

# The Gavel



## Criminal Justice Section Leadership Message

Katy Haynes Owen, Ph.D.

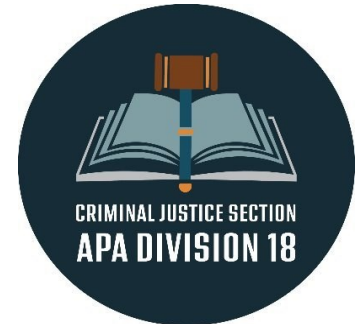
As the APA calendar year winds down, I am excited to share updates on recent accomplishments and goals in progress.

Most importantly, congratulations to the two inaugural winners of The Gavel Award - Dr. Therese Todd and (Future Dr.) Kaylee Cook! Both winners are using the award stipend to further their research. Dr. Todd's research explores police responses to people with mental illness. Cook's research examines the components of anti-stigma intervention for employers to increase employment of folks with criminal histories.

After APA Convention, two new officers will join the Criminal Justice Section leadership team. Sandra Thomas will begin as the Student Section Chair Elect, and Brittany Wolff will enter as the Chair-Elect. Additionally, Jade Horton will transition from Student Section Chair Elect to Student Section Chair. Congratulations to our incoming officers and thanks to our outgoing Student Section Chair, Kaylee Cook. Your leadership in the Student Section over the past two years has been unwavering.

Continued on page 2

Summer 2024



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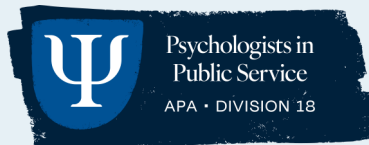
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### Special points of interest

Check out the request from the editors on page 13 for newsletter content.

Submissions can include;:

- 1) case law briefs related to issues in the criminal justice system,
- 2) reviews of books/articles,
- 3) training perspectives and developments (e.g., graduate, internship, and fellowship programs), and
- 4) case studies/ conceptualizations.



## Continued: Criminal Justice Section

Other section updates include:

- The Correctional Psychology Training Recommendations Task Force is now in the editing phase and plans to have a draft for review in the coming months.
- The Criminal Justice Section has partnered with the Corrections Committee of American Psychology-Law Society (APLS) to create a virtual panel addressing advocacy in carceral settings from a student perspective. More details to come!
- Increased integration with the Federal Bureau of Prisons has been a focus to increase section membership. FBOP officials are currently reviewing a newsletter bulletin to be sent to all psychologists and psychology trainees.

Regarding Division 18 updates:

- Division leadership transitions will also take place after APA Convention. The incoming President-Elect is Dr. Edgar Villarreal from the Veterans Affairs Section. The entire 2024 – 2025 slate of officers will be [published](#) after Convention.
- The division’s journal publication, *Psychological Services*, is working on an issue on burn-out.
- Division 18 supported a [resolution on safekeeping of firearms](#), which was adopted through APA’s Council of Representatives.

## D18 Community and State Hospital Section 2024 Outstanding Service Awards

The D18 CSH Outstanding Service Award recognizes psychologists who have made a significant impact in a community or state hospital setting. Here is some brief information about our awardees:

**Brittany Penson** has demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment as an early career psychologist at Georgia Regional Hospital Atlanta (GRHA), where she is an adjunct professor at Emory University School of Medicine. Dr. Penson has played a pivotal role in integrating diversity and individual differences into hospital practices and intern training, and was noted to be a fierce advocate for her patients’ individual needs.

**Talee Vang** leads the Hennepin Healthcare’s Healthy Equity Program and is the Co-Chair of Minnesota’s Culturally Informed and Culturally Responsive Mental Health Task Force. Her extensive accomplishments include designing a multiyear educational framework to address crucial issues like anti-racism, LGBTQIA+ care, and socioeconomic disparities. Her programs are described as “catalysts for systemic change, fostering a healthcare environment that prioritizes safety, quality, and equity, integral to overall operational improvement.”

# The Many Housing Crises of the Unfortunate Class

Robert K. Ax, Ph.D.

## *The Supreme Court and the Criminalization of Homelessness*

On June 27th of this year, by a 6-3 majority, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the plaintiffs in the case of *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson (2024)*. The Court rejected arguments that an ordinance against public sleeping violated Eighth Amendment protections against cruel and unusual punishment, despite the lack of sufficient shelter beds there. The decision provides a roadmap for other localities to criminalize homelessness. It will facilitate the enforcement of similar laws already on the books elsewhere (e.g., Georgia; Thompson, 2024), and more likely than not expand the municipal-park-to-prison pipeline.

