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# CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

May 17, 2023

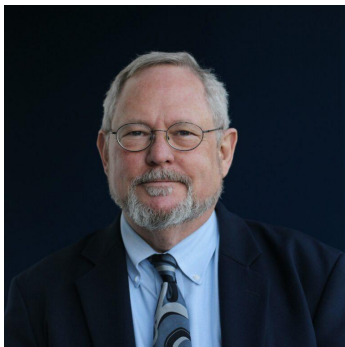
## CLBB Highlights



### [SJC Oral Arguments: Commonwealth v. Mattis](#)

SJC | February 2, 2023

CLBB Executive Director Dr. Robert Kinscherff's expertise in juvenile and emerging adult justice was highlighted during Supreme Judicial Court oral arguments in a Massachusetts case challenging the age of 18 as the dividing line between childhood and adulthood for purposes of full criminal culpability, prosecution, and sentencing. A decision by the SJC in this case is expected in May or June 2023.



### [More Guns Than People - Is There a Path Away From Gun Violence in America?](#)

William James College | March 2, 2023

By mid-February, there have been more incidents of mass gun violence than the number of days in 2023. Gun suicides and intimate partner homicides are increasing. Is there a path away from gun violence in America? CLBB Executive Director Robert Kinscherff, PhD, JD hosted a discussion of the history of the Second Amendment and gun violence in America, whether there is "a gun violence problem" or distinguishable "gun violence problems," evidence-based public health approaches to gun injuries and deaths, intersections of culture-gender-race, and the roles of psychologists in reducing gun violence.



### [Once Condemned, Ramadan Shabazz Enjoys His First Taste of Freedom in More Than 50 Years](#)

Boston Globe | March 15, 2023

On Wednesday, March 15, 2023, Ramadan Shabazz felt the fresh air of freedom for the first time in more than 51 years. Shabazz never denied responsibility for the August 14, 1971 double murder that saw him sentenced to spend the rest of his life in prison. He won his release because he and his supporters built a compelling case that he completely transformed himself while in prison and is no longer the man who committed those crimes. CLBB Senior Fellow of Law and Applied Neuroscience Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD conducted a forensic evaluation of Mr. Shabazz and testified in support of commutation after which the Massachusetts Parole Board unanimously recommended

commutation.



### [The Bizarre Science Behind How Our Brains Shape Reality](#)

Science Focus | March 22, 2023

**CLBB Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Lisa Feldman-Barrett** delves into the neuroscience behind the world that we experience and the question about whether we see the world as it really is or if we are creating our own reality.

*Highlight: "An ensemble of human brains together create social reality, a superpower that can turn fish into puppies, boulders into currency, stereotypes into brain wiring, and a person into a president. Any group of people can make up abstract concepts, share them, and weave them into a reality. Consequently, we have more control over reality than we might think, and more responsibility for reality than we might realise or want."*



### [Time for Supreme Court to Adopt Ethics Rules?](#)

Harvard Magazine | March 29, 2023

**CLBB Managing Director and Former Federal Judge Nancy Gertner** spoke on why the Supreme Court should have an enforceable ethics code. She says that a code of conduct is necessary, but not sufficient to address Supreme Court's plummeting public image. She says that the lack of transparency, and recent incidents involving justices, spouses, and activists have tarnished public standing.

*Highlight: "Human beings need an enforcement mechanism. We all do. It's not just enforcement for enforcement's sake; it's enforcement for the legitimacy of the institution. If the institution doesn't have an enforceable way of policing itself, then it is not to be trusted."*



### [Lowell to Pay \\$13 Million to Man Wrongly Convicted of Arson](#)

Boston Globe | May 3, 2023

**CLBB Co-Founder and Co-Director Dr. Judith Edersheim** was instrumental in the release, exoneration, and successful civil lawsuit of Mr. Victor Rosario, a man wrongfully convicted of an arson fire in Lowell, Massachusetts. After 30 years in prison, Mr. Rosario was released after a judge ruled that the questionable quality of arson evidence, paired with new evidence that Rosario experienced psychosis due to alcohol withdrawal when he was arrested, raised doubts about the legitimacy of his confession. Read about his long journey to innocence and justice [here](#).

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## Advisory Board Member News

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### [Democratic House Whip Katherine Clark: Don't Let Anyone Say You Can't Reinvent Yourself](#)

MSNBC | March 6, 2023

**Rep. Katherine Clark** talks about her career journey, the best advice she received from Nancy Pelosi, the latest on childcare relief legislation, and her best negotiating tips.

