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The **Neuroscience and Law Center** presents

Breakthrough Brain Discoveries and the Law

February 5, 2025
Zoom Webinar

5 CLE credits available
4 Ethics and Professionalism
1 Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias

This event is made possible through the generous support of
the John Diane Simpson Family Foundation.

Agenda

11:00am – 11:10am Welcome

Joseph Landau, JD
Dean and Paul Fuller Professor of Law
Fordham University School of Law

Deborah W. Denno, PhD, JD
Arthur A. McGivney Professor of Law
Founding Director, Neuroscience and Law Center
Fordham University School of Law

11:10am – 12:25pm Panel 1
The Ethical and Economic Implications of Emerging Brain Discoveries

Jennifer A. Chandler, JD
Professor
Vice-Dean, Research
Bertram Loeb Research Chair
University of Ottawa Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics
Affiliate Investigator, Bruyère Research Institute

Yasmin Hurd, PhD
Ward-Coleman Chair of Translational Neuroscience
Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Pharmacological Sciences
Director, Addiction Institute
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Paul W. Glimcher, PhD
Julius Silver Professor of Neural Science
Chair, Department of Neuroscience and Physiology
Director, Neuroscience Institute
Professor of Neuroscience, Economics, Psychology and Psychiatry
NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Zul Merali, PhD
Professor of Medicine, Social Science and Neuroscience
Founding Director
Brain and Mind Institute
Aga Khan University

Kenneth H. Sonnenfeld, PhD, JD (moderator)
Partner
Ballard Spahr

12:25 – 12:30pm Short Break

12:30pm – 1:45pm Panel 2
Developments in Neurotechnology: Balancing Innovation, Privacy, and Ethics

John P. Donoghue, PhD
Henry Merritt Wriston Professor of Neuroscience and Engineering
Carney Brain Institute
Department of Neuroscience
Alpert Medical School
School of Engineering
Brown University

Barbara M.G. Lynn, JD
Judge
United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Helen S. Mayberg, MD
Director, Center for Advanced Circuit Therapeutics
Professor, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychiatry, Neuroscience, AI & Human Health
Mount Sinai Professor of Neurotherapeutics
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Nicholas D. Schiff, MD
The Jerold B. Katz Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience
Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute
Professor of Neuroscience, Neurology, and Public Health
Weill Cornell Medical College

Sam J. Merchant, JD (moderator)
Visiting Assistant Professor
University of Oklahoma College of Law

1:45pm – 2:15pm Lunch Break

2:15 – 3:30pm Panel 3
The Impact of Social Pressures, the Environment, and Neuroethics

Diego Borbón
Researcher & Professor
Center for Studies on Genetics and Law
Universidad Externado de Colombia

Oliver Rollins, PhD
Old Dominion Career Development Professor
Assistant Professor of Science, Technology, and Society (STS)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Francis X. Shen, JD, PhD
Professor of Law & Faculty Member, Graduate Program in Neuroscience
University of Minnesota
Chief Innovation Officer
MGH Center for Law, Brain & Behavior
Co-Director, Dana Foundation Neurotech Justice Accelerator at Mass General Brigham

Gloria Tan, JD
Associate Justice
Massachusetts Appeals Court

Ashley Warman, MS, HEC-C (moderator)
Medical Ethicist, Northwell Health
Fordham University School of Law '26

3:30 – 3:35pm Short Break

3:35 – 4:50pm Panel 4
The Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Neurodegeneration

Joyonna Gamble-George, MHA, PhD
Associate Research Scientist, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Yale School of Public Health
Research Education Institute for Diverse Scholars (REIDS) Fellow
Yale Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)
Affiliated Investigator
NYU School of Global Public Health Center for Drug Use and HIV Research (CDUHR)

Virginia Man-Yee Lee, PhD
The John H. Ware 3rd Endowed Professor in Alzheimer's Research
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Director, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research
Co-Director, Marian S. Ware Center for Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Program

James M. Noble, MD, MS, CPH, FAAN
Associate Professor of Neurology at CUIMC
Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain
G.H. Sergievsky Center
Department of Neurology
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Jed Rakoff, JD
Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Elizabeth Kelley, JD (moderator)
Criminal Defense Lawyer Specializing in Representing People with Mental Disabilities

