



# CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

January 26, 2021

## CLBB Highlights



### [Search Is on to Replace Lelling as U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts](#)

WBUR | December 24, 2020

**CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner** chaired a bipartisan advisory committee to review and provide recommendations on U.S. Attorney candidates for the District of Massachusetts. The Advisory Committee comprises distinguished members of the Massachusetts legal community, including prominent academics and litigators.

*Highlight:* "The chair of the advisory committee, retired federal judge Nancy Gertner, says that 'It's not an ordinary time ... We've had demonstrations about the George Floyd killing and more attention to mass incarceration, and the criminal legal system is not going to have the resources due to the pandemic. I think all of that conspires to a moment of reform and the next U.S. attorney... should be moving that.'"



### [The Dying Wish of a Decorated Marine Convicted of Murder: A Commutation and a Final Resting Place at Arlington National Cemetery](#)

The Boston Globe | December 28, 2020

**CLBB Advisory Board Member John Reinstein** and **CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner** were highlighted in an article discussing Joe Labriola's petition to be buried in the Arlington National Cemetery, despite being convicted of first-degree murder.

*Highlight:* "'The defining feature of Joe's life, with which he wholly identified, was his service as a United States Marine,' wrote his legal team, John Reinstein, Nancy Gertner, and Eleanor Umphres. 'Joe's youth and best friends died in Vietnam; he suffered tremendous pain for the rest of his life from the wounds he sustained in war; and he was decorated by his country for his heroic service and sacrifice.'"



### [Honoring Chief Justice Ralph Gants](#)

Boston Bar Journal | December 16, 2020

**CLBB Faculty Member Hon. Jay Blitzman (Ret.)** reflects on the work of Chief Justice Ralph Gants, who understood the need to address issues involving youth through a developmentally appropriate lens.

*Highlight:* "Given what we have learned about the maturational arc of adolescence and emerging adults, late adolescents between the ages of 18-25, the Chief's observations are particularly relevant... The Chief's understanding of adolescent development and the importance of a fair and proportional approach which achieves rehabilitative goals while best protecting the public was a theme of his jurisprudence."

## Past Events



### [Technology in Psychiatry Summit \(TIPS\) 2020](#)

McLean Institute for Technology in Psychiatry | October 28-30, 2020

On October 28-30, over 450 attendees joined the 2020 Technology in Psychiatry Summit virtually for 30+ talks, keynotes, and moderated panel discussions on the intersection of technology and psychiatry. These talks are [now available on YouTube](#). This event was sponsored by the McLean Institute for Technology in Psychiatry.

**CLBB Executive Director Francis Shen** moderated the "Algorithmic Bias and Inclusion in Tech Research" panel (see [here](#)), **CLBB Faculty Member Justin Baker** presented the "DPdash Tech Demo" (see [here](#)), and **CLBB Faculty Member Kerry Ressler** moderated a keynote discussion with Rana el Kaliouby and Joshua Gordon (see [here](#)).



### [Talking to Kids About the Washington, D.C. Riot: Dr. Brendel Interviews Dr. Gene Beresin](#)

MGH Clay Center | January 9, 2021

**CLBB Law and Ethics Director Dr. Rebecca Brendel** and **CLBB Faculty Member Dr. Gene Beresin** discuss how to talk to kids and teens about the January 6, 2021 riot in Washington, D.C. You'll hear three things that every kid wants to know, as well as age-specific concerns and conversation-starters for pre-schoolers, school-age kids, and teenagers. How can adults model media literacy and help kids and teens understand the power of the word, especially on social media? Why is activism good for teens? To view the recording, see [here](#).

*Highlight:* "Emotions are contagious, and so while we have the right to speak up and while we have the right to demonstrate, we don't have the right to be violent. We don't have the right to let our emotions override reason. That is the type of conversation you can have productively with teenagers because they'll get it."

## Faculty Research and News



### [Defendant Granted Parole After Forensic Psychologist Testimony on Adolescent Brain Development](#)

Massachusetts Parole Board | January 12, 2021

On August 13, 2020, **Dr. Stephanie Tabashneck** provided expert testimony at a parole hearing before the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding Mr. Charles Price, age 60, and his suitability for parole. In 1979, at the age of 18, Mr. Price pled guilty to second degree murder and armed assault with intent to rob and was given a life sentence. At the parole hearing, Dr. Tabashneck testified on adolescent brain development, the impact of peer influence on emerging adults, and "hot" and "cold" cognition. On January 12, 2021, by a unanimous vote of the Massachusetts Parole Board, and after nearly 40 years of incarceration, Mr. Price was granted parole.

### [What Trump's Pardons Say About Criminal Justice](#)

The Boston Globe | December 29, 2020

**CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner** discusses the presidential pardon power, cautioning that it should not blind us to deeper problems within the criminal justice system.



*Highlight:* "Used to show sovereign grace and mercy, clemency can ennoble a nation. But even its responsible exercise should not blind us to deeper problems. The United States remains too addicted to incarceration. The US legal system sentences by categories, lumping people together who were not similarly culpable, too often people of color. We cannot undo the damage through individual releases, especially when we depend upon the instincts of politicians who want to reward supporters or send self-congratulatory tweets. When a system that allows for injustice on this scale relies on the whims of the chief executive to make it fair, something is terribly wrong."



