, and professional dilemmas that one faces, and the implications of the forensic role for the HF/E professional, the field and society.