



American Psychology-Law Society

APA DIVISION 41

Welcome to the March 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.



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 final program grid and more information for presenters: <https://ap-ls.org/conferences/>

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.

Student Committee Session: Bridging the Gap: How Technology is Changing Diagnostic Practices

This year's Bridging the Gap seminar will explore the use of virtual mediums in assessment and treatment within forensic psychology, showcasing how cutting-edge technologies are revolutionizing investigative and diagnostic practices. Our expert panel will discuss the latest AI-driven and technology-based assessment tools as well as the ethical considerations surrounding their use in the criminal justice system. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the potential of technology in criminal investigations, assessment of those accused of committing crimes, and improving the overall efficiency of forensic psychology. This session will take place at the AP-LS conference in Los Angeles in Santa Anita B & C on **Saturday March 23rd at 1:30-2:45pm**.

Corrections Committee Panel: Advocacy in Correctional Practice

Join the Corrections Committee in Los Angeles for an all-star panel on Advocacy in Correctional Practice. Panelists include Rahsaan "New York" Thomas, co-host and co-producer of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated *EarHustle* podcast, and Ronnie Villeda, Executive Director of Hoops4Justice and youth justice advocate whose case influenced California's Prop 57 decision. We'll also be joined by Dr. Rogelio Serrano, an Advanced Care Psychologist at the Federal Correctional Institution in Terminal Island, and Dr. Sarah Miller, Director of Forensic Services in Maine. The session will be moderated by Dr. Ashley Batastini (Corrections Committee chair) with the award-winning Dr. Apryl Alexander as our discussant. Mark your schedule for **Saturday 9:15-10:35am** in San Gabriel A & B. We promise you won't want to miss this one!

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.

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.

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

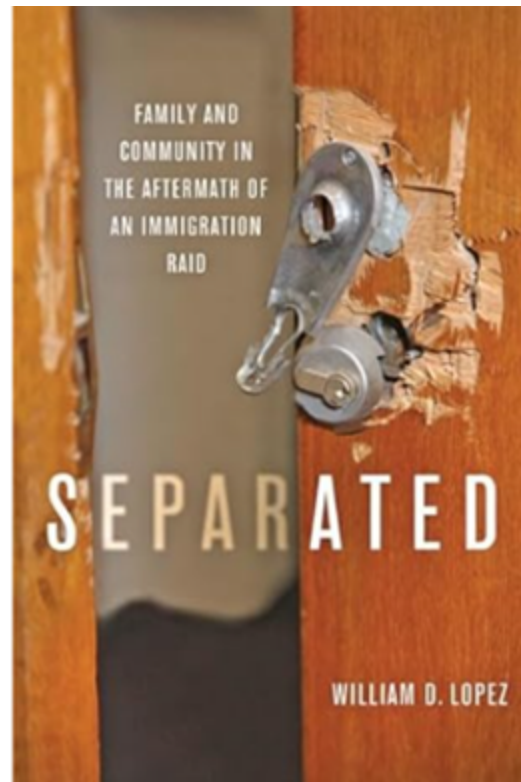
ABSTRACT: To achieve social justice, courts must find new ways to respond to those who engage in criminal behavior. It is well known that the “felon” label produces a wide variety of collateral consequences (e.g., employment, education, housing, voting) and the effects are even worse for young men of 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.

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

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 9:15-10:35 am*

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.



