



American Psychology-Law Society

APA DIVISION 41

**Welcome to the July 2025  
American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) Newsletter**

Our monthly Newsletter provides information about activities, upcoming events, and resources to connect the psychology-law community.

AP-LS aspires to excel as a valuable, effective, and influential organization advancing the science of psychology-law and the translation of psychology-law knowledge into practice and policy.



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**Your Feedback is Needed – Help Shape the Future of AP-LS!**

AP-LS is embarking on a strategic planning process to move our Society toward a stronger, more focused future. As part of this effort, we are seeking input from our members to better meet your needs and enhance the events, services, and resources we provide.

Please take 10-15 minutes to complete our strategic planning survey by **Tuesday, July 9**

Your feedback is essential as we work to develop a comprehensive plan that reflects the priorities of our community. This is your Society—and your voice matters.

Thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful responses!

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### **Demystifying Conceptualization of Criminal Responsibility via Application of Basic Legal Principles: An Exploration of Principles of Punishment and Causation**

Mental state at the time of the offense evaluations are some of the most challenging and complex evaluations that clinical-forensic psychologists engage in. If you can relate to feeling uncomfortable when considering the relationship between an individual's mental illness and their offending behavior, you assuredly are not alone. The purpose of this Clinical and Forensic Practice article is to help clinical-forensic psychologists to feel more comfortable in conceptualizing mental state at the time of the offense cases. It seeks to do this not by considering legal standards and functional legal capacities, but rather by taking a step back and considering the basic legal principles that underlie mental state defenses. Read more [HERE](#).

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### **Join Division 41 at APA 2025!**

August 7-9, Denver, Colorado

Division 41 is excited to present three days of memorable programming at APA 2025! Register now at <https://convention.apa.org/>

Click [HERE](#) for a list of featured division 41 sessions and events.

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### **AP-LS Election Results**

**President-Elect:** Virginia Barber-Rioja

**Member at Large:** Ashley Batastini

**Division Rep to APA Council:** Lara Guzman-Hosta.

Congratulations to our newly elected members of the executive committee, but also congrats and thanks to *all* who agreed to appear on the ballot and potentially serve AP-LS in these important roles.

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### **AP-LS March 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

March's Executive Committee meeting minutes can be found [HERE](#).

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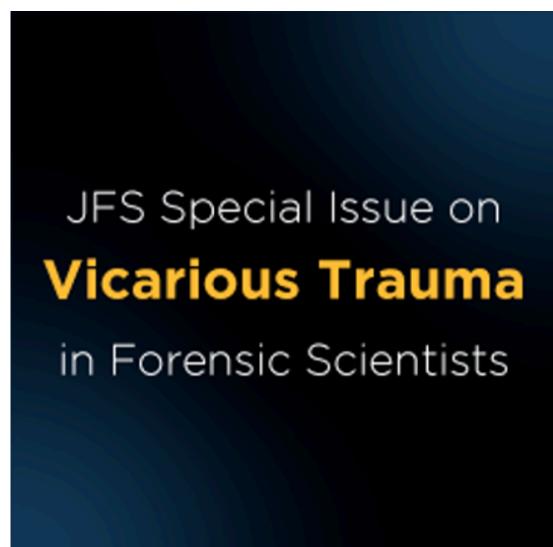
**Editor-in-Chief:** Michael A. Peat, Ph.D.

**Guest Editor:** Daniel A. Martell, Ph.D.

The *Journal of Forensic Sciences* (JFS) is pleased to announce an upcoming special issue, titled:

**JFS Special Issue on Vicarious Trauma  
in Forensic Scientists**

This Special Issue will focus on the cumulative effects of exposure to traumatic experiences in the course of our work as forensic scientists on *mental health outcomes* and *job burnout*.



The *JFS* is seeking manuscript submissions for this Special Issue in multiple areas, including but not limited to the following:

- **Traumatic Exposure in the Field and at the Crime Scene**
  - Police Officers and First Responders
  - Medicolegal Death Investigators
  - Crime Scene Investigators
  - Forensic Nurses
  - Forensic Pathologists
- **Traumatic Exposure in the Lab**
  - Digital Evidence Handling
  - Physical Evidence Handling
  - Medical Examiners' Experiences
  - Toxicology Evidence Handling
  - Pressures and Issues Maintaining Quality etc. in High Volume or Other Lab Settings
- **Traumatic Exposure in the Courtroom**

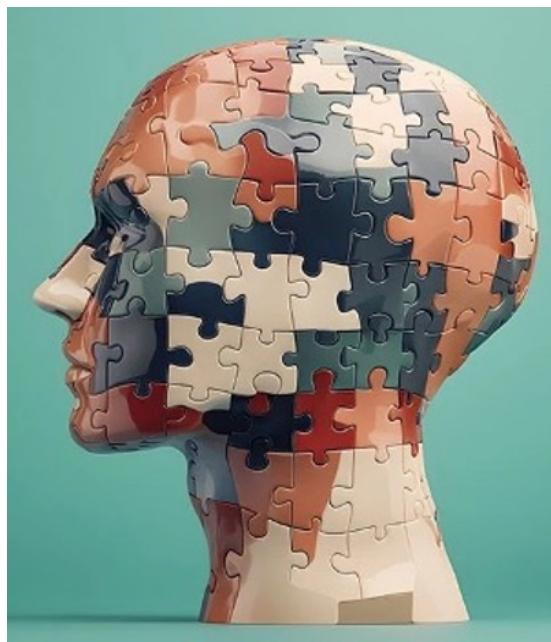
- Stress of Testimony / Cross-Examination
- Encounters with the Victim, Defendant, or their Family Members
- Encounters with the Press in High Profile Cases
- Mental Health Outcomes in Forensic Scientists
- Primary Prevention, Peer Support, Coping, and Treatment

**Manuscript submission information:**

- Submission site: [wiley.atyponrex.com/journal/JFO](https://wiley.atyponrex.com/journal/JFO)
- Cover letter: Include that the submission is for consideration for the *JFS* Special Issue on Vicarious Trauma in Forensic Scientists
- Please follow the guidelines included in the [JFS Information for Authors](#)
- Submission due date: **August 31, 2025**

*JFS* encourages you to be a part of this Special Issue on Vicarious Trauma in Forensic Scientists. It will provide a valuable platform for you to showcase your work and contribute to shaping the direction of our forensic community, promoting meaningful discussions and interdisciplinary connections.

Questions or related inquiries can be sent to Dr. Martell at [dmartell@aol.com](mailto:dmartell@aol.com), Dr. Peat at [jfs.editor@att.net](mailto:jfs.editor@att.net), or *JFS* Managing Editor Brenda Peat at [bpeat@aafs.org](mailto:bpeat@aafs.org).



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## Executive Committee

For more information or if you wish to contact a member of the AP-LS Executive Committee, [click here](#).

### On The Job or Postdoc Market? AP-LS Job Postings



Check out [AP-LS's Job Postings Page](#) for up-to-date information on available psychology-law positions.

[View Job Postings](#)

## Newsletter Editorial Board

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## Membership Services

AP-LS seeks to advance the science of psychology - law and the translation of psychology - law knowledge into practice. Our mission is to enhance the well-being, justice, and human rights through science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.

## Newsletter Archives

Archives of the newsletter are available at <https://ap-ls.org/newsletter>.

### American Psychology-Law Society

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