



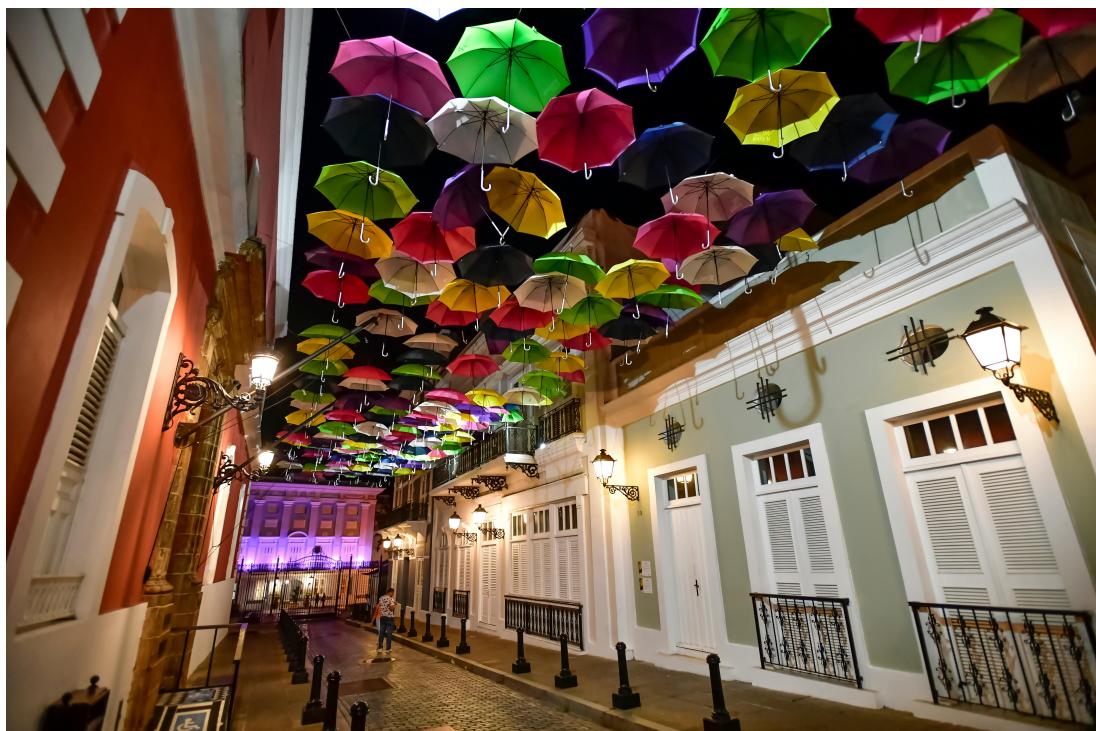
American Psychology-Law Society

APA DIVISION 41

Welcome to the March 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.



**Don't miss the Corrections Committee Panel Event
and Social Hour!**

Join us Thursday, March 13th @ 2:15 PM in San Juan 1 for an expert-packed panel on applying the responsivity principle in correctional treatment. Find out what clinicians and researchers get wrong about responsivity and how the field can do a better job of individualizing care so justice-involved people feel better, do better, and have a better chance of desisting from crime. Don't miss Drs. Guy Bourgon, Gina Vincent, Marva Goodson, and Patrick Hibbard discuss important responsivity considerations including trauma, culture, gender, mental illness, and developmental maturity, with

Dr. Jennifer Skeem as discussant and Dr. Tamara Kang as session chair. Avid podcasters can learn more about Dr. Hibbard's lived experiences here or wherever you get your podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/what-if-you-thought-you-got-away-with-it/id497227384?i=1000675691104>

Want more? Then, come hang out with us Friday, March 14th from 5:30-6:30 PM at Barullo Taberna Española (250 Convention Blvd) for an informal social hour. Tell us what you want to see from the Corrections Committee and how we can best represent the interests of corrections within AP-LS. Or just stop by and say ¡Hola!

If you're presenting any corrections focused work at the conference, let us know and we'll help promote you! Email Dr. Ashley Batastini (Committee Chair) at abatastini@swin.edu.au.

