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# CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

October 11, 2022

## [Life Sentences for Children?: The Neuroscientific Basis for Limitations on Harsh Sentencing](#)

Registration is free, but required at this [link](#).



**October 27, 2022, 12:00 PM ET**

Online

**Join us on October 27th** for a panel examining the latest neuroscience in the context of emerging case law. Neuroscience is playing a key role in legal decisions about children and young adults serving life sentences. The US Supreme Court relied upon research on adolescent brain development to bar execution and limit sentences of Life Without Possibility of Parole for crimes committed under age 18. However, the U.S. Supreme Court case *Jones v. Mississippi* (2021) shifted the battleground from federal constitutional protections to protections afforded by state constitutions—with mixed results to date.

To ensure that you will receive access to the livestream and be kept up to date on any changes to the event, [register now](#). We will send out a link to the livestream of the event to all registrants the day before and day of the event. Last registration is 11:30am on the day of the event.

This event is 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.

### **Panelists:**

#### **[Carmel Shachar, JD, MPH](#)**

Carmel Shachar, JD, MPH, is the Executive Director of the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School. She is responsible for oversight of the Center's sponsored research portfolio, event programming, fellowships, student engagement, development, and a range of



other projects and collaborations. Carmel was responsible for designing, recruiting for, and launching both the Center's Health Care General Counsel Roundtable and the Center's Advisory Board. She is involved heavily with the Center's Project on Precision Medicine, Artificial Intelligence, and the Law, and its Diagnosing in the Home Initiative. Carmel is also a Lecturer at Law on Harvard Law School, where she co-teaches a course on "Health Care Rights in the Twenty-First Century."



### [Leah Somerville, PhD](#)

Leah Somerville, PhD, is the Grafstein Family Professor of Psychology and Director of the Affective Neuroscience and Development Laboratory. She received a PhD in Psychological and Brain Sciences at Dartmouth College and completed postdoctoral training at the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology at Weill Cornell Medical College before joining the department in 2012. Leah has won early career awards including the FJ McGuigan Early Career Research Prize for Understanding the Human Mind, the APS Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions, and the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award.



### [Stephanie Tabashneck PsyD, JD](#)

Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD, is a forensic psychologist and attorney in Boston. She is a Senior Fellow in Law and Applied Neuroscience, a collaboration between the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Petrie-Flom Center. Her practice areas include substance use disorders, forensic psychological assessment, child custody, and criminal forensic evaluations. Stephanie presents regionally and nationally on psychology and law topics, including at events organized by the American Bar Association, the Federal Judicial Center, the American Psychiatric Association, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the Massachusetts Trial Courts, and the New York Office of Attorneys for Children.

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