4:50 – 4:55pm Concluding Remarks

Erica Valencia-Graham, JD
Research Director & Edelman Fellow
Neuroscience and Law Center
Fordham University School of Law

Speaker Biographies (Alphabetical Order)

Diego Borbón
Researcher & Professor
Center for Studies on Genetics and Law
Universidad Externado de Colombia

Professor at the Center for Studies on Genetics and Law. Director of the Research Group in Biological Sciences and Law at the Universidad Externado de Colombia. Professor of medical law, neurolaw, and artificial intelligence. Lawyer, Master's in Legal Psychology and Philosophy, and PhD candidate in Philosophy. Founder of the Ibero-American Network of Neurolaw and Neuroethics. Selected for two consecutive two-year terms in the International Neuroethics Society, Student/Postdoc Committee; Founding Member and Board Member of the Foundation for the Advancement of Neurosciences Applied to Law (FNAD); Honorary Member of the Colombian Criminology Association where he founded the Observatory of Neurolaw and Criminology.
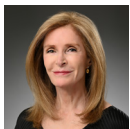
Jennifer A. Chandler, JD
Professor
Vice-Dean, Research
Bertram Loeb Research Chair
University of Ottawa Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics
Affiliate Investigator, Bruyère Research Institute

Jennifer A. Chandler studies the legal and ethical aspects of biomedical science and technology, with a focus on the intersection of the brain sciences, law and ethics. She also works on legal policy related to organ donation and transplantation, and mental health law and policy. She is a principal investigator in the Hybrid Minds project (www.hybridminds.org), which brings together researchers from Switzerland, Germany and Canada to examine the implications of incorporating artificial intelligence in neuroprostheses. In 2024, she was awarded the Steven Hyman Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Neuroethics by the International Neuroethics Society. Professor Chandler was elected to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2002, and is currently the Chair of a national policy assessment on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder for the Academy, an inquiry commissioned by the Government of Canada.

She has played an influential role in Canadian health policy, having participated in two government appointed expert advisory panels on medical assistance in dying in the context of mental illness, and testified before the Canadian Parliamentary committee on this issue.

Professor Chandler led the legal work on a new Canadian clinical practice guideline (2023) that defines and sets criteria for determination of death in terms of neurological function. This guideline has been endorsed by 15 professional medical organizations in Canada.

Deborah W. Denno, PhD, JD
Arthur A. McGivney Professor of Law
Founding Director, Neuroscience and Law Center
Fordham University School of Law

Deborah W. Denno is the Arthur A. McGivney Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Neuroscience and Law Center at Fordham Law School. Seven of Professor Denno's articles have been cited by the United States Supreme Court, some multiple times and/or in different cases and one article has been cited in three different cases—primarily in conjunction with her scholarship on execution methods. In 2016, the Fordham Student Bar Association named Professor Denno Teacher of the Year. Her forthcoming book, Changing Law's Mind: How Neuroscience Can Help Us Punish Criminals More Fairly and Effectively (Oxford University Press), focuses on her study of how criminal cases use neuroscientific evidence. This same study is discussed in some of her recent articles: Concocting Criminal Intent, 105 Georgetown Law Journal 323 (2017), Neuroscience and the Personalization of Criminal Law, 85 University of Chicago Law Review 359 (2019), How Courts in Criminal Cases Respond to Childhood Trauma, 103 Marquette Law Review 301 (2019) (keynote speaker), and

How Experts Have Dominated the Neuroscience Narrative in Criminal Cases for Twelve Decades: A Warning for the Future, 63 William & Mary Law Review 1215 (2022) (Symposium on the Future of Neuroscience).

John P. Donoghue, PhD
Henry Merritt Wriston Professor of Neuroscience and Engineering
Carney Brain Institute
Department of Neuroscience
Alpert Medical School
School of Engineering
Brown University

John P. Donoghue is a leading neuroscientist and engineer who investigates brain networks that control movement. His translational research pioneered Brain-Computer Interface (BCI) technology able to restore function for people with paralysis. A faculty member at Brown University since 1986, Donoghue has published more than 125 scientific articles.