In 2022, 653,100 people experienced homelessness in the United States on a single night. Persons of color were overrepresented in the unhoused population, which also included 35,574 veterans. One in five homeless persons was over age 55 (de Sousa et al., 2023). Mortality for non-elderly homeless persons was 3.5 times greater than for those in the general population (Logani et al., 2023). An analysis of more than 300,000 visits to hospital emergency departments showed that rates of serious and persistent mental illness, alcoholism and drug abuse were all higher among homeless patients than housed patients, and were more likely to be related to an injury from assault or self-injury (Lombardi et al., 2020).

The United States has a long history, as far back as the Reconstruction era, of failing to sustain, bungling, or subverting reform efforts. The so-called “War on Poverty” had a heyday in the 1960s and 1970s but was followed by a trend that persists to this day toward concentrating wealth within the highest income bracket. On the other hand, the “War on Drugs,” which began more than 50 years ago, shows signs of reinvigoration. Consistent with the *Grants Pass decision, Ballot Measure 110 (Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act, 2020)*, which decriminalized drug use in Oregon, was rolled back after just three years (Fannin et al., 2024), perhaps signaling, along with the recent wave of state laws criminalizing reproductive health care, the re-emergence of a generally more punishment-oriented zeitgeist. Having effectively criminalized serious and persistent mental illness (after “deinstitutionalization,” which became “transinstitutionalization:” hospital-to-street-to-prison) and drug abuse over the past 60 years, *Grants Pass v. Johnson* has enshrined “Not In My Back Yard,” or NIMBY, in case law. Persecuting the powerless endures across decades, even as, too often, reform initiatives on their behalf come and go.

## *The Insecurely Housed*

To the populations living on the streets or in shelters can be added the “nearly homeless.” As climate change intensifies global warming and weather instability, increasing numbers of Americans will find themselves suddenly homeless. Over Memorial Day weekend this year, a series of storms across much of the country destroyed over 200 houses in Texas alone, according to official estimates (Benner & Londoño, 2024). Further, the direct and indirect impacts of these weather events will reliably lead more climate immigrants from the Global South to the United States in the foreseeable future.

The median cost of renting a home in the U.S. is at its highest as a percentage of income in decades (Mayer, 2023). One-fourth of all adults rented their homes in 2023. Of those, nearly one-fifth fell behind in their rent at some point in 2023 (Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 2024), placing them at risk of eviction and possible homelessness.

Others live in unsafe residences – infested by rodents, contaminated with mold, or living with a violent partner/spouse or parent/guardian. In 2021, for example, Chicago still had 387,000 lead water pipes (or “lead service lines”), the most of any city in the nation (Environmental Defense Fund, 2024). Many military barracks around the country are substandard according to a recent U.S. Government Accounting Office report (Field, 2024). The burden of toxic living spaces, such as the zone in Louisiana known as “Cancer Alley,” falls disproportionately on low-income households and on persons of color (Baurick et al., 2019; Friedman, 2024). People living in insecure situations might find themselves abruptly displaced as existing threats increase or new ones materialize, or they are priced out of their homes by increases in their rents, real estate taxes, or insurance premiums.

## Continued: The Many Housing Crises of the Unfortunate Class

Robert K. Ax, Ph.D.

### *Carceral Housing: Another Form of Exclusion*

A counterpoint to homelessness, compulsory housing – in prisons and jails – reflects a similar set of underlying issues: devalued, excluded persons, disproportionately in need of and lacking access to healthcare, and forced to live in substandard, often hazardous spaces. The U.S. has more prisoners than any other country in the world (World Population Review, 2022), and the latest available figures show a 2% increase in the total (state and federal) prison population between year-end 2021 and year-end 2022, the first increase since 2013 (Carson & Kluckow, 2023). Collectively, jails and prisons are de facto the nation's largest mental health care system. The prevalence of mental illness among prisoners is regularly reported as higher (Prins, 2014, Al-Rousan et al., 2017) than for those in the general U.S. population (National Institute of Mental Health, 2022).

