



# CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

December 16, 2020

## CLBB Highlights

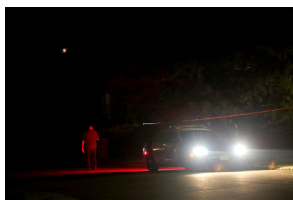


### [CLBB Leadership Conducts Flaschner Judicial Institute Training Series](#)

CLBB & Flaschner Judicial Institute | Fall 2020

In 2020, CLBB partnered with the Flaschner Judicial Institute to produce an ongoing neuroscience and law learning series for Massachusetts judges. The series this past fall included four sessions: **Judge Nancy Gertner** and **Dr. Francis Shen's** lecture on "Sentencing and Neuroscience: The Legal Framework, its Evolution, its Direction," **Dr. Judith Edersheim's** lecture on "Mental Illness in the Courtroom: Protecting Litigants and the Judicial Process," **Dr. Robert Kinscherff's** lecture on "Adolescent and Young Adult Neurodevelopment: Implications and Quandaries for Law and Policy," and **Dr. James McKowen's** lecture on "What is Good Treatment for Substance Use Disorders? Implications for Criminal Justice Responses."

[The Flaschner Judicial Institute](#) works to assist both new and experienced Massachusetts judges throughout their judicial careers in their continuing education and professional development. CLBB is the nation's leading provider of neuroscience-informed education for the judiciary.



### [My Son Was Killed Because I'm a Federal Judge](#)

The New York Times | December 8, 2020

**Judge Esther Salas**, a United States District Court judge for the District of New Jersey in Newark and alumnus and presenter at CLBB/FJC's Science Informed Decision-Making workshop, urges enhancing judicial security for federal judges, including removing personal information from the internet as a critical first defense. In this op-ed, she urges the U.S. Senate to pass the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act, which would provide further protections for federal judges.

*Highlight:* "For judges and their families, better security is a matter of life and death. But its importance goes beyond our well-being alone. For our nation's sake, judicial security is essential. Federal judges must be free to make their decisions, no matter how unpopular, without fear of harm. The federal government has a responsibility to protect all federal judges because our safety is foundational to our great democracy."

## Past Events

### [Detecting Dementia: Technology, Access, and the Law](#)

Harvard Law School | November 16, 2020



Advances in neuroimaging, genetics, and mobile health apps are creating unprecedented opportunities to detect subtle brain changes that may predict the onset of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. But how much trust should we have in these new technologies, who will have access to them, and how should the law respond when litigants proffer novel evidence of their brain states? This panel explored technological innovations in dementia detection, and their ethical, social, and legal implications. To view a recording of the event, please see [here](#).

**Panelist Bruce Price, CLBB Co-Founder and Co-Director**, framed the stakes: "The idea is, can we detect anatomic changes in the brain years and years and years before we can detect specific cognitive and behavioral functions?" Price continued, "If we can detect earlier, if we can intervene earlier, can we bend the curve? And can we better the outcome?"

This event was part of [the Project on Law and Applied Neuroscience](#), a collaboration between the Center for Law, Brain and Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School.



### [Neuroscience & the Law](#)

The University of St. Thomas School of Law | November 13, 2020

On Friday, November 13, 2020, the University of St. Thomas *Journal of Law and Public Policy* hosted the Fall Symposium on the cutting-edge topic of Neuroscience and the Law. There were three panels discussing topics of free will, criminal law and neuroscience, addictive behavior and the law, mental illness under international human rights law, and more. **CLBB Executive Director Francis Shen** presented during the first panel of the morning.

To view the event, please see [here](#).

## Faculty Research and News



### [Giving With the Heart and the Head](#)

Project Syndicate | December 7, 2020

**CLBB Faculty Member Joshua Greene** and Lucius Caviola devised a new donation platform, GivingMultiplier.com, which enables donors to experience the positive feeling for supporting the charity they most care about, while also donating to a highly effective charity.

*Highlight:* "Joshua Greene, a professor of psychology at Harvard University - noticed that people feel almost as good about their donation when they give \$50 instead of \$100 to their favorite charity. Therefore, donors should not lose much by giving only half to their favorite charity, which allows them to give the other half to a highly effective charity - something people find meaningful."



### [Three Trouble Spots Facing Women in Science--and How We Can Tackle Them](#)

Science Magazine | October 16, 2020

**CLBB Faculty Member Leah Somerville** and June Gruber highlight three challenges facing women in science, based on a paper co-authored with more than fifty psychology colleagues listing trouble spots that continue to hinder the advancement of women in their field. Their discussion focuses on women, but the problems and solutions likely also apply to other underrepresented groups, such as racial and ethnic minorities and scientists with a nonbinary gender identity.

*Highlight:* "Across many fields and career stages of academia, women report a lower sense of belonging compared with their male colleagues, which is problematic because if a young scientist feels that they don't belong, why would they work hard to stick around? Many women also report that they are granted less respect and authority and have to work harder to be successful compared with men. We've experienced this ourselves."



## [Neuron-Based Gene Expression Study Reveals Insights on Fear and Its Regulation](#)

Science Daily | October 26, 2020

**CLBB Faculty Member Kerry Ressler** co-led a study finding that the expression of a gene called CREB in certain neurons may function as a switch to regulate feelings of fear and its extinction. The findings point to a potential new target for diagnosing, treating, and preventing fear-related psychiatric illnesses.

*Highlight:* "CREB is well known to be involved in learning and memory, and these data suggest that it may act as a molecular switch that regulates expression of fear and its extinction," said co-senior author Kerry J. Ressler, MD, PhD, McLean's chief scientific officer, McLean's chief of the Center of Excellence in Depression and Anxiety Disorders, and co-director of the Silvio O. Conte Center for Stress Peptide Advanced Research, Education & Dissemination (SPARED) at McLean Hospital."

## In the News

### General

['This is Not Science Fiction,' Say Scientists Pushing for 'Neuro-Rights'](#) | Thomson Reuters Foundation | Dec 3, 2020

[ER Visits, Long Waits Climb for Kids in Mental Health Crisis](#) | UN News | Dec 3, 2020

[UN Experts Call for Clemency for Lisa Montgomery, as US Reschedules Planned Execution](#) | UN News | Dec 3, 2020

### Juvenile Justice

[Child Abuse and the Death Penalty: The Cruel Connection](#) | The Crime Report | Dec 11, 2020

[Should 14-And-15-Year-Old Kids Be Tried As Adults? New LA DA Gascón Says No, As A Case That Could Permanently Decide the Question Goes to CA Supremes](#) | Witness LA | Dec 2, 2020

[Researchers Show Risk-Averse Teens Sway Peers to Make Safer Choices](#) | Science Codex | Nov 30, 2020

[Does Thomas Chan Belong in Prison?](#) | Maclean's | Nov 24, 2020

[The Risks of Another Epidemic: Teenage Vaping](#) | The New York Times | Nov 23, 2020

### Elder Justice

[Dianne Feinstein's Missteps Raise a Painful Age Question Among Senate Democrats](#) | The New Yorker | Dec 10, 2020

[Elder Fraud Prevention Campaign During COVID-19](#) | STL News | Dec 1, 2020

[Drug Reverses Age-Related Mental Decline Within Days](#) | University of California San Francisco | Dec 1, 2020

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