As a founding leader, he established and chaired Brown's Department of Neuroscience, Institute for Brain Science (now the Carney Brain Institute), and the Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology at the Providence VA Medical Center. From 2015 to 2019, he served as the founding director of the Wyss Center for Bio- and Neuroengineering in Geneva. He is a key figure in the BrainGate brain computer interface consortium. Donoghue is a fellow of the National Academy of Medicine, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, AIMBE, and the National Academy of Inventors. His honors include the International Prize for Translational Neuroscience, the Israel Brain Prize, and the Erwin Schrödinger Prize. He was a co-founder of the groundbreaking BCI startup, Cyberkinetics Neurotechnology Systems, and he serves in advisory and board roles for neurotechnology companies.

Joyonna Gamble-George, MHA, PhD
Associate Research Scientist, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Yale School of Public Health
Research Education Institute for Diverse Scholars (REIDS) Fellow
Yale Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)
Affiliated Investigator
NYU School of Global Public Health Center for Drug Use and HIV Research (CDUHR)

Dr. Joyonna Gamble-George is a neuroscientist with over a decade of experience in medical research and is Research Faculty in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Yale University. She has shared her research approaches worldwide, including with Nobel Prize winners. Dr. Gamble-George served as a subject matter expert at the National Institutes of Health, advising professionals across the U.S. on research related to chronic diseases, mental health, and HIV. Her work also includes research on brain diseases like Alzheimer's, anxiety, and substance use disorders. Dr. Gamble-George received over 20 awards for her leadership, philanthropy, and dedication to science, with a focus on fostering diversity. She was selected as an AAAS IF/THEN Ambassador, serving as a role model for young girls in STEM. Recently, she received the NIH Director's Award for her contributions to women's health research, workforce development, and health education. Dr. Gamble-George holds a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Biology with Honors in Mathematics from Xavier University of Louisiana, a Master of Health Administration from the University of South Florida, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience from Vanderbilt University. In her free time, she enjoys drawing, painting, poetry, and playing the saxophone and piano.

Paul W. Glimcher, PhD
Julius Silver Professor of Neural Science
Chair, Department of Neuroscience and Physiology
Director, Neuroscience Institute
Professor of Neuroscience, Economics, Psychology and Psychiatry
NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Glimcher's research has focused on the study of human-decision making and his is generally credited with founding the field of neuroeconomics, for which he wrote the first academic paper, the first textbook, and served as founding president of the international society for neuroeconomics. His clinical and translational research leverages neuroeconomic insights in the treatment of opiate use disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and Major Depressive Disorder. He is generally identified as one of the 25 leading behavioral economists practicing today.

Yasmin Hurd, PhD
Ward-Coleman Chair of Translational Neuroscience
Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Pharmacological Sciences
Director, Addiction Institute
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dr. Yasmin Hurd is Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Pharmacological Sciences as well as the Director for the Addiction Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. She is an internationally renowned neuroscientist whose translational research examines the neurobiology of substance use disorders and related psychiatric disorders with primary focus on opioid abuse and the developmental effects of cannabis. Dr. Hurd's basic science research is complemented by clinical studies evaluating the therapeutic potential of novel strategies including phytocannabinoids (such as cannabidiol) for the treatment of substance use disorders. She is a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine.

Elizabeth Kelley, JD
Criminal Defense Lawyer Specializing in Representing People with Mental Disabilities

Elizabeth Kelley is a criminal defense lawyer with a nation-wide practice focused on representing people with mental disabilities. She is the editor of Representing People with Mental Disabilities: A Practical Guide for Criminal Defense Lawyers (2018) (2024), Representing People on the Autism Spectrum: A Practical Guide for Criminal Defense Lawyers (2020), and Representing People with Dementia, a Practical Guide for Criminal Defense Lawyers (2022), all published by The American Bar Association (ABA). Elizabeth was appointed Editor of the ABA's annual publication, The State of Criminal Justice. Elizabeth serves as a Vice Chair of the ABA's Criminal Justice Section Council and on the Editorial Board of Criminal Justice Section Magazine. She was named an ABA Fellow, and co-chaired the Criminal Justice Advisory Panel of The Arc's National Center for Criminal Justice and Disability and the ABA's Commission on Disability Rights. Elizabeth serves on the Advisory Board of The Neuroscience Center of Fordham University School of Law. Elizabeth served three terms on the board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), chaired its Mental Health as well as Membership Committees, and is a Life Member. She traveled to Liberia in 2009 and 2014 as part of a delegation sponsored by the U.N. Commission on Drugs and Crime and NACDL to train that country's criminal defense bar. Elizabeth lectures across the U.S. as well as abroad on representing people with mental disabilities.
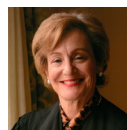
Joseph Landau, JD
Dean and Paul Fuller Professor of Law
Fordham University School of Law