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the nation's largest prison system, and once the gold standard for correctional health care, has been in crisis for several years, mired in a series of scandals (Benner, 2022; Durbin, 2022; Knight, 2024; Office of the Inspector General, 2024; Weiser, 2021). The BOP (2023) estimated that federal prisons would be collectively overcrowded by 10% in fiscal year 2024. But poor prison housing conditions are by no means confined to the BOP. For example, in Texas, the lack of air-conditioning in some prisons was found to be associated with an average of 14 deaths per year over an 18-year period versus zero heat-related deaths in prisons equipped with air-conditioning (Skarha et al., 2022).

### *Homelessness, Compulsory Housing, and Criminal Justice/Correctional Psychology*

The American Psychological Association's (APA) current strategic plan includes "respect and promote human rights" as one of its guiding principles (2024, p. 1) consistent with its prescient resolution on ending homelessness (APA, 2021). The resolution notes, in part:

WHEREAS certain activities associated with individuals who lack a home or shelter or are in unstable living conditions, such as sleeping outdoors, in cars, or in abandoned buildings, doubled up, congregating in specific settings, violating curfews, or sharing food have been criminalized or sanctioned under specific state and local civil ordinances, and can result in encounters with law enforcement officers and legal systems causing stigmatization, increased hardship, and a further curtailment of legal rights and liberties, including incarceration... THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association reaffirms its commitment to advance psychology's contributions to ending homelessness...(p. 1-2).

Notwithstanding these good intentions, APA was absent in the *Grants Pass v. Johnson* case. Among the many amicus curiae briefs filed on behalf of the homeless respondents was one by a coalition that included the American Psychiatric Association and National Association of Social Workers (American Psychiatric Association et al., 2024), which was cited by Justice Sotomayor in her dissent. APA, however, did not file, individually or in collaboration. Division 18's parent organization is unlikely to make criminalized homelessness a priority, presently stretched too thin to attend to its current concerns adequately, let alone add new ones. Too much is being demanded of too few by too many.

But we can be involved, practitioners and academics alike, as a cohesive group of subject matter experts and activists. Of the many ways criminal justice and correctional psychologists and their allies can be an effective force in reducing homelessness and incarceration, here are just three:

## Continued: The Many Housing Crises of the Unfortunate Class

Robert K. Ax, Ph.D.

**Prevention:** Upstream-focused research and related evidence-based interventions are where society can obtain the greatest return on investment both in economic and human capital terms. Correctional psychology isn't just about what happens in prisons and jails – or shouldn't be. Going forward, our field should also emphasize preventive measures. Such approaches, including investments in reproductive healthcare, public education, and mental health programs for at-risk families, are cost-effective in several respects, including the reduction of incarceration and homelessness rates. In that regard, consider collaborating with economists, NGOs, and others to formulate, promote, and implement better healthcare laws, and policy. Why does the United States, one of the wealthiest nations per capita in the world, maintain such high incarceration and homeless rates, and what arguments can persuade the American public to make the long-term investments needed to reduce these numbers?

**Advocacy:** Consistent with a prevention perspective, criminal justice and correctional psychologists could act independently of APA, such as in ad hoc coalitions with other professionals and NGOs (e.g., NAMI), to advocate for unhoused persons by filing amicus briefs and testifying as expert witnesses in new cases, of which there are sure to be many now. To this point, one such group that filed in Grants Pass on behalf of the homeless respondents was 57 Social Scientists with Published Research on Homelessness (2024). Many members of this section are well-qualified in this respect, having dealt, for example, with the difficulties of assisting pre-release inmate-patients in finding a place to live. Advocates can address legal and regulatory barriers to housing, such as those barring persons with felony convictions from finding a place to live or blocking the construction of low-cost apartments in particular municipalities. Help formulate solutions that reduce, and, when possible, prevent homelessness locally and nationally, supporting a right, codified in federal law, to safe housing.

**Inclusion:** Let's add ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) detention centers to our ambit. These facilities possess many of the same features (including solitary confinement) and functions as prisons and jails, but their occupants are largely status offenders, often confined without due process, and perhaps with nowhere to go if released to the community. As of June 2, 2024, there were 37,360 persons held in ICE detention facilities and 62.2% had no criminal record (TRAC, 2024).