AP-LS Student Committee Sponsored Session: Taking Care of Ourselves and Each Other: Bridging the Gap through a Practical Discussion on Ways to Alleviate Burnout to Improve Well-Being in Forensic Psychology

Abstract:

Burnout is not uncommon in healthcare professions, and recent research has begun to explore burnout in forensic mental health. Research shows high workload, difficult-to-meet deadlines, staff turnover, and underpayment are some contributing factors to burnout. As forensic psychological services lay at the intersection of two high-demand industries (mental health and criminal justice), clinicians face many of the burnout risk factors noted above. This discussion serves to promote communication between panelists from diverse areas of clinical forensic psychology, as well as the audience, on how they maintain self-care, create and uphold boundaries, and seek to prevent burnout.

Join us Thursday, March 13th @ 2:15 PM in San Felipe!

2025 AP-LS Conference Plenary Talks

Trust in Psychology, Law, and Institutions **Friday, March 13, 10:45-12:15**

Panelists:

Amy Fettig, J.D., Acting Co-Executive Director, Fair and Just Prosecution
Joseph Hamm, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Michigan State University
Anthony Perillo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Forensic Training Director, University of New Mexico (Health Sciences Center)

In recent decades, society has witnessed eroding public trust in government institutions, including the legal system, and a 2024 Gallup poll suggests Americans' confidence in the justice system is at a historic low (35%). Although the public holds a generally favorable view of science and its impact on society, society is also increasingly skeptical of scientific institutions and communities. This panel will explore the historical events that contribute to public mistrust, as well as the current

factors that further fuel skepticism. The panel will also consider the ways in which institutions, including the academy and legal entities, engage with communities. The panel will consider the various motivations for community/institution partnerships and explore how motivation shapes outcomes. Finally, the panel will discuss the science of trust and the ways in which the psychology-law field can move towards improving the administration of justice within legal institutions as well as the public's

Towards a More Research-Informed Corrections System: Ensuring Science Translates to Practice

Saturday, March 14, 10:45-12:15

Speakers:

Ashley Batastini, PhD, Associate Professor, Swinburne University of Technology

David Pitts, PhD, Vice President, Justice and Safety Division, Urban Institute

Over 11 million individuals are incarcerated around the world, approximately 2 million of whom are incarcerated in the United States. Despite the size of the population in jails and prisons, our field conducts comparatively little research in the correctional setting. The field of Psychology and Law can provide guidance to how best to address the needs of individuals who are incarcerated. This Plenary will discuss the challenges, difficulties, and benefits of conducting correctional psychology research, highlighting the need to collaborate with a wide range of groups involved in the process. The Plenary will also use an innovative prison reform project to illustrate ways to help research translate into practice and policy.

REID Research Awards

The AP-LS Research Committee is pleased to announce the awardees of the 2025 AP-LS Grant Initiative on Research to Enhance the Impact and Diversification (REID) of Psychology and Law Research. Congratulations to all awardees!

Project PIs: Tamara Kang and Daryl Kroner

Project Title: Evaluation of Strategies to Leverage Social Capital to Facilitate Desistance in Regions with Limited Infrastructural Supports

Award: \$39,838



Abstract: Resource-dependent re-entry programs are suboptimal for counties with limited resources. Theoretically, informal social capital (i.e., social connectedness)

can be leveraged to help parolees abstain from crime, without reliance on policy and legislative resources. Across disciplines, social capital has directly influenced health, behavior, recidivism, and mobility. Thus, in collaboration with an interdisciplinary advisory board and persons with lived experience, this project develops strategies to leverage informal social capital to reduce reoffending, without reliance on policy and legislative resources. Qualitative and quantitative data are collected from 345 parolees, their friends, family members, parole officers, community members, and policymakers. Thematic, latent profile, and social network analyses and multilevel modelling will examine what social network characteristics can help reduce reoffending when the parolee's core social network is resource deprived. 'What works' will be transposed into a theoretically and empirically derived Facilitating Re-Entry Success in the Absence of Infrastructural Supports Toolkit.

