



American Psychology-Law Society

APA DIVISION 41

**Welcome to the September 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.



**Presidential Statements for the APA President
Candidacy**

The AP-LS Executive Committee asked each candidate running for APA President-Elect to respond to three questions (developed in 2022) so that AP-LS members could learn about the candidates' views on issues relevant to AP-LS. We received responses from 3/4 candidates. Although AP-LS does not endorse candidates, we encourage you to read the responses so you can make an informed decision based on their qualifications and thoughts on the AP-LS mission. APA members should have already

received ballots via email. Voting is open until September 15th. Read the responses by clicking each: [Dr. Kalyani Gopal](#); [Dr. Joe Pachman](#); [Dr. Linda M. Woolf](#).

Recognition of Outstanding Service

At the August business meeting, AP-LS recognized executive committee members Lavita Nadkarni and Virginia Barber Rioja for their outstanding service to the organization. Lavita is currently serving a one-year term as APA representative. Virginia just completed a three-year term as Member at Large. Both contributed greatly to the mission of the organization and we're grateful for their service.



Congrats! Undergraduate Paper Award Winners

This year's winners for the Undergraduate Paper Award are:

1. **Lucy Tomlinson**, *Motivational Bias Impacts the Construction of Eyewitness Lineups*

Mentor: Laura Smalarz, PhD, Arizona State University

2. **Maddie Stine**, *Cognitive and Social Vulnerabilities: Adolescents' Pragmatic Inferences of Leniency in Response to Minimization*

Mentor: Fabiana Alceste, PhD, Butler University

3. **Liam Gorsuch**, *Exploring the Association between Substance Misuse and a History of Suicidality Among People Entering Custody*

Mentor: Tonia L. Nicholls, PhD, University British Columbia



Defended Your Dissertation in 2025?

Apply for the AP-LS Dissertation Award and be recognized for outstanding scholarship!

Winners will be invited to share their work at the 2026 AP-LS Annual Conference.

Submit your dissertation and supporting documents via the [AP-LS Dissertation Award Google Form](#) by **December 31**. For more information, visit [AP-LS Dissertation Awards webpage](#) or contact Alicia Nijdam-Jones (alicia.nijdam-jones@umanitoba.ca).

Congratulations to our new Division 41 Fellows, and apply to become a Fellow or Distinguished Member of AP-LS

Congratulations to Dan Murrie, Kyle Scherr, and Maggie Stevenson for recently becoming Division 41 Fellows. Would you like to see your name here next year? If so, read on for information about how to become a Fellow or Distinguished Member of AP-LS.

According to our bylaws, “Full Members nominated for Fellow in the Society must provide evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions in the area of psychology and law. All candidates for Fellow must be endorsed by at least two Fellows of the Society. In addition, all candidates for Fellow must meet the requirements of the bylaws of the Association. Full Affiliates nominated for Distinguished Member in the Society must provide evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions in the area of psychology and law. All candidates for Distinguished Member must be endorsed by at least two Fellows or Distinguished Members of the Society.”

Members nominated for Fellow or Distinguished member status through AP-LS must provide evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions in the area of psychology and law. The deadline for receipt of all application materials (nominee’s materials and endorsers’ materials) is **December 1**. For Fellow status (unless you are already a Fellow in another division), apply through the APA Fellow portal (<https://www.apa.org/members/your-membership/fellows/apply>). For Distinguished Member status and if you are already a Fellow in another APA division, email materials to ebrank2@unl.edu

For more information about criteria for becoming a Fellow, see this page:
<https://www.apa.org/members/your-membership/fellows/division-41.pdf>

Call for Grant Proposals for Research to Enhance the Impact and Diversification of Psychology & Law Research 2025 - 2026 Call for REID Grant Proposals