### *We Have Met the Unfortunates and They Could Be Us*

Societal ambivalence about yet another reform movement speaks to a desire on the part of too many of us to distance ourselves from the less fortunate and their troubles, even as the middle class has been shrinking. In 1971, 61% of American adults could be characterized as living in middle-class households vs. only 50% in 2021 (Kochnar & Sechopoulos, 2022). Absent more benevolent law and policy, more of *us are at risk of entering the unfortunate class: one weather catastrophe, job loss, or uninsured medical emergency away from losing our homes – or finding benzene in our household drinking water.*

So-called anti-camping laws aren't the answer to the growing problem of homelessness. Safe, affordable housing is, and correctional and criminal justice psychologists can and should help everyone in America to achieve it.

*\*References, see pages 14 and 15.*





## D18 CJ Section Programming

### Thursday, August 8th

10:00—	Division 18 Presidential Address	Chelan 4
10:50	<i>Tallie Armstrong</i>	
3:00—3:50	D18 Poster Session	Hall 4AB
6:00— 7:00	D18 Social Hour	Tahoma 3

### Friday, August 9th

5:00—5:50	D18 Business Meeting	Room 204
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### Saturday, August 10th

8:00— 8:50	Innovations in Psychological Services and Training in the Federal Prison System	615
	<i>Corinne Ortega</i>	

### Poster Session

- A Qualitative Study of Detained Male Youth: Attitudes Toward Work and Career  
*Halle Woker, Madison Alexander, Femina Varghese, Christina N Christie, Elson Bihm*
- A Qualitative Study of Female Justice-Involved Youths' Career Attitudes and Needs  
*Catherine Allen, Peyton Penny, Madison May, Femina Varghese*
- Hope Behind Bars: Why Research Shows Prison Doulas are Crucial for Maternal Well-Being  
*Naysha Rivera-Hartley*
- Innovation in Service: Multi-Site Telehealth Delivery of Evidence-Based Group Therapy in Rural Jails  
*Katherine E. Budge, Isaac Saldivar, Carly McCord*
- Mental Health Experiences of Incarcerated LGBTQ+ Folx: Through the Eyes of a Mental Health Professional  
*Sierra Stillwater, Nadine Nakamura, Meghan Fagundes, Jan Estrellado*
- Work Behaviors and Criminal Thinking: A Qualitative Analysis of Males in Prison  
*Megan DiBenedetto, Femina Varghese, Madison Alexander*

# INAUGURAL 2024 GAVEL AWARD WINNERS

THERESE TODD AND KAYLEE COOK

## The Gavel Award Feature Piece

Dr. Therese Todd

Broadly, my research focuses on mental health inequities in the criminal legal system. More specifically, I study how police respond to mental health crises in the community. The presence of police in mental health crises increases the risk of the criminalization of mental illness and use of force, which can, and has, resulted in the death of the person in crisis. Mental illness, homelessness, and substance use are all public health issues that have historically been met with criminal legal responses. However, in the recent years communities have begun to focus not just on how we respond to behavioral health concerns, but who is responding in the first place. I am interested in using research to better understand how community-based, non-police alternative response programs can be used in place of law enforcement to respond to mental health crises and other societal concerns impacting our most vulnerable and underserved communities.

Another major interest of mine is stigma against mental illness, and how beliefs about mental illness impact the lives of those with lived experience. In my dissertation research, which I presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference and World Psychiatric Association Together Against Stigma Conference, I combined my interests in stigma and policing. I analyzed general public and police officer attitudes toward mental illness and found that although attitudes between the two groups were mostly similar, when they differed police officers had significantly more negative attitudes toward mental illness, specifically related to dangerousness and a desire for social distance from those with mental illness. I also looked at how these attitudes and police culture impacted officer decision-making in a vignette description of a mental health crisis. I found that higher implicit biases against mental illness and poorer perceptions of officer-related procedurally just organizational climate were associated with less officer engagement (transport to services or any formal action) with the person in crisis. Although it is important to understand how individual-level factors might impact policing outcomes in mental health crises, bolstering structural resources may have more of a lasting positive impact on addressing community mental health needs.

I believe this work is important and when something is so important it is almost impossible to not feel it's weight. At times, the significance has often felt debilitating -- leading me to question my own skillsets and critically overanalyze my methodology to ensure there are no mistakes in my research design that might unintentionally impact my conclusions. The strategy I have found most helpful in my own work is to constantly stay engaged in the project in whatever capacity feels feasible. One day that may mean staring at your data for five minutes and the next day going down a new literature rabbit hole for hours. I found that walking away for a week or two only makes it more difficult to come back to it.