Project PI: Colleen Berryessa

Project Title: Modeling Sources of Pro-Prosecution Bias and Judicial Decision-making:
A Qualitative Study of Judges with Prosecutorial Backgrounds

Award: \$20,000



Abstract: This study-drawing from prior models of sources of biases in legal decision-making and existing literature on judges-aims to construct a theoretical model of psychological and social sources of pro-prosecution bias in judges with prosecutorial backgrounds and how they may affect their legal approaches and decision-making. To develop this model, this research will utilize semi-structured interviews and qualitative analysis with a large sample of U.S. trial court judges from both defender and prosecutorial backgrounds. Overall, this research will expand our empirical understanding of how sources of pro-prosecution bias could affect the treatment and outcomes of defendants who are processed in U.S. criminal-legal systems-thus helping us better understand their potential impact on the criminal justice system, which can have real-world consequences for defendants.

Project PI: Krystia Reed

Project Title: Evaluating the Impact of Victim Offender Mediation on Adolescent Family Violence Cases in El Paso

Award: \$5,000



Abstract: Adolescent Family Violence (AFV) is a common charge for youth, a trend exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (OJJDP, 2022). Traditional punitive responses often fail to address the root causes of family conflict, leaving juveniles and their families without the necessary tools for resolution. The present study examines the effectiveness of a new Victim Offender Mediation (VOM) program as an alternative to formal court proceedings for juveniles charged with AFV in El Paso, Texas. VOM programs have been successful internationally in reducing recidivism and increasing satisfaction among victims and offenders (Beauregard, 1998; Kilkelly, 2011; Umbreit et al., 2001). These programs emphasize accountability, rehabilitation, and conflict resolution, which are particularly crucial when offenders and victims share ongoing familial relationships. Thus, this project provides a new opportunity to examine VOM as a possible option for AFV cases in order to improve outcomes for youth and their families.

Project PIs: Costanza Alessio, Jacqueline Evans, & Deborah Goldfarb

Project Title: Exploring Hypothetical Title IX Reports in University Employees: A New Approach to Boost University Employees' Participation and Recall

Award: \$5,000



Abstract: Title IX is a U.S. federal law that prohibits sexual misconduct and discrimination in educational programs. Yet, research suggests that reporting rates of such conduct are generally low (Cantor et al., 2019), with reporting sometimes being linked to negative mental health outcomes (Eisenberg et al., 2019), highlighting the need for universities to rethink their reporting practices. Furthermore, research on Title IX has primarily focused on students' experiences, leaving a gap regarding employee survivors. This is alarming, as workplace sexual assault is a recognized public health issue affecting both men and women (Basile et al., 2019). The current study employs a 2x2 between-subjects design to evaluate a self-guided investigative

approach designed to enhance recall of a fictional Title IX incident involving university employees. Participants will engage with a simulated sexual harassment scenario and be randomly assigned to view either an experimental landing page featuring motivational language (i.e., emphasizing the importance of reports in fostering a safe campus environment) or a control landing page currently in use at our institution. Subsequently, participants will be randomly assigned to complete either an experimental reporting form incorporating mnemonic techniques or a control reporting form currently used by our institution. Participants will then complete questionnaires assessing their perceptions of sexual misconduct and Title IX reporting. This study presents the potential for transformative outcomes in university-based Title IX processes by investigating an under-researched area focused on interventions that address the cognitive and motivational challenges employee survivors face when reporting Title IX incidents.

Project PIs: Hayley Cleary, Lucy Guarnera, & Talley Bettens

Project Title: The Perceptions of Coercion in Interrogation Scale: Developing and Validating the First Empirical Measure of Perceived Coercion in Police Interrogations

Award: \$4,914



Abstract: Judges are supposed to assess coercion when applying the “totality of the circumstances” test in suppression hearings; they consider numerous factors to decide whether a suspect’s “will was overborne” and their confession involuntarily. To better understand police coercion and assist legal decision-makers, researchers need a validated, suspect-focused instrument to measure coercion. This project will create and validate the Perceptions of Coercion in Interrogations Scale (PCIS) across three studies. Study 1 will establish content validity and generate an initial factor structure. We will generate theoretically- and empirically-informed items and obtain expert feedback from experienced interrogation trainers. Study 2 will confirm the PCIS factor structure with a second sample and assess its convergent validity with procedural justice. Study 3 will test the scale’s predictive validity with a third sample. This project’s development of a validated, suspect-focused coercion instrument could facilitate a legally and scientifically impactful line of research on individual differences in coercion perceptions.

