



## American Psychology-Law Society

APA DIVISION 41

### Welcome to the February 2024 American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) Newsletter

Our monthly Newsletter provides information about activities, upcoming events, and resources to connect the psychology-law community.

AP-LS aspires to excel as a valuable, effective, and influential organization advancing the science of psychology-law and the translation of psychology-law knowledge into practice and policy.



### Passing of N. Dickon Reppucci

On Sunday, December 24th, 2023, community psychology lost a giant in our field—N. Dickon Reppucci, Professor of Psychology Emeritus at the University of Virginia. After a brief illness, he passed away in a Charlottesville hospital at the age of 82, with his family by his side. Dick was a bear of a man, with a booming voice and a heart of gold. He was an unforgettable, inspirational, and beloved presence in the lives of so many. Continuing reading [HERE](#).

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**Congratulations!**

The Teachers, Training, and Careers Committee congratulates its 10 newly selected participants in the Embracing Leadership program. The program was complete. The selected participants showed great leadership potential, and we look forward to their future leadership throughout AP-LS.

*Megan Irgins  
Cortney Simmons  
Marina Muhkin  
Ahmar Zaman  
Kaitlin Sheerin  
Ayanna Payne  
Maribelle Leon  
Karen Grabowski  
Andrew Bustos  
Veronica Acosta*

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## **AP-LS holds onto its two representatives to APA Council for 2025**

The results of the 2023 APA Apportionment Ballot are in. With just 261 of our members voting, Division 41 received enough votes to retain its two seats on APA Council of Representatives. We urge you to consider voting in the next apportionment election. If only 36 additional members had cast all 10 of their votes for Division 41, we would have a third representative to Council. Alternatively, consider casting more of your 10 votes for Division 41. If everyone who did vote gave just 2 more of their votes to AP-LS, we would have that 3rd seat. Your APA representatives have been working hard to advance APA policy on issues that are central to the AP-LS mission: greater inclusivity in membership by removing the felony status question from the APA membership application, passing APA policy on interrogations that reflects the science described in our scientific review paper on the topic, and the establishment of the Committee to Advance General Applied Psychology. At the upcoming February meeting, your representatives will be working to pass policy protecting the rights of parents with disabilities and recommending against the solitary confinement of juveniles.

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## **Combating International Child Abduction: Understanding the Benefits and Drawbacks Created by the Hague Convention**

International child abduction by a family member is not as common as intranational child abduction by a family member, but the concerns involved in international child abduction are particularly concerning given the inevitable legal hurdles created by the global context. International child kidnapping still occurs at an alarming rate and, as detailed in this article, understanding the mechanics of the current solution - the Hague Convention - is critical to lowering the number of abductions and returning children to their home country. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

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## **APA Dissertation Research Award**

APA Science Directorate's Dissertation Research Award program offers three grants of \$10,000 and seven grants of \$5,000 to doctoral students in psychological science. Apply by **March 1, 2024**. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## 2024 AP-LS Conference Registration

Registration for the 2024 AP-LS conference in Los Angeles, California is open! You can register for the conference on the AP-LS website or by clicking [HERE](#). The AP-LS website also has the draft program and more information for presenters: <https://ap-ls.org/conferences/>

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## 2024 AP-LS Conference Hotel Information

This year's conference is at the Westin Bonaventure in Downtown Los Angeles. AP-LS has rooms set aside for all attendees, which can be booked at a special group rate that is available for attendees from March 19th through March 24th. Attendees must book their room by **February 25th, 2024** using our booking link [HERE](#).

The hotel has valet parking for \$38 per car per night that attendees may also take advantage of during their stay. For attendees flying into Los Angeles, the LAX FlyAway runs from LAX to the Union Station train station in downtown LA and is \$10. The LAX FlyAway runs from LAX every 30 minutes and from Union Station every hour. Union Station is a short uber or cab ride to the hotel but is a great option for individuals arriving alone as Ubers and cabs directly from the airport can be costly. Please [click here](#) for more information on the LAX FlyAway.

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## 2024 AP-LS Conference: Plenary Abstracts

### THURSDAY: A New Frontier: Using Psychology to Strengthen Forensic Science Policy and Practice

ABSTRACT: From crime labs to autopsies, improper forensic science is a leading cause of known wrongful convictions—yet it has historically received less research attention than other such causes. That tide is now turning, as researchers are shedding light on the potential for unconscious bias and human error in forensic experts' decisions and working with community partners to strengthen forensic science policy and practice. In this session, a panel of psychologists, practitioners, attorneys, and policy experts will discuss ongoing progress and future directions in terms of rectifying past injustices and optimizing the human element of forensic science.

