

[Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to view as a webpage.](#)



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL

CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

May 11, 2021

CLBB Highlights



[Paul Butler on the Shooting of 13-year-old Adam Toledo by Police: 'Where Is the Bottom?'](#)

MSNBC | April 15, 2021

CLBB Advisory Board Member **Paul Butler** provided commentary on the fatal shooting of 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Chicago.

Highlight: Paul Butler: "When will this end? Where is the bottom? A 13-year-old child in the seventh grade was shot dead within the 20 seconds of the officer leaving his car."



[CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner to Serve on Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States](#)

The White House | April 9, 2021

President Biden selected **CLBB Managing Director Judge (Ret.) Nancy Gertner** as a commissioner on the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States, comprised of a bipartisan group of experts on the Court and the Court reform debate. The Commissioners include legal scholars, former federal judges and practitioners who have appeared before the Court, and advocates for the reform of democratic institutions and of the administration of justice. The expertise represented on the Commission includes constitutional law, history and political science.



[CLBB Co-Director Judith Edersheim Speaks at Depression Clinical and Research Program Weekly Seminar](#)

Massachusetts General Hospital | March 30, 2021

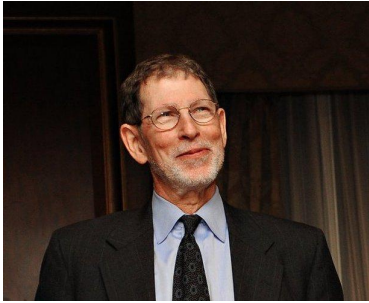
CLBB Co-Director and Co-Founder Dr. Judith Edersheim presented at the Massachusetts General Hospital Depression Clinical and Research Program on key issues at the intersection between neuroscience research and the law. Dr. Edersheim presented individual cases and answered questions from research assistants about her career trajectory and the applicability of neuroscience research for individuals with psychiatric diagnoses.



[CLBB Board Member Jennifer Jones-Austin to Chair New York City Racial Justice Commission to Dismantle Structural Racism](#)

The New York Times | March 23, 2021

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has appointed **CLBB Advisory Board Member Jennifer Jones Austin** to chair a new Racial Justice Commission that will make policy recommendations designed to dismantle structural racism.



[CLBB Board Member John Reinstein Receives the Joe Balliro Award](#)

Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers | April 15, 2021

CLBB Advisory Board Member John Reinstein was awarded the Joe Balliro Award at the 2021 Annual We-Mean-Business Meeting for his outstanding contributions to racial justice and civil rights. John Reinstein is a United States Attorney and Former Legal Director of the Massachusetts ACLU.

Faculty Research and News



[Supreme Court Rulings on Traffic Stops Reinforce Structural Racism in Policing](#)

The Boston Globe | April 16, 2021

CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner and attorney Dean A. Strang discuss the court's 1996 decision in *Whren v. United States*, which reinforced structural racism in the context of traffic stop laws.

Highlight: "Police departments don't have to take every opportunity for abuse or high-handedness that the Supreme Court offers. By internal policy, they could reject *Whren* and limit traffic stops to actual violations that threaten public safety. Likewise, unless and until the Supreme Court reverses its decision in *Whren*, state courts could decline to follow it under their state constitutions. While *Whren* remains the law of the land, it need not remain the practice."



[Shifting Politics, Pandemic Create Opening for Immigration Reformers](#)

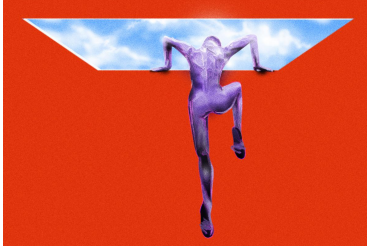
Wicked Local | April 10, 2021

CLBB Advisory Board Member and U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark created a Facebook group devoted to discussing the current status of immigration in the United States and the efforts underway to build momentum for Congress to tackle reform.

Highlight: "The House has already passed legislation this year to give the so-called 'Dreamers' and immigrant farm workers a path to apply for permanent residence, and Clark said that in addition to convincing the Senate to take up these bills Congress must take additional steps to create pathways to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants, including high-skilled groups, and to protect against exploitation in the workforce. 'As immigrants and refugees continue to seek a better life in the United States we need to create long-term solutions that respect the dignity and rights of immigrants and keep the American dream alive,' Clark said."