*Highlight: "Don't be afraid to take a risk. But don't be afraid to fail. I certainly have lost a political campaign and it was painful. But you know, just push yourself because we're here waiting for you...And don't let anybody tell you you're too young or certainly too old to reinvent yourself, and keep moving towards whatever the work is that really is meaningful to you."*

### [Global Health Pioneer Ophelia Dahl to Receive 2023 Radcliffe Medal](#)

Harvard Magazine | March 9, 2023



**Ophelia Dahl**, Co-Founder and Chair of the Board, Partners in Health, will receive the 2023 Radcliffe Medal on May 26, the highest honor of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

*Highlight: "She pushes us to see the world and our own moral obligations in powerful new ways," Radcliffe dean Tomiko Brown-Nagin said, "and she has challenged global institutions to rethink their approach to pursuing the long-promised and still-elusive universal right to health."*



#### [FPWA CEO to Be Given Racial Justice Award](#)

Black Star News | March 13, 2023

**Jennifer Jones Austin**, CEO and Executive Director of Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, was honored at the Brooklyn Community Foundation's annual SPARK Breakfast for her commitment to advancing racial justice in Brooklyn. The SPARK Breakfast recognized Jones Austin's leadership as Chair of the NYC Racial Justice Commission, which in November 2022 successfully amended the city's charter to dismantle structural racism and embed racial justice and equity in all government functions.



#### [Keller @ Large: Rep. Katherine Clark Says U.S. "Way Behind" Helping Families with Child Care](#)

CBS News Boston | March 26, 2023

**Rep. Katherine Clark** says that the United States remains "way behind" in helping families with child care. In 2021, Clark introduced the Child Care Infrastructure Act, which she said would make key investments in childcare facilities and the early education workforce. There has been no movement since the bill was introduced. Clark has described the general challenges facing the U.S. House and the lack of bipartisanship.

*Highlight: "What we're seeing are the American people and voices are being drowned out. We are committed to putting people over politics."*

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## Faculty News



#### [Use of Serial Smartphone-Based Assessments to Characterize Diverse Neuropsychiatric Symptom Trajectories in a Large Trauma Survivor Cohort](#)

Translational Psychiatry | January 7, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Justin T. Baker** and others sought to characterize adverse posttraumatic neuropsychiatric sequelae (APNS) symptom trajectories across ten symptom domains in a large, diverse, understudied sample of motor vehicle collision (MVC) survivors. They found that many risk factors and associations with high symptom burden trajectories were shared across domains. Across all domains, symptom severity in the immediate aftermath of trauma had the greatest influence on the outcome. They also developed an interactive data visualization tool to allow readers to explore relationships of interest between individual characteristics, symptom trajectories, and traditional outcomes.

#### [Distinct Developmental Trajectories for Risky and Impulsive Decision-Making in Chimpanzees](#)

Journal of Experimental Psychology | January 23, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Joshua W Buckholtz** and others examined developmental changes in risky choice, intertemporal choice, and





emotional responses to decision outcomes in chimpanzees, our closest-living relatives. They found that adolescent chimpanzees were more risk-seeking than adults, as in humans. However, unlike humans, chimpanzees showed no developmental change in intertemporal choice. The results show that some core features of human adolescent decision-making are shared with chimpanzees.



**Racial Disparities in the Association Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and History of Self-Reported Depression as an Adult Among Older Adults**

The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry | March 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Olivia Okereke** and others assessed the association between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and a history of self-reported depression as an adult among older adults. They also explored racial disparities in this association. They found a dose-response relationship between ACEs and depression: those with greater than 4 ACEs were significantly like to have depression when compared with respondents with no ACE. They also found that respondents with greater than 4 ACEs, non-Hispanic Whites, and Hispanics had higher odds of depression compared with non-Hispanic Blacks. Persons with ACEs may represent an important targeted prevention group to reduce the risk of depression among older adults.



**Post-Traumatic Growth in PhD Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Psychiatry Research Communications | March 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Jordan Smoller** and others conducted a secondary data analysis of a survey from November 2020 among graduate students at a private R1 University in the northeast United States and examined graduate students' levels and correlates of post-traumatic growth (PTG) during the COVID-19 pandemic. They found that PTG due to the COVID-19 pandemic was low among graduate students and anxiety, and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had a positive relationship with PTG. Non-White minorities had significantly higher PTG than White participants. These findings advance research on the patterns of PTG during the COVID-19 pandemic and can inform future studies of graduate students' coping mechanisms and support efforts to promote pandemic recovery and resilience.