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### FRIDAY: Beyond a competency crisis: California innovations addressing serious mental illness in the criminal legal system

ABSTRACT: For at least the past decade, the United States has experienced a grave “competency crisis,” That is, orders for competency evaluation and restoration have been increasing far more than states can provide the mandated restoration services. One consequence of this public mental health crisis are lengthy waitlists of defendants with psychiatric illness, waiting for many months in jails for restoration treatment, as their symptoms grow worse. These conditions have prompted lawsuits and reform efforts in many states, though most states still struggle to provide the mandated services to defendants with severe mental illness. Amid this crisis, California is worth watching. Their waitlist reached nearly 2,000 (second largest in

the country), but through a variety of innovative practices has dropped drastically. This panel features California leaders who model strategic practices to address the competence crisis. Psychiatrist Kate Warburton, director of the Department of State Hospitals, has overseen broad system reform efforts that extend far beyond the state hospitals. Psychiatrist Kristen Ochoa has overseen a one-of-a-kind outpatient restoration program for Los Angeles County. Finally, Judge James Bianco has been an innovator in his own docket, and a national voice in addressing the competency systems.

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## **SATURDAY: The Creation of a Young Adult Court: A New Approach to Justice**

ABSTRACT: To achieve social justice, courts must find new ways to respond to those who engage in criminal behavior. It is well known that the “felon” label produces a wide variety of collateral consequences (e.g., employment, education, housing, voting) and the effects are even worse for young men of color. In an attempt to change how the justice system responds to felony offenses, Orange County, CA created a Young Adult Court (YAC) for young men between the ages of 18 and 25. The goal of this program is to reduce recidivism and promote positive life outcomes by (1) providing developmentally appropriate support to participants of the program and (2) permit them the opportunity to have their felony charge reduced to a misdemeanor or dismissed. To highlight how this court was created, the Presiding Judge of Orange County will describe what it takes to implement a Young Adult Court. The District Attorney and Public Defender will highlight the challenges each of their offices face. Finally, Dr. Cauffman will present preliminary data from the randomized control trial to provide insight into the effectiveness as well as the challenges between those processed in Young Adult Court and those processed through the traditional court system.

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## **Practice Committee Sponsored Events at the 2024 AP-LS Conference**

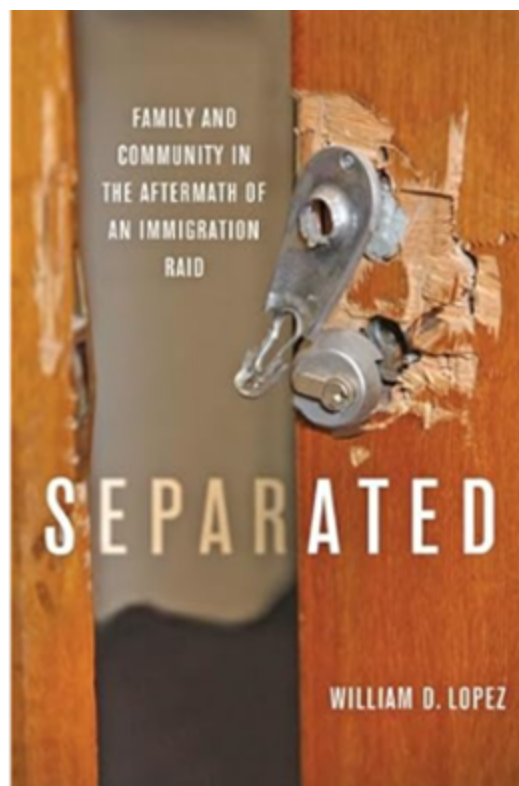
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**Dr. William D. Lopez, PhD, MPH, Author of “Separated: Family and Community in the Aftermath of an Immigration Raid” taking place on Friday, 3/22/2024 at 9:15-10:35am**

The Practice Committee is honored to sponsor the presentation: “Separated: Family and Community in the Aftermath of an Immigration Raid.” Dr. William D. Lopez is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and the author of the book, [\*Separated: Family and Community in the Aftermath of an Immigration Raid\*](#) and currently working on a second book, [\*ICE in the Heartland\*](#), which details the impacts of and advocacy around the large-scale worksite raids that occurred under President Trump.

Dr. William’s community-based research uses mixed methods to investigate [the impacts of immigration raids while centering the voices of community members](#) who survive and thrive under targeted government surveillance and removal

efforts. The session discusses how immigration policies impact individual mental health and well-being as well as community trust in public institutions such as law enforcement and health care. Dr. Lopez will discuss the mental health impacts of immigration detention on families and how various immigration policies can create community disruption and trauma. He will also highlight the ways in which racial profiling is integrated into immigration enforcement practices.