Project PI: Melina Singh

Project Title: When “Do No Harm” and “Child Protection” Conflict: Assessing Drug Screening and Reporting Practices Among Reproductive Care Providers

Award: \$4,624



Abstract: Healthcare providers play a key role in the criminalization of pregnancy conduct, raising professional and ethical concerns regarding doctors and nurses sharing confidential medical information with police. However, the extent to which their involvement reflects a lack of familiarity with legal and workplace requirements (e.g., informed consent, CPS reporting) or stigma towards maternal substance use warrants further investigation. Through qualitative surveys, the current study assesses providers' perceptions and implementation of laws, policies, and institutional practices related to substance use and pregnancy. We are especially interested in better understanding how providers in obstetrics, maternal-fetal medicine, labor and delivery, and postpartum care interpret their status as mandated reporters, their motivations for disclosing patients' medical information to social workers, child welfare workers, and/or police, and the extent to which stereotypes about motherhood and substance use are reflected in responses. A central goal of this study is to illuminate the psychological and procedural mechanisms that facilitate pregnancy regulation and punishment, capture the richness and complexity of healthcare decision-making, and inform strategies for safeguarding reproductive autonomy.

BRIDGE Diversity in Psychology and Law Research Awards

The AP-LS Broadening Representation, Inclusivity, Diversity, and Gender Equity (BRIDGE) is pleased to announce the awardees of the 2025 Diversity in Psychology and Law Research Awards. This award supports student research on psycholegal issues related to diversity or conducted by individuals from underrepresented groups. Each awardee has been granted a mini-grant of \$1000 to support their research. Congratulations to all awardees!

Erica Chen



Erica Chen is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University under the supervisor of Dr. Evelyn Maeder. Her research interests involve racial and gender-based discrimination in jury decision-making. As such, her project examines the roles of race and gender of the accused and victim in an HIV non-disclosure case using the experimental mock trial paradigm. Prior to her doctoral studies, she earned an Honours Bachelor of Science with a double major in psychology and criminology from the University of Toronto and a Master of Science in Health: Science, Technology, and Policy from Carleton University. Erica also worked as a policy analyst for the Strategic Policy Branch at Health Canada, where she contributed to virtual care and primary care files. Her doctoral work is funded by the American Psychology-Law Society, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. During her spare time, Erica enjoys reading, running, and cheering on the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Emil Cucksee



Emil Cucksee is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a double major in psychology and sociology and is conducting a research project as part

of the senior capstone requirements for an undergraduate in psychology. This research project, under the supervision of Dr. Lauren Meaux and in affiliation with the Social Psychology and Assessment of Criminal Evaluations (SPACE) Lab, is designed to examine whether or not direct care staff at mental health hospitals may utilize different forms of restraint (i.e. chemical or physical) for violent or aggressive patients based upon whether the patients have a history of contraband possession and are thereby suspected of being under the influence. This project will utilize a mixed-methods design and has an anticipated sample size of approximately 50 participants, featuring both a quantitative and qualitative portion.

Emily Fox



Emily Fox is a dedicated professional currently pursuing her master's in forensic psychology at Southern New Hampshire University. With a strong background in digital marketing and over a decade of experience in email marketing strategy and campaign management, Emily is now channeling her skills toward understanding human behavior, criminal psychology, and the intersection of psychology and the legal system. Passionate about making a meaningful impact, she is eager to apply her expertise in research, analysis, and communication to the field of forensic psychology.

Areli Orozco



Areli is currently a first-year student in the Counseling Psychology master's program at the University of Southern Mississippi. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Washington State University. Her clinical and research interests include Latino mental health, racism, and discrimination, specifically how systemic inequities impact mental health. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and work towards her goal of becoming a forensic psychologist.