**Neurologic Care of Forcibly Displaced Persons: Emerging Issues in Neurology**

American Academy of Neurology | March 9, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Altaf Saadi** and others discussed the growing number of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) worldwide, the neurologic care needs of this population, and how neurologists and other healthcare workers can most effectively provide that care. They also address the terminology of forcible displacement and how terms may differ across a person's migration journey. There are many unmet neurologic needs of FDPs, which require significant investment. These include addressing lapses in neurologic care during displacement and understanding the effects of forcible displacement on people with chronic neurologic conditions.

**The Common Effect of Value on Prioritized Memory and Category Representation**

PsyArXiv | March 15, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Fiery Cushman** and Dr. Joshua Knobe wrote a review about category representation depending on both the frequency and the value of the category's members. Recent



research on memory suggests that we tend to prioritize memory for frequent and valuable things. The patterns of existing findings provide evidence for a link between work on conceptual representation and prioritized memory. Specifically, these patterns provide evidence that the impact of value on prioritized memory explains the impact of value on conceptual representation.



### [Mass General Psychiatrist Discusses Dangers of Online Chatting For Children](#)

WCVB | March 16, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Gene Beresin**, Executive Director of the MGH Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds, discusses the dangers of online chatting for children and the importance of learning the proper use of social media and understanding the risks and benefits.

*Highlight: “Parents need to educate themselves and become digital media literate. That means understanding privacy settings, and do it with the whole family. Have conversations about the use of the phone. Find out what apps your kids are using and watch it with them. Learn about parental controls. Some kids are going to need parental controls, while other kids may not. Have conversations.”*



### [Internal Capsule Microstructure Mediates the Relationship Between Childhood Maltreatment and PTSD Following Adulthood Trauma Exposure](#)

Molecular Psychiatry | March 17, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Kerry Ressler** and others investigated the effect of childhood trauma on white matter microstructure after recent trauma. They also look at its relationship with future posttraumatic dysfunction in trauma-exposed adult participants from emergency departments. Childhood maltreatment load predicted 6-month PTSD symptoms and inversely varied with fractional anisotropy (FA) in the bilateral internal capsule at 2 weeks and 6 months. Bilateral internal capsule microstructure did not mediate relationships between childhood maltreatment and depressive, anxiety, or dissociative symptomatology. Their work did not support roles of white matter tracts that had previously been found to vary with PTSD symptoms and childhood trauma exposure. Bilateral internal capsule Childhood maltreatment might impact neural circuits that relay and process threat-related inputs and responses to trauma.



### [Experts Discuss Supporting Teenage Mental Health at Harvard Ed School Panel](#)

The Harvard Crimson | March 22, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua** was one of the panelists in a discussion regarding the impact of social media and supportive relationships with adults on teenage mental health at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Moreland-Capua said that is a purpose for cellphones in schools and cited parental concerns about school shootings.

*Highlight: “We have to appreciate our history, our destiny, but be in our reality. And the reality is that people don’t feel safe, and the phone, in some cases, helps parents—whether it’s an illusion or not—feel a little bit safer.”*

### [Standoff Over 95-Year-Old Judge Shows Downside of Lifetime Jobs](#)

Bloomberg Law | April 18, 2023



Chief Judge Kimberly A. Moore of the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, has filed a misconduct complaint against Judge Pauline Newman, 95. The Order signed by Moore alleges that court personnel had raised concerns about Newman's cognitive abilities, that Newman had resisted going on senior status after a series of health issues, and that she was far less productive than other judges on the court. This saga proves that the traditional checks and balances for aging judges—colleagues or family members nudging them toward retirement—might not always work. It's an issue that won't go away with the average age of federal judges now 69. **CLBB Faculty Dr. Francis Shen** discussed the issue of having a life tenure with no check-ins for cognitive ability.

*Highlight: "It's really problematic to have a combination of life tenure with no—and I mean zero—check-ins for cognitive ability... Those going in front of judges have the right to know about their competency just like they would have a right to know about any potential conflicts of interest... If the judge knew one of the parties or had invested in one of the companies — to me, it's the same thing that there should be a disclosure of some sort... but we don't have that."*



#### [5 Faculty Members Named Harvard College Professors](#)

The Harvard Gazette | May 3, 2023

**CLBB Faculty Dr. Fiery Cushman** was one of the 5 faculty members awarded a Harvard College Professorship for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Awardees will hold the title for five years and receive the support of their choosing: a research fund, a summer salary, or a semester of paid leave. Cushman's area of expertise is moral decision-making. Lately, his research focus has been trying to understand which thoughts spontaneously come to people's minds, and why. Cushman notes a contrast between his research, where results are often prolonged and uncertain, and his teaching, in which he often sees immediate results.

