

Responses from APA Candidates

President-Elect Responses:

Peter Oppenheimer, Ph.D.

1. The mission of AP-LS/Division 41 is to “enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.” In what ways, if any, do your presidential plans intersect with this mission?

For over 30 years I have worked with APA, Divisions 31 (State Associations) and 42 (Independent Practice), the Rhode Island Psychological Association (RIPA), the Rhode Island Board of Psychology, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the PSYPACT Commission to overcome barriers and create the opportunities for psychologists to do their best work by addressing issues in practice and regulation. I support our profession in the service of enhancing what psychology and psychologists can do for the public good. As President I am looking to refocus APA on supporting professional psychologists to be able to do our work to the best of our ability and to maximize the impact psychology and psychologists can have in the world in all the many realms we work. The work of forensic psychologists and our profession’s desire to contribute our science to legal issues are included in that effort. APA, divisions and the state associations need to collaborate to be effective. *Burton et. al. v West Bend Mutual Insurance Company (Iowa)* is a present example where this collaboration is needed.

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal legal system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

Part of my work for the past 30 years in Rhode Island on behalf of the Rhode Island Psychological Association (RIPA) has been to promote health equity and universal access to quality health services for everyone in Rhode Island (including the undocumented) through our involvement with a series of coalitions of professional associations, consumer groups, charities and government. Our coalitions have also addressed housing, education, the justice system and our prison system. Our strategy is to address social determinants of health. By improving our healthcare systems and people’s access to them, I would hope to reduce the number of people who develop serious mental illness, substance abuse disorders, or get involved in the criminal justice system. This is a long-term strategy that APA could champion on a grassroots level in states.

APA can organize and lead advocacy to address failures of the system to provide comprehensive care to those in the system. We can also advocate for courts to recognize when people have health issues and to intervene with appropriate healthcare strategies rather than restrictive and punitive criminal interventions.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As President, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

I am a clinician who works primarily with children and families. I respect the expertise of the forensic community to decide the legal issues in which APA should become involved.

My approach in my work in Rhode Island has been to involve RIPA in advocacy to directly address social policy issues in addition to issues that impact our practice. We communicate directly with legislators, and executive branch officials (including the Attorney General's Office). Our credibility has grown as we are recognized as a source of nonpartisan scientifically based information. APA could support SPTAs and local psychology groups to do social policy and legal advocacy with consultation and background research. The Legal and State Advocacy Office has been a tremendous support to my efforts over the years. APA has staff with great expertise and the ability to hire outside expertise if they are willing to fund it.

As evidenced by what is happening this week within APA relevant to the Burton et al v. West Bend Mutual case, APA could develop mechanisms to help fund STPAs and other groups to get legal consultation and support when needed. Currently these mechanisms do not appear to exist.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information about my campaign and respond to your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or issues you would like to discuss.

Thank you,

Peter M. Oppenheimer, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
<https://www.bbhsri.com/oppenheimer2024>

Grant J. Rich, PhD

1. The mission of AP-LS/Division 41 is to “enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.” In what ways, if any, do your presidential plans intersect with this mission?

Psychology's contributions to law and social justice are essential. Psychological research has demonstrated critical disparities/processes related to eyewitness testimony (e.g., accidents/crimes)/child eyewitnesses, jury composition/decision-making, criminal responsibility, confession evidence/processes, issues in suspect identification line-ups, sentencing decisions/bail decisions, child custody issues/family law, and impacts of various policies in corrections/rehabilitation both at the juvenile and adult levels. Additional foci at the intersection of psychology and law include policies and ethics related to expert witnesses and scientific vs. junk science in the courtroom, and proper use of psychometric assessments to predict violence and recidivism. From classic research regarding Duty to Warn/Tarasoff Laws, to research into competency definitions/policies, and into distinctions and reliability/validity of legal vs. psychological definitions of mental illness and “insanity,” psychological research has played a critical but often unrecognized role in positive social change.