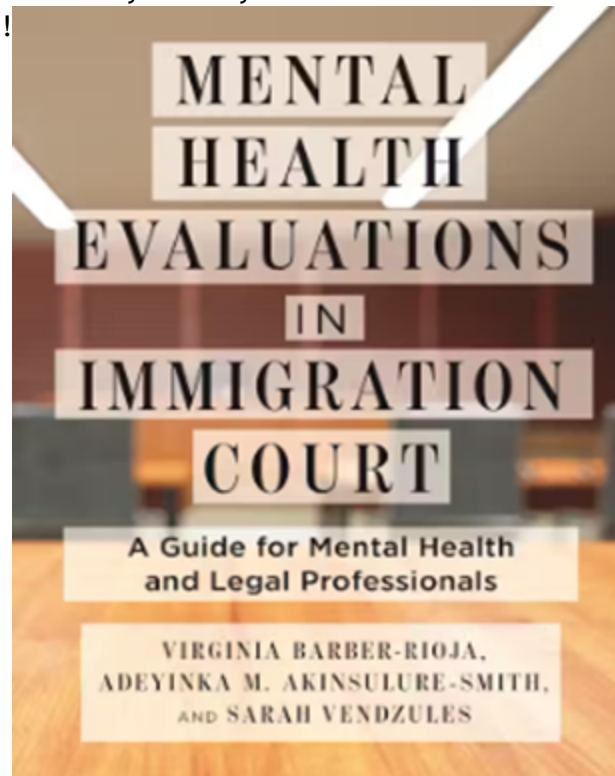
Panel Discussion: Forensic Mental Health (FMH) evaluations in immigration courts: Legal, practice, and social justice considerations. *Saturday, 03/23/2024 from 1:30-2:50pm*

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 3:00-4:00pm. 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!



Upcoming Science Training from APA

APA is offering the following science trainings in March and April. Click on the session title for more information and to register.

- **March 20, 2024:** [Indigenous Knowledges as Research Methodologies in Psychology: Anticolonial Applications of Indigenous Ways of Knowing by Native Psychologists](#)
Presenters: Joseph P. Gone, PhD (Aaniiih-Gros Ventre), Maria C. Crouch, PhD (Deg Hit’an and Coahuiltecan), Emma Elliott, PhD (Cowichan Tribes), Jill Fish, PhD (Tuscarora Nation), and Haley Shea, PhD (Miami Tribe of Oklahoma)

Presented in collaboration with APA Division 5 (Quantitative and Qualitative Methods) and The Society of Indian Psychologists.

- **March 26, 2024:** [Introduction to Social Network Analysis](#)
Presenter: Tracy Sweet, PhD
- **April 26, 2024:** [Introduction to Factor Analysis](#)
Presenter: A. Nayena Blankson, PhD

- **April 30, 2024:** [An Introduction to Eye-Tracking Methods and Research Designs in Psychology](#)
Presenter: Jacob L. Orquin, PhD

Early Career Professional's Committee Mentoring Program

In 2023, the Early Career Professional's Committee introduced a mentoring program for early career researchers who plan to apply for the Grant in Aid (GiA). Through the mentoring program, applicants can connect with a researcher who was awarded the GiA in the past and ask them questions regarding their experience with the grant, the application process (beyond practical information provided in the general guidance), the role the grant had in their career, or questions related to their proposal. If you plan to apply for the ECP GiA, please make sure to consider the mentoring program-information available [online!](#)

Call for Applications for the 2024 American Academy of Forensic Psychology Dissertation Grants in Applied Law/Psychology

A committee of AAFP fellows reviews applications and grants of up to \$2000 will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Potential contribution of the dissertation to applied law-psychology
- Methodological soundness/experimental design
- Budgetary needs, review of applicant's personal statement

Students in the process of developing a dissertation proposal and those collecting dissertation data as of March 31 are eligible for the grants for the coming year.*

To apply, students must submit electronic copies of the following no later than March 31st (incomplete applications will not be considered):

A letter from the applicant including:

- A summary of interest and career goals in the area of law and psychology
- The proposed research and its timeline
- The dissertation budget, award amount requested, and how the award will be used
- Current status of approval from the relevant committees and IRB (funds cannot be awarded until IRB approval is complete, if necessary).
- A current CV

- A letter (no longer than one page) from the applicant's dissertation chair/supervisor offering their support of the applicant, confirming that the dissertation proposal has been or is expected to be approved and will be conducted as detailed in the applicant's letter.