BRIDGE Diversity Travel Awards

The AP-LS Broadening Representation, Inclusivity, Diversity, and Gender Equity (BRIDGE) is pleased to announce the awardees of the 2025 Diversity Travel Awards. Each has been awarded \$600 for travel to the American Psychology-Law Society Conference. Congratulations to all awardees!

Name: Oluwafunmilayo “Funmi” Dada

School and year in school: Towson University; Second-Year Student in Counseling Psychology Master’s Program

Advisor(s): Dr. Jeff Kukucka



Research interests and projects: Post-release outcomes for formerly incarcerated individuals; interactive effects of race and offender status on discrimination; predictors of mental health and recidivism; qualitative study working with Black survivors of intimate partner violence on a needs assessment; examining legislature on wrongful convictions to improve circumstances for exonerees.

Name: Alexey Mazon

School and year in school: University of Wyoming; Second-Year Ph.D. Student in Experimental Psychology focusing on Legal Psychology

Advisor(s): Dr. Hannah Phalen



Research interests and projects: Jury decision-making, mock juror perception, race, and gender biases; legal decision-making in cases focusing on the LGBTQIA2S+ community; the impact of race and gender in civil cases

Name: Trevor Morris

School and year in school: Arizona State University; Second-Year Ph.D. Student in Law and Psychology

Advisor(s): Dr. Adam Fine; Dr. Kären O'Hara; Dr. Courtney Simmons



Research interests and projects: Treatment and preventative programs for juveniles; mental health of youth who are impacted by the justice system; understanding procedural justice and resilience in youth under community supervision; the effect of racial identity and political ideology on perceptions of procedural justice in police body-worn camera footage.

Name: Niko Noel Piña

School and year in school: Indiana State University; Fifth-Year Psy.D. Student in Clinical Psychology

Advisor(s): Dr. Jennifer Schriver



Research interests and projects: Criminogenic risk factors for delinquency in relation to the custodial parent; parent-child gender dyads, behavioral control, and support; ethical violations committed by psychologists; police training and practices related to mental health; gender bias in delinquency studies processes.

Name: Fiya Rivers

School and year in school: Fordham University; Second-Year Ph.D. Student in Clinical Psychology

Advisor(s): Dr. Barry Rosenfeld



Research interests and projects: Intersection of forensic psychology, intimate partner violence, and culturally competent care; increased accessibility and inclusivity of mental health services for diverse populations; etiology of criminal behavior; risk factors and predictors of violence; the relationships between domestic violence, migration motivations, and mental health outcomes in Latina immigrant women

Name: I-An “Amy” Su

School and year in school: Cornell University; Sixth-Year Ph.D. Candidate in Psychology with a concentration in Law, Psychology, and Human Development

Advisor(s): Dr. Stephen J. Ceci; Dr. Charles J. Brainerd; Dr. John H. Blume



Research interests and projects: child witness, child testimony, and forensic interviewing; psych-legal issues regarding minorized/marginalized populations in and beyond legal proceedings, domestically and globally; Killing the Oblivious research project, which aims to examine the underlying factors of competency for execution legal decision-making.

2025 Dissertation Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2025 APLS Dissertation Award Winners!

Dr. Laura M. Stevens (University of Birmingham) received First Place for her dissertation, Innovative Methods of Documenting Memory Evidence From Victim-Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: A Case Study in Kenya. Masked reviewers praised the dissertation’s “rare and outstanding integration of community-based fieldwork and experimental research.” They highlighted Dr. Stevens’ multi-method approach, including the development and testing of a mobile app and training-based strategies to document memory evidence from gender-based violence survivors. Reviewers described the work as “incredibly impressive” for its ability to address this complex issue from multiple angles, providing evidence-based recommendations for improving GBV documentation methods in Kenya. Dr. Stevens completed this dissertation under the supervision of Professor Heather Flowe and Dr. Melissa Colloff.

Dr. Emily C. Weinberger (Fordham University) received Second Place for her dissertation, Predicting Risk of Violent Misconduct in Juvenile Detention: Polyvictimization Latent Classes and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms. Masked reviewers praised her “thoughtful approaches to understanding a real-world sample of juvenile offenders” and the “stunningly detailed consideration of the application of her work.” They noted her dissertation’s methodological, theoretical, and practical contributions and commended its insights on addressing flaws in prior research and implications for justice-involved youth and facility staff. Dr. Weinberger completed this dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Keith Cruise and Dr. Carly Baetz.