My Presidential Plans align with D41's mission of well-being/justice/human rights. Evidence-based decision-making, based on psychological research, not arm-chair philosophizing/politicizing, will help ensure a society imbued with justice. I've been a paid expert to attorneys, and D41 member. I'm well-published, including recent books on immigration/refugees and media psychology. I've served on a GLSEN state board (LGBT), and fought both antisemitism and Islamophobia, coauthoring a book chapter on hate crimes.

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal legal system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

I've worked with court referred felons as chemical dependency counselor. I'm Alaska's SUD SAMHSA Block Grant Planner/Coordinator. I was main writer of Alaska's National Governor's Association grant to improve outcomes on community supervision for individuals with opioid use disorder, and served as Alaska's Opioid Grant evaluator.

The current U.S./abroad scene abounds with disparities in health/income/involvement/treatment in the criminal legal system. It's unconscionable that disparities in the CJ system exist regarding race/ethnicity/national origin/religion/physical appearance/migration status/LGBTQAI+ status/age/class. Discrimination in arrests/convictions/sentencing/parole/access to quality representation shouldn't exist in a fair/equal/just society. Especially vulnerable are persons with SMI/SED/SUD (e.g., receiving unfair sentences; being refused MH/SUD treatment). APA must work for equality in treating persons with BH conditions, including prevention/treatment/rehabilitation/ensuring proper/quality treatment access (e.g., medicated-assisted treatments for opioid disorders) throughout the legal process. We must work to ensure that individuals receive adequate care while awaiting trial/while incarcerated/post-release/while under community supervision/parole and beyond. Removing supports (e.g., BH treatments) does a disservice to the person involved and to society, making recidivism more likely and communities less safe. Victim rights should be addressed, including alternative processes (e.g., restorative justice/ADR). APA must clearly communicate its research demonstrating these disparities to non-psychologists (e.g., legal professionals/community members), along with evidence-based policy recommendations.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As President, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

APA's amicus program is essential to giving away psychology for society's common good. Valuable briefs include false confessions/eyewitness testimony/junk science/assessments. Briefs are critical regarding patient/client rights, e.g., civil commitment/right-to-refuse treatment/medication. APA's evidence-based briefs on employment (e.g., sex harassment/hostile environments/discrimination) are positive steps. A developmental psychologist, I'm committed to child/youth briefs (e.g., adoption/custody/abuse/child witnesses/sentencing). The lack of adequate mental health

services in juvenile facilities contribute to recidivism post-release. I propose an APA/D41 workgroup to create advice-generating actionable proposals.

Current issues must be addressed with level-headed/cogent briefs (e.g., mental health parity/affirmative action/animal research/survivor rights/sexual orientation). APA should consider briefs on abortion/reproductive rights/gender-affirming care/disinformation/bookbanning/social media/AI regulation and child/youth impacts, and racial/ethnic/LGBTQAI+/mental health/disability disparities in criminal justice. Recent APA discussion on death penalty age-criteria implementation goes to the heart of psychology/law. Beyond briefs, media psychology-where crime may be influenced by media-specific modeling/contagion effects (e.g., violent video games), must be part of law/psychology's foci. Research must be ethically and responsibly disseminated to stakeholders/public. I've served as expert consultant to lawyers-and national committee member evaluating licensee ethics cases. Knowing that the issues are many, requiring a range of qualified experts, as APA President, I'll engage D41 leaders on ongoing and arising matters of psychology and law.

Thank you!

Grant J Rich, PhD
Fellow, APA
Fellow, APS
Honored Listee in Marquis Who's Who in America
Juneau, Alaska

Beth N. Rom-Rymer, Ph.D.

1. The mission of AP-LS Division 41 is to "enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts." In what ways, if any, do your presidential plans intersect with this mission?

I am tremendously concerned about/vigilant to: the continuing, devastating violence in the Middle East, Ukraine, and other parts of the world; the struggle to sustain international democratic states amidst authoritarianism; the battles to provide equitable access to optimal healthcare throughout the world; unremitting gun violence in the U.S.; the loss of reproductive freedom/the potential loss of previously recognized constitutional rights/hard-won protections; the suffering caused by hate and violence directed at minoritized and marginalized communities.

