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CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

March 9, 2023

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

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



April 4, 2023, 12:30 PM ET

Online

Join us on **April 4th** for an event on transfer laws that either allow or require children to be prosecuted in adult criminal court for certain offenses. 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.

This panel discussion will be held virtually, as an online webinar. 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 with support from the Oswald DeN. Cammann Fund at Harvard University.

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." Carmel's scholarship focuses on law and health policy, in particular the regulation of access to care for vulnerable individuals, the use of telehealth and digital health products, and the application of public health ethics to real world questions.



BJ Casey, PhD

BJ Casey, PhD is the Christina L. Williams Professor of Neuroscience, Department of Neuroscience and Behavior at Barnard College. She has been a professor of psychology and a member of the Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School since 2016. Casey is a world leader in human neuroimaging and its use in typical and atypical development. Her research, which spans more than 25 years, focuses on cognitive control and self-control — the brain's ability to suppress immediate or inappropriate thoughts, emotions, and behavior in favor of goal-oriented ones. Casey's work, which links psychology, neuroscience, and law, has been used in the juvenile justice field.



Marsha Levick, JD

Marsha Levick, Chief Legal Officer, co-founded Juvenile Law Center in 1975. Throughout her legal career, she has been an advocate for children's and women's rights and is a nationally recognized expert in juvenile law. Marsha oversees Juvenile Law Center's litigation and appellate docket. She has successfully litigated challenges to unlawful and harmful laws, policies and practices on behalf of children in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. She also spearheaded Juvenile Law Center's litigation arising out of the Luzerne County, Pennsylvania juvenile court judges' corruption scandal, known as the "kids for cash" scandal, where Juvenile Law Center successfully sought the expungement and vacatur of thousands of juveniles' cases before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and is pursuing civil damages for the children and their families in a federal civil rights class action.



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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