### [Underestimate the Cerebellum at Your Own Risk](#)

The Wire Science | December 11, 2020

A study led by **CLBB Faculty Member Randy Buckner** was cited in an article discussing the growing evidence of the cerebellum's contributions to cognition, emotion and social behavior.

*Highlight:* "In another influential study, neuroscientist Randy Buckner at Harvard University and his colleagues mapped communication between the cerebral cortex and the cerebellum in humans. By scanning the brains of healthy people using functional magnetic resonance imaging, the team revealed that activity in the majority of the cerebellum was in sync with activity in parts of the cerebral cortex responsible for cognitive functions - and not with cortical areas involved in movement."

## Opportunities

### ***CLBB is Hiring - Deadline Fast Approaching!***

#### [Summer 2021 Research Assistants](#)

As the intersection of law and neuroscience rapidly evolves, the Harvard MGH Center for Law, Brain & Behavior seeks to hire full-time, paid Research Associates and Undergraduate Research Assistants for the summer 2021 academic term (June - August 2021).

Research Associates and Research Assistants will play an integral role in exciting Center initiatives concerning the developing brain, the aging brain, and many additional topics. Current undergraduates and law students are eligible for the Research Assistant positions. Compensation will be based on experience, and start/end dates are flexible. Research Associates and Research Assistants will report to Dr. Shen; will work with CLBB Co-Directors Dr. Judith Edersheim and Dr. Bruce Price, as well as with CLBB affiliated faculty in both law and neuroscience; and will support research in the [Project on Law and Applied Neuroscience](#), a joint program with the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School. Summer RAs must be available for at least 10 weeks of the summer to be eligible.

**Note: To be considered for these summer positions, you must be a current student, i.e. returning to school in fall 2021.**

All inquiries should be sent to [CLBB Project Manager, Emily Rehmet](#) at [erehmet@mgd.harvard.edu](mailto:erehmet@mgd.harvard.edu). Applications will be reviewed starting on February 1, and on a rolling basis thereafter.

### [Apply Here](#)

### *Bioethics, Bias and Justice at Harvard Medical School*

Spring 2021 seminar

M 7-8:30 pm, Jan 25 - March 12 (virtual  
via Zoom)

Course Type: Harvard Medical School, Masters in  
Bioethics Program (2 credits)  
Instructor: Dr. Francis X. Shen, JD, PhD



**Cross-Registration now open for all Harvard students (HLS, HMS, Harvard College). No auditors allowed. See [here](#) for more information.**

Description: Bioethics scholarship and scholarly engagement with practitioners has often overlooked issues of racial bias, economic inequality, and social justice. Through direct engagement with emerging voices in the fields of bioethics and neuroethics, this seminar will provide students an opportunity to critically re-examine theoretical and applied bioethics from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

Weekly special guests will allow students to thoughtfully explore topics such as race and gender bias in digital mental health during COVID-19; the role of bioethicists in addressing systemic racism; intersectionality in clinical medicine; racial discrimination in responses to COVID-19; lack of representativeness in biomedical research; bioethics in the time of Black Lives Matter; and ethical concerns about the role of neuroscience and neurointerventions in the criminal justice system. Students will be required to submit weekly discussion postings, engage in seminar discussion, and complete two short writing assignments.

Confirmed guest speakers include: [Dr. Timothy Emmanuel Brown, PhD](#), Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Philosophy, University of Washington; [Dr. Justin Chen, MD](#), Medical Director of Ambulatory Psychiatry Services and Co-Director of Primary Care Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital; [Dr. Nicole Martinez-Martin, JD, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Biomedical Ethics), Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics; [Dr. Camisha Russell, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Oregon; and [Dr. Yolonda Wilson, PhD](#), Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Howard University.

Interested students should [email Dr. Shen](#).

## In the News

### *General*

[Why Elon Musk's Pigs Are a Legal Headache](#) | Legal Cheek | Dec 16, 2020

[Fraud Allegations Fly in Dispute Over Brain-scanning Tech Made Famous on Netflix's 'Making a Murderer'](#) | Geek Wire | Jan 7, 2021

### *Juvenile Justice*

[D.C. Passes Bill to Give Young Offenders Chance at Reduced Sentences](#) | The New York Times | Dec 15, 2020

[Board of Pardons Commutes Myon Burrell's Sentence, Releases Him From Prison](#) | Star Tribune | Dec 16, 2020

[IL Judge Suggests New Young Adult Circuit Court Branch](#) | WAND TV | Dec 28, 2020

[Experts Become the Focus of Battle Over State Gun Law](#) | Fort Myers Florida Weekly | Jan 6, 2021

[Ohio Will No Longer Sentence Kids to Life Without Parole](#) | The Appeal | Jan 13, 2021

### *Elder Justice*

[New York Is Ousting Older Judges to Save Money. They're Fighting Back.](#) | The New York Times | Dec 21, 2020

[Tackling Ethics Concerns Regarding Use of 'Carebots' to Assist Older Adults](#) | NC State University News | Dec 1, 2020

[Dementia, Pagal, or Neurocognitive Disorder: What Is In a Name?](#) | Practical Ethics | Dec 16, 2020

[Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Legal Services Providers Find Creative Ways to Serve Older Adults](#) | American Bar Association Journal | Jan 4, 2021

[The Future Is P-Tau-Anticipating Direct-to-Consumer Alzheimer Disease Blood Tests](#) | JAMA Neurology | Jan 4, 2021

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