



# The Resource Page



## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

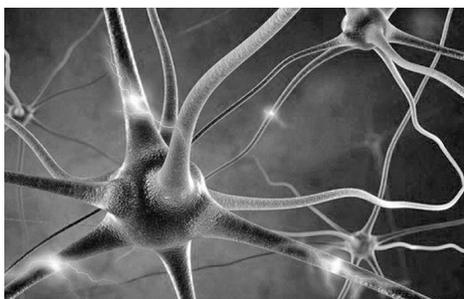
### The MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience

<http://www.lawneuro.org>

Judges will find a wealth of resources at the website of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience. In 2007, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation initially funded an interdisciplinary research effort to integrate law and neuroscience. Since 2010, Vanderbilt University law professor Owen Jones has been the Network's director.

In its initial phases, between 2007 and 2011, the Network "pursued several over-arching research questions at the intersection of neuroscience and law that were intended to:

- Improve legal decisions about the responsibility of transgressors for their actions;
- Further identify factors that can affect blameworthiness assessments;
- Illuminate the processes by which jurors and judges make decisions about criminal liability and punishment;
- Enable more reliable identification of deceptive testimony;
- Increase law's abilities to evaluate the reliability of memories on which testimony is based;
- Aid law's abilities to predict recidivism and future dangerousness;
- Assess distinctions between neuroscientific evidence that should and should not be admitted in various criminal law contexts; and
- Aid the proper interpretation, by jurors and judges, of neuroscientific evidence."



The Network also convened seven major conferences for judges as well as 15 smaller, judge-focused conferences hosted by the Gruter Institute for Law and Behavioral Research in partnership with a variety of state judicial organizations, including the California Judges Association, introducing law and neuroscience techniques and issues to nearly 800 judges.

Today, the Network "addresses a focused set of closely-related problems at the intersection of neuroscience and criminal justice: (1) investigating law-relevant mental states of, and decision-making processes in, defendants, witnesses, jurors, and judges; (2) investigating in adolescents the

relationship between brain development and cognitive capacities; and (3) assessing how best to draw inferences about individuals from group-based neuroscientific data." It focuses on five legal problems, ranging from "challenges for law of ascertaining mental states of defendants and witnesses[, to] empirical . . . questions of a defendant's mental and behavioral capacities[, to] the difficulties that neuroscientific evidence poses for judges making evidentiary decisions."

On the website, you'll find a comprehensive law and neuroscience bibliography, and there's also a tab you can choose on the website home page from which you can request suggestions for a speaker on a law-and-neuroscience topic for a judicial conference or other gathering. Also, you can subscribe to *Neurolaw News* at [lawneuro.org/listserv.php](http://lawneuro.org/listserv.php).

*Court Review* was pleased to have the support of the Network in putting together this special issue. Several of the authors of articles in this issue also serve as members of the Network.



## SPEAKERS

### JUDICIAL AMBASSADORS: An Outreach Program of the American Psychological Association's Committee on Legal Issues

<http://www.goo.gl/OpAZyE>

As part of an ongoing effort to build and maintain effective relationships between the psychological and judicial communities, the American Psychological Association (APA) Committee on Legal Issues maintains an outreach program called Judicial Ambassadors. The Judicial Ambassadors program seeks to bring psychologists and court professionals together in a variety of contexts to facilitate the following goals:

- To make psychological research more accessible to and useful for courts and judges;
- To work with court officials to develop collaborative research and continuing education programs;
- To increase psychologists' understanding of court operations and legal practice;
- To improve psychological research about legal issues; and
- To facilitate courts' ability to apply psychological theories and models in court-related research.

Judicial Ambassadors are drawn from APA's membership (which includes more than 125,000 psychologists) based on their scientific expertise in the subjects of interest to the court. The Judicial Ambassadors program also has funding to help make experts available to interested judicial organizations for a variety of purposes, including designing and implementing educational programs and workshops, assisting courts with technical projects or program evaluations, and participating in advisory committees.

For more information about the Judicial Ambassadors Program, you can contact Donna Beavers, Office of General Counsel, American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, email: [dbeavers@apa.org](mailto:dbeavers@apa.org).