The American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS) invites research proposals for Research to Enhance the Impact and Diversification of Psychology & Law Research. The intent of this grant initiative is to advance a more interdisciplinary science that addresses understudied topics in psychology and law, as well as to broaden the discipline and amplify its practical impact. Proposed projects must investigate new or understudied topics in psychology and law, enhance the diversification of psychology and law research through novel theoretical or methodological approaches that are cross-disciplinary in nature, and/or promote the impact of research by considering novel populations or new problems or processes within the legal system. Collaboration with practitioners or policymakers is encouraged. Successful proposals are expected to involve projects with the potential to transform and impact the field by furthering novel lines of research inquiry and/or facilitating new cross-disciplinary collaborations. As part of the AP-LS initiative toward a more inclusive society, grant applications that specifically address disadvantaged groups or understudied topic areas in psychology and law will be given preference. This includes funding scholars from traditionally underprivileged backgrounds. Proposals may be submitted into one of two funding categories:

1. Small/Seed proposals (\$1,000-\$5,000 for a 12-month research period)
2. Large proposals (\$15,000-\$50,000 over a 12-18 month research period)

Funding should primarily support research activities and data collection efforts. Support for research assistants and necessary travel may be requested, but should not constitute the majority of the requested funds. Applicants may request up to 100% of funds to cover faculty FTE in the form of a stipend. This means that salary support and fringe can be covered. Funds for successful proposals will be awarded to the PI's academic institution (via the institution's Office of Sponsored Research or Foundation). No institutional indirect cost recovery will be permitted, and proposals submitted for consideration by this program must not be submitted for consideration by other grant programs (including AP-LS programs). Proposals submitted but not funded in previous funding cycles may be resubmitted, but all proposals will be evaluated as new proposals.

Researchers may submit a maximum of one proposal to the large grant mechanism and one proposal to the small grant mechanism. That is, researchers can be an author or co-author on a maximum of one proposal to each of the grant categories. Students may not be PIs on proposals, although they may be Co-PIs.

Pre-proposal submissions will open on October 1. The submission deadline is **October 15th, 2025**. Selected pre-proposal submissions will be notified in November if they are selected to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due in mid-December.

The application portal and more information on applications can be found at <https://ap-ls.org/awards/grants/impactgrant>. Please email one or both of the co-chairs of the Research Committee, Eyal Aharoni and Megan Kienzle and, with any questions: research@ap-ls.org.

AP-LS 2026 Distinguished Service Award

The AP-LS Distinguished Service Award recognizes members that have contributed exceptional meritorious professional service to the Society and/or the field of legal/forensic psychology. Examples might include (but are not limited to): extensive committee service and leadership for the Society, community outreach/advocacy, services provided to state, local, or federal governments, or uncompensated consultation in legal or clinical services. Nominees must be members of AP-LS, have been in the field for at least 10 years since their doctoral degree, and have demonstrated a sustained track record of leadership and service. Up to two individuals may be recognized each year.

Recipients will be formally recognized at the AP-LS Annual Conference. Awardees will receive a plaque, complimentary registration to that year's conference, and up to \$1,000 in travel reimbursement upon request.

All nominations should be submitted to: <https://tinyurl.com/APLSAwards> by **November 15, 2025**. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nomination packet should be a single PDF document that includes:

- A copy of the nominee's CV;
- A letter detailing the nominee's distinguished contributions to psychology and law; and
- Any additional letters of support that address the nominee's service to the field.

More information about the award can be found at: <https://ap-ls.org/awards/awards/distinguishedservice>.

AP-LS 2026 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology and Law

The AP-LS Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology and Law honors one who has made distinguished theoretical, empirical, and/or applied contributions to the field of psychology and law. This award will not be presented on a regular basis. Rather, it will be reserved for those individuals whose contributions are so unusual as to merit special commendation. This award is not exclusively for AP-LS members, and anyone who meets these criteria may be nominated (but self-nominations are not considered).

Recipients will be formally recognized at the AP-LS Annual Conference. Awardees will receive a plaque, complimentary registration to that year's conference, and up to \$1,000 in travel reimbursement upon request.

All nominations should be submitted to: <https://tinyurl.com/APLSAwards> by **November 15, 2025**. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nomination packet should be a single PDF document that includes:

- A copy of the nominee's CV;
- A letter detailing the nominee's distinguished contributions to psychology and law; and
- Names and addresses of four individuals who are familiar with the nominee's work and who would be able to address the nominee's contributions to the field of psychology and law (or additional letters from these four individuals).

More information about the award can be found at: <https://ap-ls.org/awards/awards/distinguished>.

