

CLBB News A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

August 17, 2020

CLBB Highlights

Why the Teenage Brain Pushes Young People to Ignore Virus Restrictions

Wall Street Journal | August 3, 2020

CLBB Co-Director Dr. Judith Edersheim, JD, MD was quoted in the Wall Street Journal on the neurobiological explanation behind young people's need to interact with peers, even to the point of skirting public health mandates: "Exploring is a neurobiological mandate ... In most instances, they don't set out to do risky things. It's that they're programmed to do these things."

Millions have been Invested in the Emerging Field of Neurolaw. Where is it Leading?

ABAJournal | June 1, 2020

The work of **CLBB Executive Director Francis X. Shen's Neurolaw Lab** was featured in the latest issue of the ABA Journal: "Shen created his neurolaw lab to bridge science and law in a meaningful way and explore new ways of thinking.... Every story is a brain story."

Criminal Justice Reform in the Age of COVID-19

Hollywood, Health & Society | July 21, 2020

CLBB Co-Director Dr. Judith Edersheim, JD, MD served as an expert panelist on a webinar concerning Criminal Justice Reform in the Age of COVID-19. The webinar was sponsored by Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S) is a program of the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center.

<u>Legislature Must Seize the Opportunity for 'Expungement' Reform</u>

Jay Blitzman | Commonwealth Magazine | July 20, 2020

In this article, CLBB Affiliated Faculty Member Judge (Ret.) Jay Blitzman highlights how recent debates surrounding racial justice and police reform efforts have revealed an opportunity to revisit expungement of juvenile criminal records after an individual turns 18.

Highlight: "The stigmatization of a court record creates a continuous form of penalization, which is poignantly addressed in Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow. It doesn't even matter if a person serves time. The record itself, she writes, "is the badge of inferiority...that relegates people for their entire lives to second class status... and effectively prevents their reintegration into the mainstream of society and economy," leading to re-arrests, and a cycle of probation and parole violations that fuel mass incarceration."

Center for Law, Brain & Behavior Seeking to Host Equal Justice Works Fellow

The Center for Law, Brain & Behavior (CLBB) is excited to announce that it can support the application of a 3L student as a host for an Equal Justice Works fellowship. Please use the link above to apply for this opportunity with CLBB! The deadline to apply is August 21, 2020 at 5pm EDT. To view the 8/12/20 webinar about this opportunity, please visit this link, and for more details visit here. All questions can be directed to erehmet@mgh.harvard.edu.

Upcoming Events

What and How Neuroethics can Contribute to Improving Racial Inequities and Underserved Communities?

Aug 20, 2020, 12;00 pm EDT, Webcast

On Thursday, August 20 at 12:00 pm eastern, CLBB Exec. Dir. Francis Shen will be speaking with Duke neuroscientist Dr. Kafui Dzirasa, MD, PhD, on *What and how neuroethics can contribute to improving racial inequities and underserved communities?* The panel is part of an NIH BRAIN Initiative's Neuroethics Working Group (NEWG) meeting, and can be viewed here, with agenda available here.

Faculty Research and News

Breakthrough Technologies That Will Define 2020

Technowize | May 15, 2020

CLBB Advisory Board Member Adam Haar Horowitz, PhD student at MIT Media Lab's Fluid Interfaces Group and a Dream Lab researcher, was featured in a recent profile on breakthrough technologies that will define 2020. *Highlight:* "A Team of researchers at MIT's Dream Lab is working on an open-source wearable device 'Dormio glove' that can hack and give you control over the content of your dreams. The team's goal is to prove that dreams aren't simply meaningless visuals, but can be hacked and augmented to our benefit. 'People don't know that a third of their life is a third where they could change or structure or better themselves" said Adam Horowitz.

<u>Expression of Certain Genes May Affect Vulnerability</u> to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

McLean Hospital | June 2, 2020

Highlight: "Identifying the genetic influences of PTSD could help us understand how the body responds to traumatic experiences and may point to new interventions to help affected patients," said senior author and CLBB Affiliated Faculty Member Dr. Kerry J. Ressler, MD, PhD, chief scientific officer and chief of McLean Hospital's Center of Excellence in Depression and Anxiety Disorders.

Lessons from "Neurolaw" for Autism Research

SpectrumNews | June 30, 2020

SpectrumNews interviews **CLBB Executive Director Francis X. Shen** on the importance of neurolaw as an emerging field and the relevance of neuroscience and law to those in the autism community.

<u>Prosecutors' Excessive Zeal during the Tsarnaev Trial</u>

The Boston Globe | August 4, 2020

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the Boston Marathon bombers, is facing a second hearing regarding the legitimacy of his death penalty

sentence. **CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner, JD, MA** details the erroneous steps that the prosecutors on Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's case took during the trial, including withholding important details of his brother's criminal record, causing there to be grounds for a retrial.

Parole in Massachusetts: Free to Go, but not to Leave WGBH News | July 8, 2020

In this article, the problems with extended prison sentences for those with mental illness are highlighted through an examination of Wilfred Dacier's case. In 2015, CLBB Associate Managing Director Robert Kinscherff, JD, PhD was hired to evaluate Dacier's case, noting Dacier's history of drug abuse and psychiatric issues and ultimately citing a systemic problem underlining the incarceration of many people with psychiatric disabilities.

<u>Trump Overhaul of Campus Sex Assault Rules Wins Surprising Support</u>

The New York Times | June 25, 2020

A new mandate by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos significantly changed the future of sexual assault investigations on college campuses. **CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner**, **JD**, **MA** is quoted on the importance of due process in cases like these.

In the News

General

Your Brain, Free Will, and the Law | Scientific American | May 29, 2020

A Better Way to Curb Police Brutality | The Hill | June 12, 2020

Virus, Racism Pose More Mental Health Risks for Black Americans | Roll Call | June 17, 2020

Racial Disparities Persist in Human Subjects Research | Bill of Health | June 24, 2020

Diversity and Inclusion in Neuroethics | Neuroethics Blog | July 21, 2020

Neuroscience, Law & COVID-19

COVID-19 and the Harsh Reality of Empathy Distribution | Scientific American | May 2, 2020

How Coronavirus Stress May Scramble Our Brains | ScienceNews | May 24, 2020

How to Hide a COVID-19 Hotspot? Pretend Prisoners Don't Exist | The Marshall Project | May 27, 2020

<u>Social Distancing Creates Opportunities for Innovation in Neuroscience Education</u> | Imperial College London | June 17, 2020

COVID-19 Survey Shows One-Third of Researchers Could Leave Neuroscience | Technology Networks | June 19, 2020

COVID-19 Boosts Levels of Brain Injury Biomarkers | Technology Networks | June 19, 2020

<u>Virus-Driven Push to Release Juvenile Detainees Leaves Black Youth Behind</u> The New York Times | July 30, 2020

Juvenile and Emerging Adult Justice

The History Behind the Netflix Documentary Murder to Mercy: The Cyntoia Brown Story | Time | April 29, 2020

Texas Inmate Cites Brain Science in SCOTUS Execution Fight | Bloomberg Law | June 11, 2020

Is it Time to Change How we Prosecute Young Adults? | Law 360 | July 26, 2020

Trauma and Immigration Justice

When \$10,000 is the Difference Contracting COVID-19 in Detention and Getting the Hell Out | Mother Jones | May 29, 2020

Trump Administration Proposes Rules to Sharply Restrict Asylum Claims | NPR | June 11, 2020

Elder Justice

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15: Recognize the Signs of Abuse | Better Business Bureau | June 15, 2020

What is Elder Justice and Why Do We Need It? | Forbes | June 15, 2020

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