



American Psychology-Law Society

APA DIVISION 41

**Welcome to the June 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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**AP-LS Volunteer Drive – Respond by June 30th**

Are you interested in joining the AP-LS leadership team? If so, the best place to start (or continue) is working on one of our Division 41 Committees!

Our annual Volunteer Drive invites all members to consider participation on an AP-LS Committee. Whether you have been a member for decades or are in your first year of graduate school (students are welcome on virtually all of our committees), we would love to have you more involved. Many of our committees will need new

members, so we could really use your help! If you are interested, please complete this brief [survey](#) by June 30th.



**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**
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## **AP-LS Award for Best Undergraduate Paper**

Recognizes an outstanding undergraduate research paper focused on the interdisciplinary study of psychology and law.

To be eligible for an award, the student must be the major contributor to a project on a topic relevant to psychology and law (i.e., the student had primary responsibility for initiating and conducting the project even though the project will usually be conducted under the supervision of a mentor). Data collection should be complete. Winners will be encouraged to submit their work for presentation at the AP-LS Conference (as first authors). Students may submit their work during their first post-undergraduate year as long as the work was conducted during their undergraduate career. For more information, please click [here](#). Deadline: **June 30, 2025**

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**Congratulations to the winners of the newest AP-LS  
Undergraduate Grants-in-Aid!**

**Amy Wark, University of Regina**

Adults' Awareness of Coaching in Child Sexual Abuse Cases

Advisor: Dr. Kaila Bruer

Award: \$1,000

This study explores how adults' perceptions of child sexual abuse victims differ based on the consistency of statements during questioning and the child's relationship to the perpetrator. The research examines how consistency in coached reports and victim-perpetrator relationships influence perceived credibility and awareness of coaching in child sexual abuse cases, with particular focus on whether a child coached to deny abuse would be perceived as highly believable.

**Jessica L. Fagan, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY**

Cross-Examination: An Effective Safeguard Against Procedural Bias in Pre-Trial and In-Court Eyewitness Identification Procedures

Advisor: Dr. Margaret Bull Kovera

Award: \$1,000

This study examines whether cross-examination can effectively counteract the biasing effects of in-court identifications on jury decision-making. Using a mock trial paradigm, the research explores interactions between in-court identifications, pre-trial identification bias types, and cross-examination approaches. Findings will directly inform defense strategies for challenging biased eyewitness evidence, particularly in cases involving in-court identifications.

**Keri C. Burke, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY**

Case Strength Moderating the Effects of In-Court Identifications on Jury Decision Making

Advisor: Dr. Margaret Bull Kovera

Award: \$1,000

This study investigates whether case evidence strength moderates the influence of in-court identifications on juror decision-making. Using a mock trial paradigm, participants will view trials varying in both the presence of in-court identifications and the strength of case evidence. The research aims to determine whether in-court identifications have greater influence on jurors when other evidence is ambiguous compared to when it is strong

In addition to congratulating these promising student scholars, we would like to give a special congratulatory shoutout to Katérine Aminot and Dr. Alician Nijdam-Jones of the University of Manitoba—who recently published Katérine's UGIA-funded project! Katérine was funded by our committee last spring, and already made it into the pages of *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*! Check out the paper here:

Aminot, Katérine, Tara J. Ryan, and Alicia Nijdam-Jones. "Legal perceptions of forensic mental health professionals' competency to stand trial evaluations."

*Psychology, Public Policy, and Law* (2025).

Lauren Kois, PhD

Undergraduate Grants-in-Aid Committee Chair

# Announcing the Correctional Psychology Forum!

Join the NEW email distribution and discussion list curated for students, practitioners, academics, and other professionals interested in correctional issues. Supported by the Corrections Committee, this international forum is a respectful space to make connections, generate healthy discussions, and share evidence-informed resources related to correctional psychology issues. We define "correctional psychology" as the application of psychological principles and concepts to the classification, treatment, and management of individuals detained in or otherwise supervised by correctional systems including jails, prisons, community supervision departments, as well as immigration/customs, juvenile, military, and tribal detention centers. Correctional psychology can include a wide range of professional activities focused on the corrections environment such as clinical practice, research, training, consultation, public policy, and advocacy. Anyone who shares these interests is welcome to join, so feel free to spread the word!

To join the already 50+ members from around the world, email Ashley Batastini directly to request an invitation: [abatastini@swin.edu.au](mailto:abatastini@swin.edu.au).

## Calls for Comment to APA Guidelines

Members of AP-LS who are also members of APA are encouraged to review and comment on the following revisions to APA guidelines. To provide comment on any of the proposed policies, navigate to <https://commentinggov.apa.org/> and click the "APA Member Login" button at the bottom of the webpage.

- Professional Practice Guidelines for Psychologists in the Assessment of Psychological Trauma in Adults (Deadline June 6)
- Guidelines for Psychology's Role in Pediatric to Adult Health Care Transition (Deadline June 6)
- APA Guidelines for Psychologists' Involvement in Pharmacological Issues (Deadline June 9)
- Professional Practice Guidelines: Diagnosis of Intellectual Disability in Forensic Settings (Deadline June 10)

## Executive Committee

For more information about the Executive Committee, details can be found [HERE](#).



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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