AP-LS 2026 Mid-Career Award

The AP-LS Mid-Career Award recognizes members whose work has already substantially contributed to the fields of forensic and legal psychology. Up to three awards may be given each year to recognize scholars who have contributed through research, theory, and/or practice within these fields (e.g., experimental, forensic, corrections, etc.).

Nominees will have completed their terminal degree 10 - 25 years before the nomination deadline. The nominee should be a member of AP-LS.

Recipients will be formally recognized at the AP-LS Annual Conference. Awardees will receive a plaque, complimentary registration to that year's conference, and up to \$1,000 in travel reimbursement upon request.

All nominations should be submitted to: <https://tinyurl.com/APLSAwards> by **November 15, 2025**. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nomination packet should be a single PDF document that includes:

- A copy of the nominee’s CV;
- A letter detailing the nominee’s distinguished contributions to psychology and law; and
- Any additional letters of support that address the nominee’s contributions to the field.

More information about the award can be found at: <https://apls.org/awards/awards/midcareer>.

AAFP/AP-LS 2026 Saleem Shah Award

The Saleem Shah Award is an annual award co-sponsored by the American Academy of Forensic Psychology and the American Psychology-Law Society recognizing early career excellence and contributions to the field of psychology and law. Please see <https://aafpforensic.org/awards/saleem-shah-award-for-early-career-excellence-in-psychology-and-law/> for more information.

AAFP and AP-LS leadership elected to expand their recognition of emerging talent in our field by potentially honoring up to two (2) early career forensic or legal psychologists annually for this prestigious award. This modification aims to provide greater opportunities for acknowledging outstanding contributions from professionals in the early stages of their careers.

The focus of a nominee's contributions may be in any area of forensic/legal psychology practice, research, or public policy. The selection committee will prioritize one winner from more applied clinical domains and one winner from field or experimental research that can include less clinical domains. Of course, we recognize that excellent work (like Saleem Shah's) may span these broad categories or be difficult to categorize.

The recipient(s) must have received a doctoral degree (or law degree, whichever comes later, if both have been earned) within the last 10 years (as defined by APA, Year 2015 or later, inclusive of 2015). The award includes \$2,000, as well as the opportunity to give the Saleem Shah Address at the next meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society.

All nominations should be submitted to: <https://tinyurl.com/APLSAwards> by **November 15, 2025**. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nomination packet should be a single PDF document that includes:

- a letter detailing the nominee's contributions to psychology and law, and
- a copy of the nominee's vita.

More information about the award can be found at: [https://ap-
ls.org/awards/saleemshah](https://ap-ls.org/awards/saleemshah).

Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in the Field of Psychology and Law: Call for Nominations

Each year the AP-LS Teaching, Training, and Careers (TTC) Committee confers two awards for outstanding teaching and mentoring. These awards recognize teaching excellence in the field of psychology and law in a variety of contexts, specifically through the Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Award and the Early Career Teaching and Mentoring Award.

For more information about the awards, eligibility, and how to nominate yourself or others, please click: [Teaching and Mentoring Awards](#)

This year the TTC Committee is specifically soliciting nominations for individuals who have taught or mentored undergraduate or terminal Master's students (i.e., Category

1).

Winners will be announced at the 2026 AP-LS Conference. Award recipients receive \$500, a plaque at the AP-LS conference, and the option to serve as a guest columnist for the AP-LS Newsletter.

Nominations are due by **December 15, 2025**. Nominations should be emailed to: ttc@apls.org.

AP-LS Book Award: Seeking Nominations

The AP-LS Book Award Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2026 Book Award, which recognizes exceptional scholarship in psychology and law. The Book Award alternates annually between edited and authored books. This year, we are seeking nominations for edited books published in 2023 or 2024. Please submit your nominations (including self-nominations) by **November 1, 2025**. We kindly ask for at least two copies of the book to be submitted—electronic versions are preferred. Nominations and e-versions of the book should be sent to the Chair of the Committee: Elizabeth Foster, PhD efoster@widener.edu.

