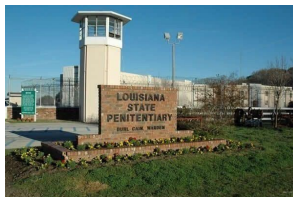


CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

November 6, 2020

CLBB Highlights



[CLBB Expert Testimony Leads to Major Victory on Parole Eligibility Ruling in Louisiana](#)

October 6, 2020

On October 6, 2020, the 24th Judicial District Court in Louisiana held a *Miller* re-sentencing hearing in *State of Louisiana v. Lawrence Jacobs*, to determine Mr. Jacobs' eligibility for parole. Jacobs was 16 when he was convicted of murder and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. **Describing the expert testimony of CLBB Associate Managing Director Dr. Robert Kinscherff as "the most helpful evidence" in the case**, the court found that Jacobs' offense had the features of transient immaturity and that Jacobs had demonstrated a capacity for embracing a positive way of life. The Court ruled that Jacobs was immediately eligible for parole. See the court's opinion in this case [here](#).

Highlight in the opinion: "The court finds that the most helpful evidence presented during the hearing was that which bore specifically upon defendant's chances of rehabilitation... **as Dr. Kinscherff, stated in his testimony**, we don't have to guess as to defendant's capacity for embracing a positive way of life; we can see how he has developed."

Upcoming Events

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

Wed., April 1 | 12:00pm | Harvard Law School | Wasserman Hall, Milstein East C



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

November 16, 2020, 12:00-1:00 pm EDT

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 will explore technological innovations in dementia detection, and their ethical, social, and legal implications.

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

[Joint Committee on the Status of Women Professional Equity Symposium](#)

November 17, 2020, 12:00 - 2:00 pm EDT

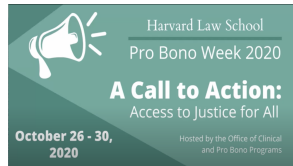
The Joint Committee on the Status of Women (JCSW) Professional Equity Symposium will be held on November 17, 2020 as a Harvard

**Mind the Gap:
Pay Equity in Academic Medicine**



Medical School virtual meeting. The panel will focus on equity analysis, on defining best practices and on steps for implementation of a framework to ensure equity. Harvard Community and affiliates are welcome to attend. Speakers will include **CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner, JD, MA**. Register for this webinar [here](#). For a full agenda and speaker bios visit the [event website](#).

Past Events



[In Honor of Chief Justice Gants: Eradicating Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System](#)

October 29, 2020, 12:00-1:00 pm EST

The late Chief Justice Gants was deeply concerned about the great disparity in the rates of imprisonment among Whites, African-Americans and Latinos in Massachusetts and sought to root out the inequities in the system that led to these disparate rates. Professor Dehlia Umunna engaged in a conversation in his honor about the critical next steps in eradicating racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Panelists included **CLBB Faculty Member Judge Jay Blitzman (Ret.)**, **CLBB Managing Director Judge Nancy Gertner (Ret.)**, and Rev. Rashaan Hall from the ACLU of Massachusetts. This event was hosted by the Office of Clinical and Pro Bono Programs as a part of National Pro Bono Week.

Faculty Research and News



[Psychologists Who Testified That Convicted Murderer Phillip Chism Faked Mental Illness Will Examine Alleged Springfield Serial Killer Stewart Weldon](#)

MassLive | October 19, 2020

CLBB Associate Managing Director Robert Kinscherff, JD, PHD, testified for the prosecution at the 2015 murder trial of Philip Chism, and the case is detailed here as a reference to the case of Stewart Weldon.

Highlight: "Boston psychologists Nancy Hebben and Robert Kinscherff testified that Chism, who was convicted of raping and killing his math teacher at a Danvers high school when he was 14, feigned mental illness. The duo have now been tapped by local prosecutors to conduct their own evaluations of Weldon weeks after the defense submitted a motion to initiate its own examination - hinting at an insanity defense."

[The Neurobiology of Trauma, Fear, and Racism](#)

October 1, 2020, 3:00-4:15 pm EST



"The Neurobiology of Trauma, Fear, and Racism" was presented to alumni of the "Workshop on Science-Informed Decision Making," as an opportunity to understand the neurobiology of trauma and to plan to apply that understanding to trauma-informed practices at the district-level. **FJC workshop faculty member Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua, MD** provided an overview of how trauma affects the brain and explored how racism is experienced as trauma that affects the brain. Opening remarks were led by

CLBB Executive Director Dr. Francis Shen. While video of this program is not available, you can see Dr. Moreland-Capua's [2018 talk to judges here](#).

[Survey Finds American Support for Human-Animal Chimera Research](#)

ScienceDaily | October 1, 2020



CLBB Executive Director Francis Shen co-authored a study designed to assess opinions on the progressive steps of human-animal chimeric embryo research, by asking participants which aspects of research they were willing to accept based on their personal feelings.

Highlight: "The take-home point is that the overall support for this kind of research across the American public is strong," says co-author Francis Shen, a professor of law at the University of Minnesota and executive director of the Harvard Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Law, Brain, and Behavior. "I think this speaks to the public's interest in the transformative potential of regenerative medicine for addressing disease in a variety of organs."

Opportunities



[Journal of Science & Law - Call for Papers](#)

The Journal of Science & Law invites researchers to submit contributions for a special criminal justice issue to be published Spring 2021. For submission guidelines, visit jscilaw.org.

In the News

General

[Brain Imaging Can Predict Childhood Weight Gain](#) | YaleNews | Oct 12, 2020

[Anxious About Election Results? Here's What's Happening in Your Brain as You Wait](#) | Smithsonian Magazine | Nov 3, 2020

[From Easing Drug Laws to Increasing Police Oversight, Criminal Justice Reform Won Big in the 2020 Election](#) | Time Magazine | Nov 5, 2020

Neuroscience, Law & COVID-19

[Study Shows COVID-19 May Cause Brain Aging](#) | WebMD | Oct 29, 2020

[Brain Scans Show a Whole Spectrum of COVID-19 Abnormalities We Can't Fully Explain](#) | Science Alert | Oct 29, 2020

Juvenile and Emerging Adult Justice

[Rethinking Justice for Emerging Adults: Spotlight on the Great Lakes Region](#) | Juvenile Law Center | Sep 2, 2020

[Life Without Parole for Kids Is Cruelty With No Benefit](#) | The Atlantic | Oct 19, 2020

[Will Amy Coney Barrett Protect the Constitutional Rights of Children and Youth?](#) | Pennsylvania Capital-Star | Oct 25, 2020

Elder Justice

[New Machine Learning Model May Help Predict Dementia, Harvard Medical School Researchers Report](#) | The Harvard Crimson | Oct 9, 2020

[Having Dementia Doesn't Mean You Can't Vote](#) | The New York Times | Oct 14, 2020

[I Wrote About Losing My Wife to Younger-Onset Alzheimer's. This Is What Helped Me Feel Less Alone.](#) | The Boston Globe | Oct 28, 2020

[A DNA Mystery: A Woman Was Supposed to Get Alzheimer's by 50. Why Didn't She?](#) | The Boston Globe | Oct 28, 2020

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