Dr. Dilhan Töredi (Queen Margaret University Edinburgh) received Third Place for her dissertation, Reducing and Measuring the Cross-Race Effect. Masked reviewers commended the “highly original development of a cross-race inventory that predicts eyewitness accuracy beyond confidence” and praised her “thorough and well-designed” methodology in validating this tool. While Study 1 extended prior research on interventions for the Cross-Race Effect (CRE), Study 2 introduced a novel inventory that offers significant potential for advancing the field. Reviewers noted that this work “makes important contributions to understanding the CRE and provides a foundation for future research and practical applications.” Dr. Töredi completed this dissertation under the supervision of Dr. Jamal K. Mansour.

APA's Dissertation Research Awards

Looking for funds to support doctoral student research? APA's Dissertation Research Awards program offers as many as 15 grants of up to \$5,000 to doctoral students in psychological science to assist with research costs. [Apply HERE by March 1, 2025.](#)

New APA services website

APA and APA Services have created a new website to provide updates for psychologists and action alerts for ways you can help. This platform will be the best way to stay abreast of new developments in this changing landscape:

<https://updates.apaservices.org/>

If there are important topics you don't see yet, let Adrienne (ASTithButler@apa.org) know and she will raise them with the Advocacy team.

GRANT SUBMISSION TIMELINE CHANGE

The Grant-in-Aid for Early Career Professionals Will Have a New Submission Timeline

The Early Career Professionals Committee is pleased to announce that we are moving the annual call for their Grants-in-Aid for Early Career Professionals. The submission deadline was held annually in October. Beginning this year, the submission deadline will be moved to the spring semester. Further details are forthcoming, but please anticipate a new deadline of **April or May 2025!**

The purpose of this award is to support AP-LS members who are ECPs in conducting research related to psychology and law. It is the committee's desire that these awards

are not limited only to members who are psychologists, but instead open to AP-LS members from all backgrounds. Applications are open to all AP-LS members who are within ten years of receiving their last degree. For further information regarding

proposal guidelines and templates, please visit: <https://ap-ls.org/grantinaid>. Check out [AP-LS's Job Postings Page](#) for up-to-date information on available psychology-law positions.



[View Job Postings](#)

International Journal of Environmental and Public

Health: Call for submission Newsletter Editorial Board

Call for paper for EDITORIAL Issue entitled "Understanding Risks and Protective Factors to Promote Health in Justice-Involved Youth" in the open access *International Journal of Environmental and Public Health* (ISSN 1660-4601, Scopus and PubMed indexed, meg.ternes@smu.ca). Deadline for submissions is **March 1, 2025**.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

More information can be found on the Special Issue website:

Taylor Petty

[tepetyl@usi.edu](mailto:tepetty@usi.edu)

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& LAW

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PRACTICE

Call for Book Proposals

Veronica Johnson
The American Psychology-Law Society invites proposals for new titles in its book series,
vjohnson@jjay.cuny.edu
which is now published by danielle.rynczak@umassmed.edu. We publish authored and edited volumes on
current issues at the intersection of psychology and law. Books are typically a state of
the science synthesis of a body of existing research with implications for practice
and/or policy. Authors and editors should have a substantial and recent track record of
publication and/or practice in psychology or law, and at least one should hold a
doctorate in psychology or closely related behavioral science. If you have a proposal
for a new book in the series or you would simply like more information, reach out to a
member of the editorial team. We would be happy to tell you more.
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.
The editorial board members are:

- Monica Miller, Division 41 Book Series Editor (mkmiller@unr.edu)
- Monique Bowen, Division 41 Book Series Associate Editor
[Archives of the newsletter](#) are available at <https://ap-ls.org/newsletter>.
- Jemour Maddux, Division 41 Book Series Associate Editor (im@rule702.com)

Newsletter Archives

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For more information or if you wish to contact a member of the AP-LS Executive
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