Call for Papers: Special Issue on Cultural Safety and Indigenous-Led Change in Forensic Mental Health Services



The *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health* is inviting submissions for a special issue focused on advancing cultural safety and Indigenous-led change in forensic mental health, legal, and correctional systems. This issue will highlight Indigenous-led or ethically co-developed research, programs, and critical perspectives that centre Indigenous experiences, knowledge, and wellness-based approaches.

We welcome original research, theoretical papers, program evaluations, and systematic reviews/meta-analyses. Intersectional, community-grounded, and decolonizing approaches are especially encouraged.

 Full Call for Papers: <https://journals.sagepub.com/page/FMH/cultural-safety-indigenous-led-change-cfp>

 Submission Deadline: January 15, 2026

 Guest Editors: [Dr. Lisa Monchalin](#) and [Dr. Alicia Nijdam-Jones](#).

Call for Applications

Embracing Leadership: Developing Skills for Your Career Evolution

Embracing Leadership is designed to provide American Psychology-Law Society (APA Division 41) members with practical training in leadership and with leadership opportunities. The goals of the program are:

1. Provide training for interested members in a variety of leadership skills that could benefit their careers broadly
2. Cultivate interest in leadership within the Division
3. Provide leadership opportunities within the Division
4. Prepare our members to take on leadership challenges

Embracing Leadership will have four activities that will take place over one year, beginning in March of 2026. These activities include:

1. A workshop on leadership on the Wednesday prior to the AP-LS conference
2. Webinars on leadership topics that will occur bimonthly (once every other month), on the first Monday of the month (that is not a holiday) at 9AM west coast time
3. Connecting participants to a mentor already in leadership in the Division
4. Providing opportunities for leadership within the Division by completing an initiative with AP-LS leadership

Applicants are welcome from all career levels, including applicants who are students, ECPs, mid-career, and beyond.

To apply, please fill out the Qualtrics survey linked here:

https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3yILTY1nS1cOXHw

To complete the application, you will upload your CV and statement of interest. The statement of interest should provide a brief summary (up to 500 words) of where you are in your career, what interests you about leadership development, what leadership roles you have had, and what (if any) leadership roles you would like to obtain in the future.

Applications are due **December 15, 2025**. Applicants will be notified about decisions by January 15, 2026.

If you have any questions about the program or application process, please contact Karen Grabowski (TTC-Embracing Leadership Subcommittee Chair) at ttc@ap-ls.org.

****Note:** As part of the application process, some basic demographic information will be collected through the Qualtrics survey that can be used to track applicants and participants as part of the evaluation of the program. It will help us determine who applies and who is accepted.

Division 41 of the American Psychological Association



Law and Human Behavior Editorial Fellowship

The Editorial Team of *Law and Human Behavior* is seeking nominations for one editorial fellowship position for an early-career psychologist (ECP) from a group historically underrepresented in the academy and/or professional practice. The fellow will serve a 12-month term beginning January 1, 2026, and the position includes an honoraria stipend of \$2,500 USD.

Law and Human Behavior's Editorial Fellowship Program seeks to elevate leadership opportunities for ECPs from communities that have been historically underrepresented in research and publishing leadership roles. Such individuals include, but are not limited to, psychologists who are Black, Indigenous, or other people of color and ethnicities as well as those psychologists who study, advocate on behalf of, or practice primarily with communities of color. Members of other underrepresented communities (e.g., LGBTQIA+ individuals, individuals with disabilities) or who work with or advocate on behalf of individuals from these communities will be considered.

Qualifications

The fellowship is open to qualified candidates who meet the above description and are no more than 10 years postdoctoral. Preference will be given to applicants who have experience conducting peer reviews and who are interested in pursuing a leadership role with a peer-reviewed journal.

Responsibilities

The fellow will work closely with the *Law and Human Behavior* Editorial Team (Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors) to develop their editorial leadership skills. The fellow will be mentored to perform the tasks typically required of an Associate Editor, including screening manuscripts for appropriateness, inviting reviewers to review manuscripts, and writing decision letters. The fellow will also participate in periodic meetings (via Zoom) with the *Law and Human Behavior* Editorial Team. Fellows will be credited on the journal masthead and, upon successful completion of the fellowship, will become members of *Law and Human Behavior's* Editorial Board.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should send their application to the Editor-in-Chief of *Law and Human Behavior*, David DeMatteo (david.dematteo@drexel.edu), by **November 1, 2025**. Applicants should provide a CV and a letter of interest that (a) describes their expertise and experience, (b) provides context for their interest in the editorial fellowship program, and (c) indicates how their participation in editorial fellowship program will contribute to the journal's advancement.