My life's work as trauma clinician/forensic expert/legislative advocate/University lecturer/author, state/national/international leader, uniquely qualifies me to be APA President and call out, in spoken/written position statements: unjust, punitive, inequitable, traumatogenic governmental policy and delineate humane/equitable/innovative policies, to be implemented by interdisciplinary teams of psychologists/attorneys/political leaders, and others.

Having had broad experience in APA governance, including APA Board/APA Council/CLT Chair/SPTA/Division President, and as a founder/leader of the International Prescriptive Authority Movement, I get things done!

I wholeheartedly support all psychologists' work as we put the weight of our science/our applied and clinical expertise, to help ameliorate the lives of those who are suffering. As President, I will marshal our collective wisdom/energy/resources, so that we can effect change. Under my leadership, we will continue to powerfully speak!

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal justice system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

The practice of a system of Restorative Justice gives minoritized/marginalized populations, with more limited access to resources (funding/the most competent attorneys/forensic psychologists/clinical psychologists) than privileged populations, opportunities to be heard, to have effective representation, and to participate in a meaningful process, promoting repair, reconciliation, and relationship-rebuilding. Importantly, restorative justice produces actual reductions in crime.

APA should encourage the development of an American Psychologist special issue, focused on the need for an alternative/complementary justice process. As President, I will create a Presidential Task Force to review the restorative justice literature.

APA should work on the issue of minimum mandatory sentencing guidelines, creating a model for sentencing guidelines and publishing a white paper on these guidelines. A mandatory minimum sentencing policy revision is critical in the evolution of a more just society.

As President, I will explicitly address the rationale for more widely implementing restorative justice policies, when speaking to lawyers, legislators, psychologists, in both domestic and international audiences. Our country is facing several existential crises of tremendous proportions. Surely, APA can impact our national political discourse on criminal justice by demonstrating the evidence behind a more equitable and compassionate criminal justice system, delineating how our system could be painstakingly transformed.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As President, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

There are several critical issues that APA should consider addressing, primarily at the state level and the appellate level, since the federal legislative system is deadlocked. These issues include: voting rights; immigration issues; same sex marriage; transgender rights; reproductive rights: right to contraception, abortion, unfettered access to competent medical care during pregnancy, including the circumstance of miscarriage or the non-viability and/or toxicity of a fetus, if carried to term; all issues involving the right to privacy; an impending federal law banning abortions in all states; the treatment of the LGBTQIA+ community in the military; gun control; climate issues.

As APA President, I will nurture this recommitment, with explicit written and verbal statements, within our association and outside of it. We will create a packet of state legislative initiatives and position papers, with the empirical data to back them up, that we will send to the SPTA's. We will also make available legal and lobbying counsel so that we can provide comprehensive and

abundant consultation for SPTA training and success in these initiatives. I, personally, will travel to the different states to consult with the various SPTA leadership groups to support and assist in the implementation of these important advocacy initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth N. Rom-Rymer, Ph.D.
Candidate, APA President-elect 2024

Wendi S. Williams, Ph.D.

1. The mission of AP-LS/Division 41 is to “enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.” In what ways, if any, do your presidential plans intersect with this mission?

My presidential platform, Radically Well Together!, and plans are aligned with AP-LS/Division 41’s mission. My campaign attends to the impact of societal and global precarity to undermine the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, in ways that can jeopardize their human rights and right to justice, generally and especially within legal contexts.

My platform identifies three initiatives: 100 Psychologists Rising, Youth Mental Health Summit, and Wellness at Work for which I see intersection with the vision and mission of Division 41. For example, 100 Psychologists Rising is an initiative with an aim of creating a global alliance of psychologists who leverage their local and psychological expertise to amplify wellness and feature their work. This initiative utilizes the transformative principles of movement work. Amplifying the integration of legal expertise in the science and practice of psychology can be a key theme in the work we highlight and support.

If elected, I would welcome the opportunity to consult with the American Psychology-Law Society, to further advance our shared vision for wellness, justice and the advancement of human rights.

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal legal system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

Cycles of abuse, trauma, and social-cultural negligence leave far too many in our society and across the globe vulnerable to the talons of the criminal legal system without access to meaningful mental health care. While some of these contexts may be the first opportunity for access to care, forensic settings have a record of harm to individuals and communities grappling with substance and mental health challenges, especially those from minoritized racial and cultural backgrounds.