*Highlight: "By investing in those things, you get to see immediate impact and change in students' performance. It gives me a nice balance to have a garden that I can work in where I know if I put time in, I'm going to get fruits out."*

## Future Events

### [2023 Bernard Lown Award Dinner](#)

Lown Institute | June 7, 2023

Join us for an evening of cocktails and a three-course meal amongst healthcare leaders and supporters as we present the 2023 Bernard Lown Award for Social Responsibility.



Today's clinicians face challenges such as global health crises, climate emergencies, systemic racism, and growing inequality. Addressing these issues will take a new generation of clinician leaders, who aren't afraid to go outside the healthcare system to tackle critical health problems. We need more clinicians who have the vision to see the healthcare system as it is, the courage to take a stand, and the confidence to lead the movement for radically better healthcare.

We are excited to present this year's award to **Altaf Saadi, MD**, and we invite you to join us at the ceremony/dinner along with others like you who value this type of inspiring leadership.

Dr. Saadi is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Director of the Mass General Asylum Clinic. Her research in the field of neurologic health disparities and advocacy work has changed the lives of countless immigrants and refugees. Her personal experience of immigrating from Iran to Canada and then to the United States has motivated and inspired all that she does. With the award, we recognize her extraordinary efforts as a young clinician to advance health equity and justice for marginalized people and to lead transformative change in our society.

If you have any questions, contact Holly Weeden, Development Manager, at [hweeden@lowninstitute.org](mailto:hweeden@lowninstitute.org) or 617-274-8709.



## Past Events

### [Blaming the Brain: Criminal Responsibility, Addiction, and Neuroscience](#)

UNITAR, CLB, and Maastricht University | February 28, 2023

View the recording of this event [here](#).

Advances in neuroscience have challenged core concepts of personal volition, agency, and accountability. This webinar examines criminal responsibility in light of neuroscience models of addiction, psychiatric illness, decision-making, and volition. Webinar leaders from the University of Maastricht, University of Groningen, and the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital (Harvard Medical School) discuss comparative law approaches (European and American) to criminal responsibility and the extent to which these approaches do—or should—reflect current and emerging neuroscience findings. This webinar is presented in anticipation of coursework offered by UNITAR during Fall 2023 leading to an Executive Diploma on Law and Neuroscience – A Comparative Approach.

Panelists:

**Dr. David Roef**, Associate Professor in Criminal Law, Professor of Criminal Law and Neuroscience at Maastricht University

**Dr. Anna Goldberg**, Assistant Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Groningen

**Dr. Robert Kinscherff**, Executive Director of the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Fellow of the American Psychological Association

**Dr. Judith Edersheim**, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School



### [When the Science Says Children But the Law Says Adults: Trying and Sentencing Youth as Adults](#)

Petrie-Flom Center & CLB | April 4, 2023

Visit the recording of this event [here](#).

All 50 states have transfer laws that either allow or require children to be prosecuted in adult criminal court for certain offenses. Attorney Marsha Levick, Esq. will provide an overview of the transfer law legal landscape and potential legal challenges to transfer laws. Neuroscientist BJ Casey, Ph.D. will speak about the science of adolescence and explore whether there is a neuroscientific basis for transfer laws as an effective deterrent to delinquency and consistent with rehabilitation. Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD will then lead a discussion on the role science can play in challenges to transfer laws.

Read more about this virtual talk [here](#).

Panelists:

Introduction: **Carmel Shachar**, Executive Director, Petrie-Flom Center

**BJ Casey**, Ph.D. Christina L. Williams Professor of Neuroscience, Department of Neuroscience and Behavior, Barnard College, Columbia University and The Justice Collaboratory, Yale Law School

**Marsha Levick**, J.D., Chief Legal Officer and Co-Founder, Juvenile Law Center and Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

**Stephanie Tabashneck**, Psy.D., J.D., Senior Fellow in Law and Applied Neuroscience, CLB and the Petrie-Flom Center



### [Neuroscience and Cannabis: Implications for Law and Policy](#)

Center of Law, Brain, and Behavior | April 20, 2023

Visit the recording of this event [here](#).

The legalization of cannabis has raised significant questions for law and public policy. In this public event, neuroscientist Dr. Yasmin Hurd explores the science of cannabis, CBD, and the future of substance use disorder treatment. Dr. Stephanie Tabashneck then moderated a discussion and audience Q&A about the implications for law and policy.



