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CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

March 25, 2021

CLBB Executive Director Dr. Francis Shen, JD, PhD Awarded the American Law Institute Early Career Scholars Medal

The American Law Institute announced that **CLBB Executive Director Dr. Francis Shen** has won the ALI Early Career Scholars Medal. "The award recognizes outstanding law professors whose work is relevant to public policy and has the potential to influence improvements in the law." Two law professors are selected every other year to win the award. Click [here](#) to see the full announcement.

Highlight: These award-winning scholars "are two early-career law professors who are already making a tremendous impact on the way we think about some of the most important and current legal topics of our day," said Judge Diane P. Wood of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, who serves as the chair of ALI's Early Career Scholars Medal Selection Committee. "I am thrilled, on behalf of ALI, to award the Early Career Scholars Medal to these extraordinary professors."

"Francis has been a pioneer in establishing the interdisciplinary field of law and neuroscience. His research has helped lead to the better administration of justice in areas such as criminal and elder law, and it has been essential in developing tools to improve the legal system through the responsible use of neuroscientific evidence and neurotechnology."



Francis Shen, JD, PhD is the Executive Director of the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior at MGH; Instructor in Psychology at Harvard Medical School; Professor of Law and McKnight Presidential Fellow at the University of Minnesota Law School, and Exec. Dir. of Education & Outreach for the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law & Neuroscience. In Fall 2020, Dr. Shen was a Florence Rogatz Visiting Professor of Law at Yale Law School. He directs the [Shen Neurolaw Lab](#), whose motto is, "Every story is a brain story." Born and raised in St. Louis, MO, Shen received his B.A. from the University of Chicago, his J.D. from Harvard Law School, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Shen's research, which utilizes empirical methods and insights from neuroethics, examines how insights from neuroscience can make the legal system more just and effective. His research includes work on the intersection of neuroscience with criminal responsibility and sentencing, evidentiary admissibility, memory and lie detection, cognitive enhancement, trauma and asylum law, sports concussion, juror decision-making, criminal mental states, dementia, and human-animal chimeras. He also teaches and writes on artificial intelligence and the law and is supported by multiple NIH Neuroethics research grants to examine the ethical, legal, and

social implications of field-based brain imaging and computational psychiatry.

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