One of the American Psychological Association’s (APA) primary levers includes the advisory role it plays through our science and practice to inform our advocacy efforts, particularly in the courts and especially for those cases that can set a precedent to inform practices in forensic and carceral settings.

Additionally, as is evidenced in the existing work of Division 41, I support the writing of amicus briefs that put the backing of our science and practice behind legal decisions with the potential to enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As President, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

APA's recommitment to giving psychology away is foundational to social justice and equity. The current climate requires a strategic focus on cases that when decided may impact the mental health and psychological functioning of individuals, and can benefit from grounding in a psychological science knowledge base.

There are many issues APA can advocate for that align with my presidential vision. They include: the consideration of the death penalty for late adolescents; gender identity and transgender rights; the psychological impact of the precarity of reproductive rights post-Dobbs; and the long-standing issues with race and policing, including the technology-human interface as relates to AI facial recognition software.

My specific focus lies at the intersection of psychology and education. I have a strong track record of advocating for youth and their mental health and for women and girls leadership development and wellness. These are areas where APA can leverage our psychological science for the public good in forensic settings. Beyond amicus briefs, I'd like for APA to lobby for and propose new legislation backed by psychological science to advance the association's mission to use our science to benefit society and improve people's lives.

Board of Directors Member-at-Large Slate 1 (basic psychology)

Jermaine Jones, Ph.D.

1. The mission of AP-LS/Division 41 is to "enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts." In what ways, if any, do your Member-at-Large plans intersect with this mission?

Concerning well-being, in my time on the Board of Scientific Affairs, one of my goals was to find ways to increase APA's reputation as a trusted source of science for the general population. I believe the pandemic revealed that more and more, people are getting health information from unreliable sources. Thus, by serving as a trusted source for science and health information, APA can ensure that empirical health information is being relayed.

Concerning justice and human rights, I have spent much of my career advocating for the rights and humane treatment of people who use substances. I've done this through advocacy with both APA and the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, and by working with organizations such as the AIDS Education Task Force, and the National Academies. In my role on the APA Board of Directors, I hope to expand that advocacy to include all mental health conditions.

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal legal system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

In the face of growing backlash against efforts to address the long-standing history of racial bias in our criminal legal system, I believe relying on objective data is our strongest response. Thus, APA should be proactive in promoting the use of forensic practices and treatment protocols, which are less susceptible to the bias, stigma, and racism associated with mental health and substance use.

Furthermore, APA could encourage and emphasize the importance of cultural competence to improve the implementation and efficacy of interventions (e.g., Indigenizing healthcare interventions). APA should provide guidance to its members on how to develop culturally appropriate interventions and support systems (e.g., partner with community organizations and advocacy groups). This is work that I have done with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Opioid Response Network.

Finally, as a member of the board, I would request that APA not only advocate with the legislature, as it currently does, but also with local, state, and federal criminal justice systems. To this effect, APA should develop ethical guidelines related to the nexus of mental health and criminal justice.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As a Member-at-Large, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

As a Board member, I would help nurture APA's recommitment to promoting psychology by starting where all policy begins, with public opinion. There are several ways in which APA could increase public awareness of scientifically supported best practices. First, I believe APA can increase its visibility in places where the public gathers information (e.g., TikTok, and YouTube). APA can also foster the development of lay summaries of scientific studies that are more digestible by the public. Finally, APA should encourage interactions among scientists and the general public, such as open-access webinars, and ensure that the media has ready access to verified experts when needed.

William Stoops, Ph.D.

1. The mission of AP-LS/Division 41 is to “enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.” In what ways, if any, do your Member-at-Large plans intersect with this mission?