Psychology, Public Policy, and Law Editorial Fellowship

The editorial leadership team for Psychology, Public Policy, and Law seeks nominations for two (2) editorial fellowship positions for early-career psychologists (ECPs) who will bring experiential diversity to their work. The editorial fellowship program seeks to prepare the profession of psychology for the future by creating pathways to leadership roles for ECPs whose professional contributions or service demonstrate a commitment to addressing the needs of underserved populations or increasing access to psychological knowledge and publishing. Fellows serve 12-month terms beginning January 1, 2026; the position includes an honoraria stipend of \$1,000 USD per fellow. Applications are due **October 1, 2025**.

Interested and qualified candidates should send a letter of interest introducing themselves, their expertise, and an explanation of their interest in and appropriateness for the position, including how their participation in the program will contribute to the journal's advancement, along with a copy of their CV, by completing [this application](#) before October 1, 2025.

Please email editorial assistant Maya Irvin-Vitela, M.S. at mirvinvi@iastate.edu with questions as they may arise. Please see <https://osf.io/9ebrm> for more information.

Psychology, Public Policy, and Law: Call for Applications for 2026 Editorial Board

Psychology, Public Policy, and Law (PPPL) seeks applications for the 2026 editorial board. A portion of the board will be rotated off each year so new people can become part of the board. As detailed in a recent editorial ([Neal, 2025](#)), "Early each fall, we will open a renewed call for editorial board members, where anyone can indicate their interest in being part of the editorial team" at any of the levels that will be open in each year.

Editorial board members who served in 2025 can indicate their interest in remaining on the board, and new applicants can apply. The position descriptions and qualifications required for each role are detailed in this open call for editorial board members <https://osf.io/fcmvj> (Associate Editor(s), Editorial Board Members, Principal Reviewers, and Ad Hoc Reviewers). Application Deadline: **October 1, 2025**.

NAN Online Course: Fundamentals of Forensic Neuropsychology

20 CE Credits (course begins August 25, 2025 ends November 3, 2025)

This 10-week course is designed to introduce neuropsychologists to forensic evaluation in both criminal and civil litigation. Participants will be familiarized with the United States legal system structure, and relevant case law and legal and practice considerations for forensic neuropsychological (FNP) engagement. Coursework will focus on key terms and processes in FNP evaluation, with emphasis on the differences between forensic and traditional clinical neuropsychology practice. Participants will

learn essential elements of select criminal and civil forensic neuropsychological evaluations, and an overview of important components of forensic neuropsychological report writing and testimony. The aim of this course is for the neuropsychologist to understand their potential to uniquely contribute to the legal system and to be aware of the requisite foundational knowledge for moving forward in this specialty niche. Another objective is for the participant to gain not only empirical knowledge, but also to be able to apply this knowledge in real-world scenarios. Ethical as well as equity, diversity, and inclusivity considerations will be discussed throughout the course. [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE.](#)

Bringing the Law Back to Psychology: The Benefits, Pitfalls, and How-To's of Cross-Disciplinary Legal Psychology

Abstract: The Presidential Plenary of the 2025 APLS Annual Conference highlighted the importance of collaborating with legal scholars and professionals in the field of psychology and the law. But that collaboration is not always easy. This Legal Update column provides some of the background "nuts and bolts" of working with legal academics, such as differences in conventions for scholarly conferences. The column also walks the reader through the process of publishing a law review article, highlighting differences between that and the traditional peer review publication process. Read more [HERE](#).

Research Briefs

Take a look at the latest research briefs for short summaries of the latest articles relevant to psychology-law.

Read the research briefs [HERE](#).