Ask questions, remember there is always more to learn (that's a good thing), and don't be afraid to be wrong. As scientists, we have a responsibility to be thoughtful about the knowledge we put forth into the world and to do so with care, but we can't let that stop us from moving forward. So be thoughtful, but trust that your care is what makes you a good and capable scientist.

## **Correctional Psychology Training and the Doctoral Internship**

Lewis J. Peiper, Ph.D.

Correctional Psychology is a subfield of psychology where the scientific, technical, and/or specialized knowledge of psychology is applied to the classification, treatment, and management of offenders to reduce risk and improve public safety (Brodsky, 1973; Magaletta, et al, 2007; Neal, 2018;). Although some universities offer correctional psychology coursework, few resources have been devoted to training psychologists for corrections (Batistini, et al 2024). To date, training to be a Correctional Psychologist remains largely on-the-job (Magaletta & Patry, 2020).

The doctoral internship serves as the capstone year for psychologists to develop and finetune their proficiencies across a broad array of professional competencies. Although all internships accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) train interns toward a common set of standards, each internship can also provide specialty training. Doctoral internships within correctional settings offer a formalized professional pathway to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes of a Correctional Psychologist.

For this editorial, internship training directors from four different state correctional systems were interviewed to explore their first-hand experiences with professional development within correctional psychology internships.

Each training director was asked to respond to the following questions:

What motivated you to become a Correctional Psychologist and why should students consider a career as a correctional psychologist?

What are the attributes of a good Correctional Psychologist?

What is unique about internships within corrections?

What does a training day look like at your internship?

### **Important Attributes of a Correctional Psychologist:**

Collectively, the Training Directors identified several important attributes of a Correctional Psychologist:

1. *Flexible*: The ability to shift from one intended activity to another, adapt to the ever-changing demands of the correctional environment, and more generally the ability to “go with the flow.”
2. *Unflappable*: The ability to maintain calm during a crisis and manage stress effectively.
3. *Open*: Able to consider possibilities outside of one’s training, education, and personal worldview. Able to take a step back at times to make sure you see the big picture. Open to discussing your own countertransference.
4. *Boundaries*: There are many paradoxes in corrections where good intentions can have iatrogenic effects. Good professional and personal boundaries can help navigate unclear and ever-changing situations with fairness and consistency.
5. *Collegial*: The ability to work well with other professionals and be a team player. Although you may consider yourself an expert on matters related to psychology, you need to remember that you are working as part of a larger team that includes individuals from many different disciplines who may have differing viewpoints.
6. *Advocacy*: Willing to impact and change the system, not just become a part of it. Recognize the importance of supporting the value of self-determination by encouraging self-advocacy as well.
7. *Integrity*: Adhering to ethical guidelines is critical, even in difficult situations. This includes understanding the limits of confidentiality and navigating the multiple roles psychologists serve within a correctional environment.
8. *Empathy/compassion*: Providing care and support without judgment. Recognize the humanity in everyone, regardless of their criminal history. Demonstrating genuine concern (within appropriate professional boundaries) for the well-being of incarcerated individuals can significantly enhance the effectiveness of psychological



9. *Communication skills:* The ability to communicate clearly and effectively with incarcerated individuals, staff, and other stakeholders within the correctional system is crucial. Active listening skills are also essential to fully understand incarcerated individuals' unique concerns and experiences.
10. *Cultural competence and humility:* Understand and respect the diverse backgrounds of the incarcerated population. Implement inclusive practices that cater to the needs of a diverse incarcerated population and ensure effective and equitable psychological services. Recognize that correctional facilities represent their own unique socio-cultural environments and that when criminality is evident, it can have predictable social influences and power.

### **Meet the Training Directors:**

Dr. Marvella Bowman is the training director for the APA Accredited internship within the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (NC DAC). When selecting a major in college, she initially wanted to become a defense attorney, but pursued psychology due to her interest in the



“development of externalizing and problem behaviors, as well as a more general interest in helping members of at-risk and marginalized populations.” Her early career work was with teenage girls and boys in locked residential treatment facilities and detention centers. She then transitioned to working with both men and women in adult prisons. Dr. Bowman explained that a common thread throughout was “a desire to help those who were less likely to have access to the services that would help them help themselves.” She recommends a career in corrections for “anyone who enjoys variety, desires to be of service, and never wants to stop learning.” She explained, “your work is never boring, and you will see just about everything you’ve read about in your texts – and more!” She added that, “Correctional Psychologists get the chance to not only help those who are incarcerated, but also colleagues in various disciplines.”