Response: My vision as a Member-at-Large would be to ensure that psychological science/scientists are represented at the highest levels of APA governance in order to improve society, enhance APA's mission, and better the lives of all. As such, I am deeply committed to using psychological science to strengthen practice and to advocate for human rights across the board, including within legal contexts. My own research in the area of Substance Use Disorders

(SUDs) has shown me the high prevalence of SUDs in individuals involved in the criminal legal system, and the need for more evidence-based research and practice. As a past Council Representative and President of APA Division 28 (Society for Psychopharmacology and Substance Use), I am used to working with other divisions to get things done. Thus, if elected, I would be honored to work with AP-LS leadership and members on a regular basis to hear ideas, understand concerns, and build collaborations to ensure your interests are represented on the APA Board of Directors.

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal legal system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

Response: APA must advocate for increased adoption of evidence-based practices to treat substance use and mental health diagnoses in criminal legal settings. For example, we know that leaving incarceration (re-entry) is one of the biggest predictors of opioid overdose, however most prisons and jails do not offer evidence-based opioid treatment (e.g., buprenorphine or methadone) to individuals with known opioid use disorder. They also do not often offer Narcan[®] upon release. APA should use its unique position to advocate with federal and state policymakers for the adoption of such practices that have roots, in part, in psychological science. APA also should continue its work to address systemic racism that contributes to the disproportionate incarceration of those from minoritized and disadvantaged backgrounds. One example on the forefront is the criminalizing of homelessness occurring in sections of the United States. This will lead to even higher incarceration rates, untold physical and mental health risks and greater societal costs—we, as psychologists, must educate policy makers and work to change these unfairly targeted laws. Legal psychologists can play an important role here.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As a Member-at-Large, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

Response: I'm thrilled that APA recommitted to its successful amicus brief program. As a Member-at-Large, I would reinforce APA's commitment to amicus briefs and advocacy before the courts and ensure that psychologists, especially with legal psychology expertise, are in "rooms where it happens." I believe APA could strengthen its partnership with AP-LS members to identify cases for which APA can file amicus briefs based on psychological science. If elected, I would contribute to their content (as my expertise allows) and help to identify APA members who can collaborate on the briefs to make them as strong as possible. Beyond amicus briefs, I would love to see APA commit to developing more model legislation for states to adopt legal practices backed by psychological science, and to better recognize the difficulties that forensic and legal psychologists face in their careers. While serving on APA's Council, I worked with Jason Cantone on APA legislation regarding juvenile solitary confinement and interrogation of criminal suspects. I would commit to expanding this work and further involving AP-LS members within APA's grassroots advocacy network, something I am familiar with as a past member of APA's Advocacy Coordinating Committee and current Federal Advocacy Coordinator for the Kentucky Psychological Association.

Board of Directors Member-at-Large Slate 2 (applied psychology)

Zeeshan Butt, Ph.D.

1. The mission of AP-LS/Division 41 is to “enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.” In what ways, if any, do your Member-at-Large plans intersect with this mission?

For the first 15 years of my career, I was on faculty at an academic health center where I served as the sole psychologist for several transplant programs, provided mentorship in clinical care and research, and led federally funded studies that improved assessment of patient symptoms and life quality. In 2021, I was recruited to a healthcare technology company, bringing measurement science to scale to help improve the care that hundreds of thousands of patients receive. Across my leadership experience in academia, industry, and in consultation, I have focused my career on how to bring our best psychological science to bear to amplify the voice of patients to improve their well-being, and by extension, optimize their experience of justice and human rights.

I am not an expert in the law, and I’m very comfortable recognizing the limits of my expertise. However, I do share with the AP-LS/Division (and its members) a fundamental commitment to bringing psychological science to bear on important concerns of people and groups in the real world. For more information on my professional background, please visit www.zeeshanbutt.com.

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal legal system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

I am a Pakistani-American, born to immigrant parents in New York City but raised in semi-rural Ohio, now living in Chicagoland. My children share part of my identity and are also Latinx. My lived experience (and those of my children) underlies all aspects of how I think about and consider issues of equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice in psychology. And I’m certain that background also influences how I think about this important and sobering reality regarding the US criminal legal system.