Joseph Landau is the 12th dean of Fordham Law School and the Paul Fuller Professor of Law. He previously served as associate dean for academic affairs from 2021 to 2024. Landau joined the faculty in 2010 as associate professor of law and has served as professor of law since 2016. He writes at the intersection of constitutional law and civil procedure, and he has long taught both of those subjects to first-year students at Fordham. He received the Fordham Law Dean's Distinguished Research Award for 2020-2021 and Fordham Law's Teacher of the Year Award in 2012-2013 and again in 2019-2020. Landau graduated from Yale Law School in 2002 and clerked for the Hon. David Trager of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York and the Hon. Betty Binns Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to joining the Fordham faculty, he was an associate at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, where in addition to specializing in securities litigation he co-directed the Firm's pro bono practice group in immigration and international human rights. From 2010 to 2013, he was Board Chairman of Immigration Equality and the Immigration Equality Action Fund. Prior to law school, Professor Landau was the Assistant Managing Editor at The New Republic magazine in Washington, D.C.

Virginia Man-Yee Lee, PhD
The John H. Ware 3rd Endowed Professor in Alzheimer's Research
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine
Director, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research
Co-Director, Marian S. Ware Center for Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Program

Dr. Virginia M.-Y. Lee studied music at the Royal Academy of Music in London (1962-1964) and received her PhD in Biochemistry from the University of California at San Francisco in 1973. She joined the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1981 and rose to become Professor of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine in 1989. She is the John H. Ware 3rd Endowed Professor in Alzheimer's Research, Director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research, and the Marian S. Ware Center for Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Program. Dr. Lee identified tau, alpha-synuclein and TDP-43 as disease proteins that form unique inclusions in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and frontotemporal degeneration/Lou Gehrig's disease, respectively, and has advanced understanding of their roles in these disorders. Together with her late husband John Q. Trojanowski, Lee's studies challenged conventional belief that Alzheimer's disease is caused by aggregation of amyloid plaques and pointed to the tau protein as a major player. Dr. Lee's h-index is 235 and she is listed among the 10 most highly cited AD researchers from 1985-2008 and among the top 400 most highly influential biomedical researchers from 1996-2011. ISI has recognized Dr. Lee as an ISI Highly Cited Researcher and places her in the top 10 most highly cited neuroscientists from 1997 to 2007. Dr. Lee has been ranked 3 among Top Female Scientists for 2024 and awarded 2024 Best Female Scientist Award by Research.com. She received the 2020 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences and 2024 Rainwater Prize.

Barbara M.G. Lynn, JD
Judge
United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Judge Lynn assumed the federal bench in 2000. On May 1, 2016, Judge Lynn became the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Texas, the first female Chief in Texas. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Virginia, Judge Lynn graduated first in her class from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1976. She then joined Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, LLP, where she served on the firm's executive committee from 1983-99. Judge Lynn has chaired the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation and its Judicial Division. She is a