Dr. Thomas Culbreath is the training director for the APA Accredited internship within the Florida Department of



Correction (FDC). He was attracted to Correctional Psychology because of the variety of roles and experiences it provided. He described that “no two days are ever alike” and that Correctional Psychologists get to wear multiple hats as clinicians, supervisors, managers, administrators, mediators, trainers, and advocates. He celebrated that “all of your problem solving and people skills are tested daily in good and challenging ways!” He recommends students consider a career in corrections because of the results and impact they can make for the people incarcerated in prisons and the prison system as well. He noted, “justice systems need invested, hard-working, and well-trained leaders. I often tell our interns, if you’re not here doing this work, who will be? Will it be someone who is not vested in change and advocacy or will it be you?”

Dr. Jonathan Dickey is the training director for the APA Accredited internship within the Wisconsin Department of



Correction (WI DOC). He always had an interest in working with underserved populations, primarily those diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness. Dr. Dickey was initially pursuing a forensic hospital career after grad school, but accepted a position with the WI DOC. He explained, “I viewed it as a potential stepping-stone for other opportunities, but 20+ years later, I am still working in corrections and I have no regrets.” He recommends students consider Correctional Psychology due to the opportunity to “work with an underserved population and truly make a difference.” He also added that there is good job stability working in corrections as well as opportunities for professional growth. Dr. Dickey noted that “several of the psychologist supervisors in the WI DOC are actually former interns, who initially started off as Psychological Associates and Licensed Psychologists.”



Dr. Adam Piccolino is the training director for the APA Accredited internship within the Minnesota Department of Correction (MN DOC). His journey into correctional psychology was serendipitous and deeply rooted in his background in neuropsychology and geropsychology. Through a specific forensic case, he became acquainted with the MN DOC and during discussions with the department's Psychological Services Director, he realized the profound impact his expertise could have within the correctional system. He described how the director's, "insight and enthusiasm highlighted how my skills as a clinical psychologist, with specialized training in neuropsychology and geropsychology, could significantly benefit the incarcerated population." As he reflects back on the last 24 years of his unexpected path in Correctional Psychology, he notes, "the decision to transition into Correctional Psychology has led to a wonderfully enriching career.

The work has been incredibly rewarding, providing continuous learning opportunities and professional growth." He recommends students consider a career as a Correctional Psychologist because it offers a unique and fulfilling opportunity to significantly impact an underserved population that presents a variety of complex clinical cases. Dr. Piccolino also described the value of interdisciplinary collaboration in corrections to enhance the overall quality of care for incarcerated people. He described the work as "deeply rewarding" and noted that "this career path is ideal for those seeking a challenging, impactful, and continuously evolving professional experience."

### **Unique Aspects of Correctional Psychology Internships:**

Internships within corrections offer a distinctive and valuable training experience that stands out in several ways. Each training director noted that correctional environments provide exposure to a broad array of clinical presentations from adjustment disorders to severe mental illnesses and serious personality disorders. It is an environment that provides unique opportunities for growth and professional development.

Dr. Dickey reported, "outside of the unique setting, an internship in corrections is an opportunity to provide services to an often overlooked and underserved population that presents with a wide range of psychological pathology. As such, interns are able to get a broad experience that may not be available in a more specialized setting."

Dr. Bowman highlighted that she believes "internships in corrections are one of the few settings in which you can experience clinical presentations that run the gamut – from relatively well-adjusted to SMI – and also includes exposure to individuals that feign symptoms for secondary gain. In no other setting is an intern likely to be exposed to, or be involved in answering, the questions that come up in both therapeutic interventions and assessment referrals in prisons."

Dr. Culbreath identified that correctional environments present great training opportunities because of the "diversity of population from demographics to clinical presentation and into infinite cross sections of intersectionality." He added that the ability and opportunities to work as a member of complex service delivery teams can further enhance an intern's professional growth.

Dr. Piccolino commented that corrections "is a rich learning environment, allowing interns to develop advanced clinical skills and gain a deep understanding of complex psychological issues. Interns face unique ethical dilemmas and must navigate complex ethical landscapes, which enhances their decision-making skills and professional maturity."