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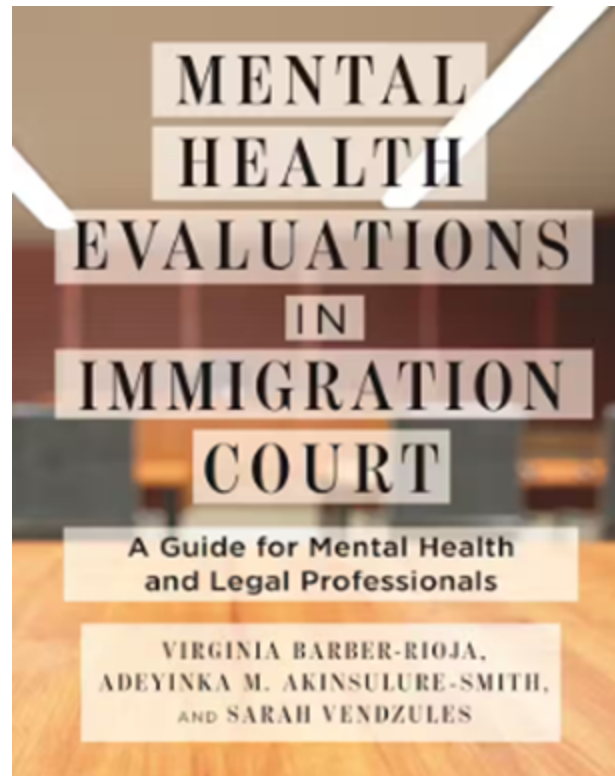
**Panel Discussion: Forensic Mental Health (FMH) evaluations in immigration courts: Legal, practice, and social justice considerations. Saturday, 03/23/2024 from 1:30pm to 2:50pm**

The panel discussion will be led by Virginia Barber-Rioja, Ph.D., who is an Adjunct Professor in the Psychology Department at New York University and Sarah Vendzules, Esq., who is a Senior Staff Attorney at the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York. Dr. Barber-Rioja and Ms. Vendzules are co-authors in the book, [“Mental Health Evaluations in Immigration Court: A Guide for Mental Health and Legal Professionals”](#) which was released by New York University Press in 2022. The panelists will discuss the state of immigration law and contexts in which these evaluations take place. The panelists will share their unique perspectives and experiences of the collaborative work between legal professionals and psychologists in these settings. A moderated Q&A will follow.

Practitioner’s networking event: Do you identify as a practitioner either full or part-time? Are you a student interested in Psychology and the Law practice? Join other practitioners for our committee-sponsored networking event on Saturday, 03/23/2024 at 3-4pm. It is an opportunity to meet practitioners across various geographical regions/practice contexts, make new professional connections, and reconnect with old friends. We look forward to seeing you. Light snacks and refreshments will be available.

“I am a Practitioner Campaign:” In the spirit of facilitating networking across the conference, practitioners will be provided an “I am a Practitioner” ribbon for their

ID badge so that we can easily identify each other and network. We look forward to meeting all of you!



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## Call for Book Proposals

The American Psychology-Law Society invites proposals for new titles in its book series, which is now published by [APA Books](#). We publish authored and edited volumes on current issues at the intersection of psychology and law. Books are typically a state of the science synthesis of a body of existing research with implications for practice and/or policy. Authors and editors should have a substantial and recent track record of publication and/or practice in psychology or law, and at least one should hold a doctorate in psychology or closely related behavioral science. If you have a proposal for a new book in the series or you would simply like more information, reach out to a member of the editorial team. We would be happy to tell you more.

The editorial board members are:

- Monica Miller, Division 41 Book Series Editor ([mkmiller@unr.edu](mailto:mkmiller@unr.edu))
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## Executive Committee

For more information or if you wish to contact a member of the AP-LS Executive Committee, details can be found [here](#).

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## On The Job or Postdoc Market? AP-LS Job Postings



Check out [AP-LS's Job Postings Page](#) for up-to-date information on available psychology-law positions.

[View Job Postings](#)

### Newsletter Editorial Board

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### Membership Services

AP-LS seeks to advance the science of psychology - law and the translation of psychology - law knowledge into practice. Our mission is to enhance the well-being, justice, and human rights through science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.

### Newsletter Archives

Archives of the newsletter are available at <https://ap-ls.org/newsletter>.

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American Psychology-Law Society

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