Fellow and former Committee Chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers. She is Past President of the Dallas Chapter of the International Womens Forum. In 2011, the Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn American Inn of Court, dedicated to intellectual property, was chartered in Dallas. In 2012, Judge Lynn was the recipient of the Dallas Bar Foundation Fellows Award and the Athena Award of the Dallas Regional Chamber. She has received the Outstanding Jurist Award from the Texas Bar Foundation and in 2021 was awarded the first Jurist of the Year Award from the Dallas Bar Association, and it will hereafter be named in her honor. She is the past President of the American Inns of Court Foundation.
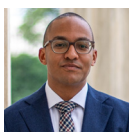
Helen S. Mayberg, MD
Director, Center for Advanced Circuit Therapeutics
Professor, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychiatry, Neuroscience, AI & Human Health
Mount Sinai Professor of Neurotherapeutics
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Helen S. Mayberg MD is Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychiatry and Neuroscience, and the Mount Sinai Professor in Neurotherapeutics at the Icahn School of Medicine where she serves as Founding Director of the Nash Family Center for Advanced Circuit Therapeutics. Previously, Dr. Mayberg, a neurologist, was the Dorothy C. Fuqua Chair in Psychiatric Neuroimaging and Therapeutics at Emory University, and the Sandra Rotman Chair in Neuropsychiatry at the University of Toronto. Recognized for her neuroimaging studies of brain circuits in depression and their translation to the development of deep brain stimulation as a novel therapeutic for treatment resistant patients, she now leads a patient-focused transdisciplinary research team with the shared mission to advance precision surgical treatments for complex neuropsychiatric disorders. Current studies focus on refinement of DBS for depression using a range of mechanism-of-action, predictive biomarker and AI strategies. Dr. Mayberg is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Inventors and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and participates in a wide variety of advisory and scientific activities across multiple fields in neuroscience including neurolaw and neuroethics. She is currently President of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Zul Merali, PhD
Professor of Medicine, Social Science and Neuroscience
Founding Director
Brain and Mind Institute
Aga Khan University

Dr Zul Merali has created and led several organizations (including the University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research, and the Canadian Depression Research and Intervention Network). He is a full professor of Medicine, Social Science and Neuroscience, with over 250 publications and multimillion-dollar extramural research grants. Presently, he is the Founding Director of the Brain and Mind Institute at the Aga Khan University, with hubs in Kenya (serving East Africa) and in Pakistan (serving South and Central Asia), dedicated to the development of innovative Brain and Mental health research-informed solutions, tailored for low- and middle-income countries.

Sam J. Merchant, JD
Visiting Assistant Professor
University of Oklahoma College of Law

Sam J. Merchant teaches Constitutional Law, Sentencing, Habeas Corpus, and Criminal Procedure courses at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. From 2022 to 2023, he was a Fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Georgetown Center for the Constitution. Prior to teaching, he worked as a litigator and federal law clerk. His neurolaw research focuses on how neuroscience can help inform more just criminal sentencing practices, and how it can help explain individual and collective beliefs about constitutional theory.

James M. Noble, MD, MS, CPH, FAAN
Associate Professor of Neurology at CUIMC
Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain
G.H. Sergievsky Center
Department of Neurology
Columbia University Irving Medical Center

Dr. James Noble is an Associate Professor of Neurology in the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. He received his MD from Emory University (2002) and Master of Science (Epidemiology) from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health (2008). Since 2002 he has spent his career at Columbia University, from medical internship through his current roles. His clinical, research, outreach, advocacy, and education efforts are focused on modifiable risk factors of cognitive aging and improving awareness of neurological disorders. He is the clinical core leader of the Columbia ADRC and conducts NIA-supported research. He is co-editor of the 14th edition of standard text *Merritt's Neurology* and is the author of the caregiver handbook *Navigating Life with Dementia* (Oxford University Press/American Academy of Neurology 2022).

Jed Rakoff, JD
Judge
United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Jed S. Rakoff has served since March 1996 as a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. He also frequently sits by designation on the 2nd and 9th Circuit Courts of Appeals. Judge Rakoff holds the position of Adjunct Professor at both Columbia Law School and NYU Law School, and Adjunct Lecturer at Berkeley Law School and University of Virginia Law School . He has written over 170 published articles, 700 speeches, 1800 judicial opinions, and co-authored 5 books. He is also a regular contributor to the New York Review of Books. Judge Rakoff holds a B.A. degree from Swarthmore College (1964), an M.Phil. degree from Oxford University (Balliol, 1966), and a JD degree from Harvard Law School (1969). Following law school, he clerked for the late Hon. Abraham L. Freedman, US Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, and was then an associate at the Debevoise Law Firm. From 1973-80, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney Office in the Southern District of New York, the last two years as Chief of Business & Securities Fraud Prosecutions. Thereafter, before going on the bench, he was a partner at two large law firms in New York, specializing in white col- lar criminal defense and civil RICO. Judge Rakoff served on the National Commission on Forensic Science and as co-chair of the National Academy of Science's Committee on Eyewitness Identification. He served on the New York City Bar Association's Executive Committee and was chair of the Association's Nomination, Honors and Criminal Law Committees. He is a Judicial Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Criminal Lawyers. He was a Director of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers. In 2014, Judge Rakoff was listed by Fortune Magazine as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders.