APA has done a remarkable job in recent years addressing these areas within psychology, guided by both its Strategic Plan and the work across all the directorates. The biggest immediate risk that I see to these efforts centers around some of the uncertainty related to the potential changes in leadership at the state and federal levels. APA’s work in equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice will need to continue to take a decidedly legislative stance, guided by our best psychological science. In my view, such an approach must be coupled with the promotion of our overall advocacy, basic science, education, and practice, as well.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As a Member-at-Large, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

By many accounts, the partnership between the APA Office of General Counsel and the Amicus Curiae Brief Program has been a successful one. As a Member-at-Large on the APA Board of Directors, I would do whatever I could to speak in support of strengthening this program.

As to the issues that the Association should consider addressing and the mechanisms for that support, that's where I feel strongly that we need expert opinion to weigh in, and by that, I mean the input of all AP-LS members. I'll reveal my bias here – I am a product of APA Divisions and understand the value of our members towards the larger goals of the Association. Although thousands of APA members are only that – not otherwise connected to like-minded psychologists in Divisions, Ethnic Psychological Associations, or their SPTAs – its within groups like the AP-LS where our deepest expertise resides. A connected and engaged membership is a powerful one.

Margaret Kovera, Ph.D.

1. 1. The mission of AP-LS/Division 41 is to “enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.” In what ways, if any, do your Member-at-Large plans intersect with this mission?

If elected to the APA Board of Directors, I have committed to redouble APA's efforts to have the voice of psychology heard as society grapples with the many challenges that we are facing, many of which intersect with legal contexts. One of my primary goals in this position would be to focus the association's attention on racial disparities in the criminal legal system and to identify pathways through which psychologists can contribute to radical change in the way in which public safety is ensured. In addition, the association will need to garner its best resources to fight many states' current attacks on access to reproductive health care and the rights of people who are LGBTQIA+ with the very best psychological science that we have to offer, including submitting amicus briefs supporting gender-affirming care and health care access in addition to the briefs we have been submitting on topics traditionally addressed by APLS scholars (confessions, eyewitness identifications, criminal responsibility). Finally, I would work to strengthen our ties with other professional associations, like the American Bar Association, that could help us further our mission to improve justice through psychological science and practice.

2. Vastly disproportionate numbers of those in the criminal legal system have substance use and mental health concerns, and minoritized identities. How can/should APA address those needs within forensic settings?

The DOJ patterns and practices reports out of Memphis and Minneapolis document the harm that the police are inflicting on communities of color as well as those who struggle with mental health challenges. It is imperative that APA contribute to the identification and dismantling of the structures that produce racial and mental health disparities in the criminal legal system. As a member of the Board of Directors, I would encourage APA to examine how psychologists, rather than police, might be deployed to respond to situations in which mental health and substance use are the underlying issue for which help is sought. The current loneliness epidemic has also highlighted the desperate need for additional mental health professionals. I would advance the work to accredit master's level programs and reduce the cost of attendance for PhD programs so that we might have more practitioners to meet the increasing demand. Increasing training capacity, with attention toward diversifying the backgrounds of those in training, could begin addressing the unmet need of a psychological workforce that looks more like the people we are assessing, treating, and studying. Although recent Supreme Court decisions make this diversification more difficult, we must not give up our efforts on this issue.

3. APA recommitted itself to giving psychology away through its amicus brief program. As a Member-at-Large, how might you help nurture this recommitment and what issues before the courts do you believe APA should consider addressing? Apart from submitting amicus briefs, what would you like to see APA undertake to foster the adoption of legal practices backed by psychological science?

I partnered with APA in reinvigorating its amicus curiae program, serving as the inaugural chair of the expert panel that identifies psychological issues making their way through appellate courts. We submitted briefs clarifying the construct of criminal responsibility and the factors that increase the likelihood of false confessions and coerced guilty pleas. Other issues likely to come before the courts on which APA should speak include access to gender-affirming health care, gun safety, and discrimination in AI processes in employment and policing. The best way to support these efforts is for APA Council to pass science-based policy statements in advance of the submission of the amicus brief, allowing the amicus panel members to respond nimbly when they identify a case in which the courts would benefit from learning about the psychological science that speaks to an issue under their review. In addition to my continuing support of the amicus program, as a member of the APA Board of Directors I would work with the APLS Council Representatives to prepare New Business Items for APA Council consideration that would codify our forensic psychological science into APA policy.