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.

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.

Judicial Ambassadors are drawn from APAs 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.