Oliver Rollins, PhD
Old Dominion Career Development Professor
Assistant Professor of Science, Technology, and Society (STS)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Oliver Rollins the Old Dominion Career Development Professor and Assistant Professor of Science, Technology, and Society at MIT. He explores how systemic practices of social difference and inequity impact and are affected by the making and use of neuroscience. Professor Rollins's book, Conviction: The Making and Unmaking of The Violent Brain (Stanford University Press, 2021), traces the evolution of neuroimaging research on antisocial behavior, emphasizing this controversial brain model's limitation to address aspects of social inequality that actively shape our interactions with institutions of criminal justice and mental health. His

current research focuses on 1) the legacies of scientific racism in the mind and brain sciences, 2) social justice-based policy and research potentials for neuroscience, and 3) the relationships between neuroethics and data governance.

Nicholas D. Schiff, MD
The Jerold B. Katz Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience
Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute
Professor of Neuroscience, Neurology, and Public Health
Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Nicholas Schiff is The Jerold B. Katz Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medicine, with additional appointments as Tenured Professor of Neuroscience, Professor of Neurology, and Professor of Medical Ethics in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is an Attending Neurologist at the New York Presbyterian Hospital and a Senior Attending Physician at the Rockefeller University Hospital at the Rockefeller University. Dr. Schiff's internationally recognized research efforts span pre-clinical and clinical studies and employ state-of-the art neuroimaging and neurophysiologic techniques. He is the recipient of several awards including the prestigious Research Award for Innovation in Neuroscience (RAIN) from the Society for Neuroscience, in 2007. Dr. Schiff and colleagues have demonstrated evidence that long-lasting, severe cognitive disability may be influenced by electrical stimulation of the central thalamus. First, in a landmark 2007 Nature paper demonstrating that long-standing minimally conscious state could remit to DBS and in a 2023 Nature Medicine paper demonstrating that a group of chronically cognitively impaired subjects with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury could be significantly improved with DBS. In parallel work, Dr. Schiff and his colleagues have led the development of diagnostic evaluations of recovery of consciousness in severely brain-injured persons using neuroimaging and allied methods. In a landmark 2024 New England Journal of Medicine study they reported the finding from a study involving hundreds of persons with a disorder of consciousness that at least one in four can harbor hidden high-level cognitive capacities.

Francis X. Shen, JD, PhD
Professor of Law & Faculty Member, Graduate Program in Neuroscience
University of Minnesota
Chief Innovation Officer
MGH Center for Law, Brain & Behavior
Co-Director, Dana Foundation Neurotech Justice Accelerator at Mass General Brigham

Francis X. Shen, JD, PhD is a Professor of Law, Solly Robbins Distinguished Research Fellow, and Faculty Member of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience at the University of Minnesota. He is also Chief Innovation Officer for the MGH Center for Law, Brain & Behavior (CLBB) at MGH. He directs the Shen Neurolaw Lab, whose motto is, "Every story is a brain story". Dr. Shen has co-authored 4 books, including the first Law and Neuroscience casebook and Brain Science for Lawyers, Judges, and Policymakers (2024). He has published articles on a range of neurolaw and neuroethics topics, including computational phenotyping, portable neuroimaging, memory and lie detection, cognitive enhancement, criminal justice, brain injury, evidentiary admissibility, sports concussion, juror decision-making, criminal mental states, dementia, and mental health. He is the founding director of the Dana Foundation Career Network in Neuroscience & Society; and co-leads the Neurotech Justice Accelerator at Mass General Brigham, a Dana Center Initiative; NIH BRAIN Initiative funded projects on portable MRI, and community engagement in neuroimaging research. In 2021, he was awarded the Early Career Scholars Medal by the American Law Institute, one of two medals awarded every other year by the ALI, for being "a pioneer in establishing the interdisciplinary field of law and neuroscience." He received his B.A. from the University of Chicago, his JD from Harvard Law School, and his PhD from the Harvard University.
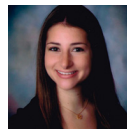