[The Neuropolitics of Extremism](#)

Neo Life | March 25, 2021



This article features **CLBB Faculty Member Joshua Buckholtz**, who discusses a new study of the "psychological signals of political, nationalistic, religious, and dogmatic beliefs."

Highlight: "What the data suggests is that extreme ideologies and dogmatic political beliefs are not the red- or blue-tinted things we imagine, but something born of the gray sinews of ambiguity in between—the readouts of more basic mental processes, like how people process information and make decisions about the world. The researchers found links between these basic mental processes, which are called cognitive primitives, and the kinds of ideologies that appealed to them. 'There is no liberal center in the brain or a conservative region,' says Harvard psychiatrist Joshua Buckholtz..."



[The Blue Wall Did Not Hold At Derek Chauvin's Trial](#)

National Public Radio | April 11, 2021

CLBB Advisory Board Member Paul Butler was interviewed on NPR about the trial of Derek Chauvin and the "blue wall" of law enforcement.

Highlight: Paul Butler: "We know that U.S. police officers kill about 1,000 people every year. The vast majority of those killings are ruled justified. In the rare cases in which officers are charged with murder, they usually walk. They're found not guilty by a jury, or a judge dismisses the charges. And so this is one case in which one police officer is being charged with murder. And it's just too soon to tell whether this will set a precedent for other prosecutions."



[A Novel Effort to See How Poverty Affects Young Brains](#)

The New York Times | April 7, 2021

CLBB Faculty Member Charles Nelson was featured in this *New York Times* article about Baby's First Years, a study aiming to determine whether reducing poverty can itself promote healthy brain development. Charles Nelson is an advisor for this study, which is similar to his famous study on brain development in Romanian orphanages.

Highlight: "In another example, research on brain and cognitive development in children who grew up in Romanian orphanages from the mid-1960s into the 1990s changed policy on institutionalization and foster care, in Romania and worldwide, said Charles Nelson, a neuroscientist at Harvard and Boston Children's Hospital who co-led that work. Those studies demonstrated that deprivation and neglect diminish IQ and hinder psychological development in children who remain institutionalized past age 2, and that institutionalization profoundly affects brain development, dampening electrical activity and reducing brain size. But that work also underscores how consumers of research, policymakers among them, are prone to give more weight to brain data than to other findings, as other studies show. When Professor Nelson presents these findings to government or development agency officials, 'I think they find it the strongest ammunition to implement policy changes,' he said. 'It is a very powerful visual, more so than if we said, well, they have lower IQs, or their attachment isn't as strong.'"

Opportunities

[NOW HIRING: CLBB Student RA for Web-Related Work](#)

The MGH Center for Law, Brain, and Behavior (CLBB) seeks to hire a student research assistant to work on web site content management and related web site tasks. This research assistant's work on the web site will support the Center's many initiatives, including work on [justice and the developing brain](#) and ensuring [protection for older adults](#) with dementia.

The research assistant will mostly be involved in the front-end management of the CLBB websites, and on occasion, may be required to engage in some back-end work related to database and server management. Prior experience and familiarity with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript is preferred. Experience with PHP and SQL would be useful but is not required.

Exact start/end dates are flexible, though this position is expected to run both for **summer 2021 and for the full 2021-22 academic year. This position is part-time, around 8-15 hrs/week.** All work will be completed remotely, with regular virtual meetings. The RA will report directly to CLBB Executive Director Dr. Francis Shen, JD, PhD.

Applications will be accepted online at <http://clbb.mgh.harvard.edu/apply/>.

All inquiries should be sent to CLBB Program Manager Emily Rehmet at erehmet@mgh.harvard.edu. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so applicants are encouraged to submit their applications online as soon as possible. Skills and experience in website content management are required, and should be mentioned in the cover letter. To learn more about CLBB, see <http://clbb.mgh.harvard.edu/overview/>.

CENTER FOR LAW, BRAIN & BEHAVIOR



| clbb.mgh.harvard.edu