Submissions should be e-mailed no later than **March 31st** to the President-Elect of AAFP, James Mikesell at jwmikesellphd@gmail.com. Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt within five business days from the deadline. Questions or inquiries regarding the award competition or receipt of application should be directed to the President-Elect of AAFP. Contact information appears below.

**Please note that this is a grant for original research, rather than an award for research that has been completed.*

AP-LS 2024 Dissertation Award Winners

1st Place

Name: Jacqueline Katzman, PhD

Email: jkatzman@jjay.cuny.edu

Title: Examining the role of evidence-based suspicion in racial disparities in wrongful convictions

Affiliation: John Jay College, The Graduate Center (CUNY)

Advisor: Margaret Bull Kovera, PhD

Abstract: My dissertation examined mechanisms that contribute to racial disparities in exoneration data, focusing on racial disparities in the base rate of culprit-present lineups. Study 1 explored whether racial disparities in evidence-based suspicion provide a better explanation of racial disparities in exonerations based on eyewitness misidentification than the own-race bias. Study 2 examined whether defense attorneys are less sensitive to prior evidence of guilt when the defendant is Black rather than White. Findings demonstrated that racial disparities in exoneration data are likely the result of disparate policing practices and that attorneys may struggle to make race neutral evaluations of pre-identification evidence.

2nd Place

Name: Lauren J. Grove, PhD

Email address: ljgrove36728@gmail.com

Title of dissertation: An analysis of the sophistication-maturity of justice and non-justice involved youth and young adults

Affiliation: Montclair State University

Name of your advisor: Christopher M. King, JD, PhD

Abstract: Forensic evaluators often assess three psycholegal factors relevant to juvenile transfer. Of these factors, sophistication-maturity—in which the law is concerned with the extent to which a juvenile defendant's sophistication-maturity parallels that of an adult—has been challenging to apply in practice. RSTI measured sophistication-maturity was assessed among justice-involved and non-justice involved young adults and justice-involved youth. The RSTI's sophistication-maturity scale demonstrated moderate to good interrater reliability with young adults. Justice-involved young adults exhibited significantly higher levels of sophistication-maturity than justice-involved adolescents, suggesting that they may constitute an important comparison group for interpreting youths' sophistication-maturity for transfer.

3rd Place

Name: Cassandra Flick, PhD

Email: cassandra.flick@und.edu

Title: Police use of force incidents: Layperson perceptions of reasonableness and legal decision-making through the lens of the Reasonable Officer Standard

Affiliation: University of Wyoming

Advisor: Kimberly Schweitzer, PhD

Abstract: I examined how factors related to the reasonable officer standard (ROS) - the legal decision-making basis in excessive UOF cases - impacted layperson (Study 1) and mock juror (Study 2) decisions ($N = 1,462$). Study 1 indicated laypersons considered ROS-related factors, specifically civilian resistance level and civilian injury severity, in ways that are inconsistent with ROS law and policy. However, Study 2 suggested mock jurors made legally correct decisions that were in line with the ROS. The presence of expert testimony on the ROS increased this likelihood. Across studies, individual-level differences regarding attitudes towards police legitimacy had a direct influence on judgements.

All dissertation award winners present a poster of their winning dissertation research during the Friday night poster session at AP-LS!

The AP-LS Teaching, Training, and Careers (TTC) Committee recognizes Dr. Jeff Kukucka and Dr. Margaret Stevenson through Awards for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in the Field of Psychology and Law

Each year, AP-LS and the TTC Committee recognize two of our members with the *Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in the Field of Psychology and Law Awards*. This year, these awards are specific to members who have taught and mentored trainees at the undergraduate or MA level. Please join us in congratulating the following members for their outstanding work and contributions to teaching and mentoring in the field of psychology and law:

2024 Early Career Teaching and Mentoring Award

Jeff Kukucka, PhD

Associate Professor of Psychology

Towson University

2024 Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award

Margaret Stevenson, PhD

Associate Professor of Psychology

Kenyon College

Next year's awards will recognize two members who teach or mentor in doctoral or post-doctoral programs. Applications will be due **December 15, 2024**, and will be announced in the AP-LS Newsletter this Fall. Anyone interested in submitting for these awards can find more information at <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-41/awards/teaching> or by emailing ttc@ap-ls.org

Career Corner with Lindsey Wylie

The Career Corner is intended to highlight individuals who work at the intersection of law and psychology, where they come from, how they got there, and how their experiences influence their research, teaching, and/or practice. This edition of the Career Corner profiles Dr. Lindsey Wylie, J.D., Ph.D., Senior Court Research Associate at the National Center for State Courts. Dr. Wylie is currently serving her second 3-year term as the website editor for the American Psychology-Law Society (APA Division 41). Morgan Wagner, a 3rd-year Legal Psychology PhD student at the University of Texas El Paso and 2023-2024 Student Committee Campus Representative Coordinator, interviewed Dr. Wylie. Read the interview [HERE](#).

***Psychology, Public Policy, and Law* special issue: Emerging Issues in Correctional Policy, Research, and Practice**

NEW! Special Issue in Psychology, Public Policy, and Law on Emerging Issues in Correctional Policy, Research, and Practice guest edited by Ashley Batastini, Ph.D., Jennifer Eno Loudon, Ph.D., and Virginia Barber-Rioja, Ph.D. The articles showcased in this issue address a wide range of topics including the impact of general working conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic on correctional staff well-being and burnout, self-harm and suicide prevention interventions, interventions for high-risk populations, and novel methods of data collection. Despite the inherent challenges of conducting and publishing research focused on correctional issues, this collection highlights the need and impact of this line of work within the umbrella of psychology-law. Check out the link for more: <https://psycnet.apa.org/PsycARTICLES/journal/law/30/1>

How does APA promote psychological science to the public?

Check out these great stats now that 2023 info has been compiled!

- Media mentions have increased in the last 6 years more than 1000% (1155%) since 2018 and APA's audience reach has increased over 300% (323%).
- Since 2018, APA has promoted psychologists as media experts to reporters a total of 13,287 times, elevating roughly 1,700 psychologists in major media this year alone. Thank you to so many psych scientists who are doing this great service to the field!!!! [Sign up](#) for the media referral database if you want to be included!
- Journal coverage has increased 66% in 2023, compared with 2022, thanks to press releases on journal articles and work with reporters to help them identify and include psychological science. In 2023, a total of 11,301 media clips in top outlets cited papers from APA journals! That added up to an audience of 28.8 billion (Note: this is a metric used by communications professionals as a summed measure of all subscribers/views across these outlets, but there is no way to know if all recipients read/viewed the reporting and it obviously does not account for overlap in readerships across outlets. Nevertheless, it is a HUGE number in this industry!! It is equivalent to over \$400 Million in media value). Yay for psych science!!!!

- The release of the APA Health Advisory on Social Media Use in Adolescence led to 4,436 press clips with an estimated 5.9 billion audience.
- APA's success fighting the AP psychology decision in Florida led to 1,452 media clips discussing the importance of psych science in education (estimated audience of 4.1 billion).

So excited to share these stats with you to celebrate the ways our discipline's hard work and expertise is being recognized and appreciated!!!! This is the product of tremendous hard work done by so many APA staff working together with you!

APA is Requesting Input on the Strategic Plan

Your feedback would be very useful to APA as we develop a response to NIH's Strategic Plan on behalf of psychological science. We would appreciate your thoughts and ideas, or any citations that may help, regarding any of the following topics on which NIH is seeking comment.