Kenneth H. Sonnenfeld, PhD, JD
Partner
Ballard Spahr

Ken Sonnenfeld, Ph.D., J.D., is a patent attorney with over 35 years of experience as intellectual property counsel to biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry clients. Dr. Sonnenfeld advises on the complex technical issues that arise in biotech and pharmaceutical patent and trade secret matters and counsels clients on a range of inter-party issues, including due diligence, litigation, foreign oppositions, and licensing. Dr. Sonnenfeld received his BA in the Chemical Basis of Behavior from Kenyon College; his Ph.D., in pharmacology from Columbia University; and his law degree from Fordham Law School. Dr. Sonnenfeld began his legal career as the first scientific advisor for an IP firm. After law school he went to another IP boutique as an associate where he became partner and has been practicing in private practice since 1990. In 2020, Dr. Sonnenfeld moved his practice to Ballard Spahr LLP. Dr. Sonnenfeld is nationally recognized as a leading patent lawyer in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals and is listed by Chambers USA, Legal 500, IP Stars, and IAM Patent 1000, and on the IAM Global Leaders List, a leading guide for patent professionals. He speaks regularly on biotechnology and pharmaceutical patent law. Dr. Sonnenfeld is also a board member for the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation and the Lieber Institute for Brain Development. He is also an advisor for the Fordham Law School Neuroscience and Law Center.

Gloria Tan, JD
Associate Justice
Massachusetts Appeals Court

Gloria Tan has served on the Massachusetts Juvenile Court since 2013 and currently serves as First Justice in Middlesex County Juvenile Court. She previously served as the Deputy Director at Harvard Law School's Criminal Justice Institute, where she taught and supervised law students representing indigent adults and youth in criminal and delinquency proceedings in Boston. She began her legal career as a public defender representing indigent juvenile and adult clients at the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Boston and was a recipient of the Massachusetts Bar Association Access Justice to Award in 2013. Judge Tan graduated with a B.A. from Rice University magna cum laude and as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She earned her J.D. from Yale Law School.

Ashley Warman, MS, HEC-C
Medical Ethicist, Northwell Health
Fordham University School of Law '26

Ashley Warman is a is a Medical Ethicist at Northwell Health and an Assistant Professor at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. She is also a part-time law student at Fordham University School of Law. Ashley has published extensively in the field of bioethics, focusing on patient autonomy and the ethical treatment of vulnerable populations. She has presented bioethical case studies at national conferences, further solidifying her role as a thought leader in the field. Ashley holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Certificate in Genome Science and Policy from Duke University and a Master's of Science in Bioethics from Columbia University. Her commitment to advancing ethical discourse in healthcare led her to work under Professor Deborah Denno at Fordham's Neuroscience and Law Center, where she contributed to research at the nexus of neuroscience, criminal law, and ethics. There, she analyzed criminal cases spanning three decades, examining how neuroimaging was utilized in the finding of an insanity defense.

Erica Valencia-Graham, JD
Research Director & Edelman Fellow
Neuroscience and Law Center
Fordham University School of Law

Erica Valencia-Graham is currently serving as the Research Director at the Neuroscience and Law Center, where she works closely with Deborah Denno on various research projects, publications, and events. She also runs the student research program every year and has trained and supervised over forty legal research assistants during her seven years with the Center. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Villanova University, a Juris Doctorate from Fordham University School of Law and is a member of the California Bar Association. During law school, Erica worked as a research assistant for Deborah Denno for three years, focusing mainly on death penalty research. Prior to joining the Neuroscience and Law Center full time, Erica worked at a criminal defense firm in Orange County, California.