AP-LS May Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Request for proposals for Chapters and Essays

Monica K. Miller, David DeMatteo, and Daniel Krauss are editors of the book series "Advances in Psychology and Law," which seeks to enhance understanding of the connections between these disciplines, present "state of the science" summaries for current researchers, and provide a starting point for scholars wanting to delve into a new topic of study by reading an up-to-date review chapter or brief essay on that topic. All areas of psychology (e.g., developmental, social, cognitive, clinical, neuroscience) and law (e.g., criminal, civil, contracts, property, family) are appropriate for inclusion.

Chapters and essays will be primarily reviews or meta-analyses. Although they might provide some data to illustrate a new phenomenon, they are not meant to be data-driven like a journal article. Review chapters and essays will be on particular topics

relevant to psychology and law and will be of current interest to the field. Chapters (and especially essays) will typically summarize research on one particular topic, rather than focusing on the entire body of research in an area (e.g., focusing on the Weapon Focus effect rather than the entire body of eyewitness memory). **Chapters** will be relatively long (30-40 pages d.s.), which will allow authors to go provide in depth analysis and take calculated risks (e.g., engaging in informed speculation about future research or the consequences of particular legal policies). **Essays** will be shorter (approximately 10 pages d.s.) because they discuss a topic that is new and/or has less previous research to synthesize.

The book series has an editorial board of distinguished scholars who are experts in various areas in psychology and law. The editorial board will offer guidance about the development of topics and serve as expert reviewers of chapters and essays. The editors strive to produce one volume in the series approximately every 12-18 months.

Overviews of the previous volumes can be viewed here to ensure topics have not been already included in the series and to see examples of chapters:

<http://www.springer.com/series/11918?detailsPage=titles>

For more information or to submit an idea, please contact Monica Miller:

mkmiller@unr.edu.

Remembering Sam Sommers

By Jenn Hunt

I am deeply sad to share the news that Sam Sommers died unexpectedly from surgical complications on March 16, 2025 at the age of 49. He was living in Boston, MA, where he was Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Tufts University.

Sam was a groundbreaking researcher in the area of race and law. His dissertation research, published in 2006, provided the first experimental evidence that racial diversity improved the functioning of juries. Sam also investigated the conditions under which racial bias affects jurors' judgments and the ways that attorneys use peremptory challenges to excuse Black venire members while providing race-neutral justifications. On the basis of this work, Sam was recognized with the 2009 Saleem Shah Early Career Award from AP-LS and the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

As Sam's career progressed, he continued to study racial bias in legal contexts but also published important work on interracial interactions and majority members' reactions to growing diversity. Sam was a fierce advocate for justice, and he regularly served as an expert witness, helping jurors understand how racial bias may have affected legal cases. Sam also worked with the Innocence Project and other organizations dedicated to justice.

Sam was a long-time AP-LS member with a distinguished history of serving our society. He was a conference co-chair for the 2010 AP-LS conference in Vancouver. He also was one of the early members of the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), now known as BRIDGE (Broadening Representation, Inclusion, Diversity, and Global Equity). As part of MAC, Sam contributed to the development of several important programs, such as the AP (Access Path for Psychology and Law Experience) program to help undergraduate

students from underrepresented groups gain research experience. Sam served on the Editorial Board for *Law and Human Behavior* for many years.

On a personal level, Sam was a generous colleague and a kind friend. He was never too busy to provide thoughtful feedback for a colleague or to talk with students from other universities. He was optimistic, funny, and genuinely cared about others' wellbeing. I know that I speak on behalf of many other AP-LS members when I say that Sam will be deeply missed.

To learn more about Sam's life, please read a tribute from colleagues at Tufts University at <https://now.tufts.edu/2025/03/20/remembering-psychology-professor-sam-sommers>.

These colleagues have established a GoFundMe for Sam's family, which can be found at <https://gofund.me/aaa8e0f5>.

Additionally, a fund has been created in honor of Sam Sommers, supporting a new academic award in his name. The Sam Sommers Prize is awarded annually to a Tufts undergraduate student who has demonstrated excellence in the study of Psychology and whose academic pursuits and/or demonstrated interests exemplify the spirit of Professor Sommers' work and legacy as a thoughtful, caring, warm, and insightful human dedicated to knowledge, justice, resilience, and civic engagement.