Panelists:

Introduction: **Carmel Shachar**, Executive Director, Petrie-Flom Center

**Yasmin Hurd**, PhD, Ward-Coleman Chair, Translational Neuroscience, Professor Psychiatry and Neuroscience, and Director, Addiction Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Stephanie Tabashneck**, PsyD, JD, Senior Fellow in Law and Applied Neuroscience, CLBB, and the Petrie-Flom Center

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## Opportunities

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### [Shen Lab Opportunities: Engaging Law, Ethics, Neuroscience & AI](#)

The [Shen Lab](#) at Harvard, which engages Law, Ethics, Neuroscience & Artificial Intelligence, is **now hiring for several summer positions** including: (1) a Masters in Bioethics or JD student / recent graduate to support NIH-funded research on ethical and legal challenges associated with the advent highly portable neuroimaging (see [NeuroimagingEthics.org](#) for more); (2) a student to work full-time (preferred) or part-time over the summer on a new *Career Network in Neuroscience & Society* supported by the Dana Foundation; (3) and part-time research assistants to support multiple projects in the Lab. The Shen Lab is directed by Dr. Francis Shen, JD, PhD, a faculty member at the Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics, MGH Department of Psychiatry, and Harvard University Affiliated Professor at Harvard Law School. We are in particular need of applicants with skills in graphic design and website development, but we are also open to hiring students without previous research experience.

**About the Lab:** The Shen Lab motto is “Every story is a brain story,” and the mission of the Lab is to translate advances in brain science and artificial intelligence into better law and policy, and to identify and address the ethical, legal, and social implications of advances in neurotechnology and AI.

**Description of RA Work:** Research assistants play valuable roles in all aspects of the Lab’s work, including: conducting literature reviews, reviewing manuscripts, communicating with research partners, building websites, coordinating events, and much more. All RAs are mentored by Dr. Francis Shen, JD, PhD. There are over 200 Lab alumni, with many co-authoring publications and going on to successful careers and top graduate programs in law, medicine, neuroscience, ethics, and beyond.

To learn more about qualifications, job duties, and to apply, please [visit this Google form](#).

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so **you are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible and certainly by June 1, 2023**.

Questions? Please contact Renee Osagiede, [Renee\\_Osagiede@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Renee_Osagiede@hms.harvard.edu)

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## In the News

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### *General*

#### [Can Community Programs Help Slow the Rise in Violence?](#)

Pro Publica | January 30, 2023

#### [Can an Artificial Intelligence Model Be Built to Closely Mimic the Human Brain?](#)

NYU Langone Health | March 30, 2023

#### [Syrian Children Traumatized by War Are Listening to a Special Lullaby to Fall Asleep](#)

CNN | March 31, 2023

#### [The Hospital Conversation That Set a Young Epilepsy Patient on the Neuroscience Career Path](#)

Nature | March 31, 2023

#### [How We Experience and Remember Our Daily Surroundings](#)

Neuroscience News | April 1, 2023

#### [Human Memory May Be Unreliable After Just a Few Seconds, Scientists Find](#)

The Guardian | April 5, 2023

#### [Novel Research on How Mice Perceive Pleasure Reveals a Promising Path to Treating Addiction](#)

Inverse | April 5, 2023



## *Juvenile Justice*

### [Innovative Intervention Addresses Youth Suicide Risk in the Juvenile Justice System](#)

Columbia Psychiatry | February 1, 2023

### [How Bad is Juvenile Justice in Dallas? This Report Has a Lot to Say](#)

Dallas News | March 15, 2023

### [Kentucky Lawmakers Pass 2 Bills Aimed at Improving Juvenile Justice in the State](#)

WDRB | March 17, 2023

### [Editorial: Shut Down L.A.'s Broken Juvenile Probation. Overhaul Proposals Are Too Little, Too Late](#)

The Los Angeles Time | March 28, 2023

### [Juvenile Justice Should Focus on Rehabilitation Not Punishment](#)

Boston Globe | March 31, 2023

### [Philly's Juvenile-Justice System Leaves Girls Out of Programs That Could Help Them, New Report Says](#)

The Philadelphia Inquirer | April 3, 2023

## *Elder Justice*

### [Elder Abuse and Coercive Control Reform in Australia: Special Report](#)

Lexology | February 1, 2023

### [Elder Justice Center Providing Help for Neglected and Abused Adults](#)

WBRC | February 24, 2023

### [Public Hearing to Strengthen Guardianship Laws, Prevent Elder Abuse Examines Shortcomings in PA's Process](#)

PA Senate Republicans | March 17, 2023

### [A 93-year-old Pembroke Grandmother Was Scammed Out of \\$9,500. Here's How Bank of America and Lyft Were Involved.](#)

Boston Globe | March 24, 2023

### [Elder Abuse Registry Led by a Mother's Daughter](#)

The Messenger | March 31, 2023

### [Adult Protection Network Keeps Elders Safe](#)

The Well at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | April 3, 2023

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