The updated Strategic Plan will include five overarching goals:

- *Goal 1: Improve Capabilities to Sustain the NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing*
- *Goal 2: Develop Programs to Enhance Human Derived Data for Research*
- *Goal 3: Provide New Opportunities in Software, Computational Methods, and Artificial Intelligence*
- *Goal 4: Support for a Federated Biomedical Research Data Infrastructure*
- *Goal 5: Strengthen a Broad Community in Data Science*

The complete draft plan is available at:

<https://datascience.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIH-STRATEGIC-PLAN-FOR-DATA-SCIENCE-2023-2028-final-draft.pdf>.

NIH seeks comments on any of the following topics:

- The appropriateness of the goals of the plan, the strategies and implementation tactics proposed to achieve them, including potential benefits, drawbacks, or challenges
- Opportunities for NIH to partner to achieve these goals
- Emerging research needs and opportunities that should be added to the plan.
- Any other topic the respondent feels is relevant for NIH to consider in developing this strategic plan.

Please send any feedback to Dr. Kobor (pkobor@apa.org) by the end of the day on **Thursday, March 7**.

Saleem Shah Early Career Award Recipient

On behalf of AAFP and AP-LS, the Saleem Shah Early Career Award Selection Committee is pleased to announce this year's recipient of the Saleem Shah Early Career Award: **Dr. Colleen Berryessa**.

Saleem Shah was one of the godfathers of our field. In 1968, he established law and mental health studies as a formal program priority for the National Institute of Mental Health. He became the guide and mentor for a new generation of scholars who, through their empirical and theoretical work, transformed the field of law and mental health studies - among them Tom Grisso, John Monahan, Loren Roth, Bruce Sales, Henry Steadman, Linda Teplin, and David Wexler, to name but a few. Given Saleem's history of support and mentorship for so many in this field, AAFP and the American Psychology-Law Society established this award to focus on one of his major interests - nurturing the careers and talents of young forensic psychologists.

This award is given for demonstrating significant early career achievement in forensic psychology or related fields of law. Its recipients demonstrate a broad range of qualities, including the passionate development of relevant research and its application to public service, practice, mentoring, and their impact on the field.

The selection committee reviewed several very impressive nominations and unanimously agreed that Dr. Berryessa's ability to combine impactful scholarly research with clear public service implications, teaching and coursework development based on the body of her research, and mentorship of others captured the essence and inspiration of Saleem Shah's legacy and the very basis of this award. The committee also noted the importance of her work on underserved and understudied populations.

Dr. Berryessa's accomplishments are vast, with a summary listed as follows:

- She received her Ph.D. in Criminology in 2018 from the University of Pennsylvania with Certificates in Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience, College and University Teaching, and Law.
- Dr. Berryessa is highly prolific, publishing 60 journal articles (47 as first author), 10 book chapters, one co-edited book, and 13 grants after just over four years post-Ph.D.
- Her research has been cited over 900 times with a high impact rating (h-index=18).
- Her work on autism and the law has focused on a considerably underserved and understudied population.
- She developed and teaches specialized coursework in psychology-law based on her research.
- Her strong interdisciplinary focus across multiple levels of analysis is a model of scholarship.
- She is highly regarded as a mentor and teacher, consistently taking the time to guide young scholars and undergraduate students.
- She strives to engage in scholarship and research that significantly impacts policy and practice.

In sum, Dr. Berryessa embodies the drive and spirit of Saleem Shah.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Colleen Berryessa! And, by all means, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Berryessa directly at colleen.berryessa@rutgers.edu to offer your congratulations.

Last, I would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Ashley Batastini and Dr. Lauren Kois, both past winners of the Saleem Shah Award, for assisting me on the selection committee.

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)
 - Monique Bowen, Division 41 Book Series Associate Editor (mbowen2@antioch.edu)
 - Jemour Maddux, Division 41 Book Series Associate Editor (jm@rule702.com)
-

Executive Committee

For more information or if you wish to contact a member of the AP-LS Executive Committee, details can be found

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](#)

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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>.

American Psychology-Law Society

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