Please join the Tufts University Department of Psychology on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at 10:30 am in Cohen Auditorium on the Medford campus to celebrate the career and achievements of our beloved friend, colleague, and mentor, the late Professor Sam Sommers. The poster below provides QR codes that you may use to RSVP for the event and to donate to the academic award that was created in honor of Professor Sommers.

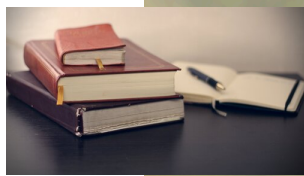


Meet Our New EC Members!

We're pleased to introduce new AP-LS Executive committee members: Ashley Batastini, our new member at large, and Lara Guzman-Hosta, our incoming Division 41 APA Council Representative. Their bios and pictures are below. Stay tuned for an introduction to our new president-elect, Virginia Barber Rioja, in next month's newsletter.

Ashley Batastini, Member at Large

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](#)

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Hi, everyone! I've been a long-time member of AP-LS and have had the pleasure of serving the organization in a few different capacities over the years (including as a member of the Corrections Committee and co-chair of the Telepsychology Taskforce), but I am particularly excited to join the Executive Committee as a member at large. My PhD is in Counseling Psychology from Texas Tech University, and I'm currently an Associate Professor in the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science at Monash University of Technology located in Melbourne, Australia. Although my research and clinical interests fall across the spectrum of psychology-law, I'm particularly interested in correctional settings as often priority areas in my work, my research and clinical interests fall across the spectrum of psychology-law. I look forward to serving you and invite you to reach out if you have questions, comments, or ideas for how I can contribute to the growth of AP-LS.

Membership Services

Lara Guzman-Hosta, Psy.D., APA Council Rep

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

www.ap-ls.org | (704) 456-7276 | office@ap-ls.org

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I am really excited to join the AP-LS Executive Committee as the new Division 41 APA Council Representative starting in January 2026. I have been involved in AP-LS since 2020 when I became a part of the first Embracing Leadership cohort, started by then President Jennifer Groscup. Since then I joined the Practice and BRIDGE committees as a member. I became the Practice Committee chair in 2023 and will continue in that role until the end of this year. My professional home is in Massachusetts, where I work as a forensic psychologist for the Department of Mental Health in the Metro Boston Court Clinic Team. In that capacity I am also a member of the Designated Forensic Professional's Credentialing Committee, Senior Reviewer in the Independent Forensic Risk Assessment Program, and a Forensic Mental Health Supervisor. I also have a private practice conducting training and workshops involving race, ethnicity, and culture in forensic mental health. I am originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, where I completed my doctoral training at the Carlos Albizu University (San Juan Campus). I am also an alumni of the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology. I am interested in promoting equity, representation and culturally responsive forensic evaluation services. I am thrilled to start as AP-LS's APA Council Representative in January.

Upcoming Student Conference Awards

Stay tuned in January for the call for student conference awards, sponsored by the AP-LS student committee. Note, students must be in attendance at the conference to receive the award. The following awards are available:

- Two (2) outstanding Student Paper Awards (\$200 each)
- Two (2) Outstanding Student Abbreviated Paper ("Data Blitz") Awards (\$150 each)
- Two (2) Outstanding Student Poster Awards (\$100 each)

Five (5) speciality awards:

- One (1) Outstanding Student Presentation in Legal Research (\$175), for research directly related to the law or legal practice
 - One (1) Outstanding Student Presentation in Novel-Topic Research (\$175), for research on a topic not traditionally studied in law and psychology
 - One (1) Outstanding Student Presentation in Corrections Research (\$175), for research directly related to correctional settings
 - One (1) Outstanding Student Presentation in Diversity-Related Research (\$175), for research directly related to underrepresented or marginalized populations
 - One (1) Outstanding Student Presentation Using Open Science Practices (\$175), for outstanding research conducted using open science guidelines and practices
 - Two (2) outstanding Student Paper Awards (\$200 each)
 - Two (2) Outstanding Student Abbreviated Paper ("Data Blitz") Awards (\$150 each)
 - Two (2) Outstanding Student Poster Awards (\$100 each)
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Executive Committee

For more information or if you wish to contact a member of the AP-LS Executive Committee, details can be found [HERE](#).