## Correctional Psychology Internship Information:

**The Florida Department of Corrections (FDC)** hosts 4 interns each training year from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. The primary clinical rotation is a 100-bed inpatient mental health unit. We also have 3 secondary rotations in outpatient (GP) and with female offenders. Testing is a fairly significant component in our training and interns complete 6 assessment batteries and present 4 grand rounds presentations. Interns work with 4-6 supervisors per year to gain a diversity of supervisory experiences and consult with our postdoctoral residents. Interns collaborate with a clinically diverse multidisciplinary services team comprised of physicians, psychiatrists, nursing staff, counselors, security, and administrative staff to provide care to inmate patients. Formal post-doctoral residency opportunities are also available in our APA accredited residency program following the completion of the internship year. In our Correctional Psychology internship, no two days are ever a like, but there are typical activities that occur during each week. Interns can expect to participate in morning multidisciplinary team meetings and will review patient progress, admissions, discharges, treatment plans, and critical treatment incidents. Interns are assigned a weekly inpatient group and 4-7 individual patients. They are given the autonomy to schedule those patients while coordinating assessments assigned to them. One day per week is set aside for group supervision, didactics, case conferences, and trainings.

For additional details: <https://www.fdc.myflorida.com/health-services/doctoral-internship-program-in-clinical-psychology>

**The Minnesota Department of Corrections (MN DOC)** offers 4 Doctoral Psychology Internship positions, with one position available at each of its four facilities: MCF-Stillwater, MCF-Lino Lakes, MCF-Shakopee, and MCF-Oak Park Heights. Each intern is assigned to one facility for the entire training year, which begins on the first Wednesday in September after Labor Day and concludes at the end of August the following year.

At MCF-Stillwater, interns engage in various services, including diagnostic testing and assessments, individual and group therapy, and crisis intervention. The program at MCF-Lino Lakes includes specialized sexual offense-specific programming, where interns work with incarcerated individuals in assessment, treatment planning, and therapy. MCF-Shakopee, the only adult female facility in the MN DOC, offers comprehensive mental health assessments and brief and long-term therapy opportunities. MCF-Oak Park Heights, a maximum-security facility, provides experience in both inpatient and outpatient clinical services, focusing on severe and persistent mental illness and personality disorders.

A typical training day varies by site but generally begins with a team meeting to discuss cases, plan activities, and review recent incident reports. Interns engage in direct clinical work, such as psychological and cognitive assessments, individual therapy sessions, and group therapy with incarcerated individuals. Crisis intervention and suicide assessments are also key components of their daily responsibilities, always conducted under close supervision.

For additional details: <https://mn.gov/doc/employment-opportunities/intern-opportunities/intern-positions/mentalhealth/doctoral-psychology-internship/>

**The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (NC DAC)** Doctoral Psychology Internship accepts up to four interns annually, from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. There are three rotations: (1) Central Prison – male prison offering outpatient psychological services and the Healthcare Complex, where acute and intensive mental health and medical needs are addressed; (2) North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women – female prison where (similarly to Central Prison) all levels of care are available; and (3) Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission – independent agency responsible for approving and establishing conditions for the release of incarcerated individuals.

A typical day may start with reviewing the list of contacts you are scheduled to make for the day. You might then consult with a clinician (Psychologist or other Licensed Mental Health Professional) to discuss specific cases, review purpose of contacts, and create a plan for the encounters. Then, you would likely speak with a Correctional Officer to facilitate access for encounters to proceed. You may be meeting with individuals at the door of their cell, or in a private office. If an individual is experiencing a crisis, you would need to evaluate level of risk, consult across disciplines to ensure safety, and begin the process to admit for a higher level of care. Completing an assessment may also be one of your tasks for the day, to assess for personality and/or cognitive functioning.

For additional details: <https://www.dac.nc.gov/2024-brochure-doctoral-psychology-internship/open>

**The Wisconsin Department of Corrections (WI DOC)** currently accepts 10 interns to participate in our APA-accredited internship. The training year takes place from September to August. Interns are placed into one of three “hubs” located in Madison, Milwaukee, and the Oshkosh-Appleton area. Interns typically select to up to four different site placements during the year (two per six-month period), giving them experience in working with males and/or females, and young adults to elderly adults. They work in institutional settings of varying degrees of security (i.e., minimum, medium, and maximum) and in the community.

When describing a typical day, it is important to start by saying that there is no typical day! When you work in corrections you quickly find out that things come up that can alter your schedule, so you definitely need to be flexible. But, in most cases, interns can expect to spend their day conducting assessments, providing therapy (both brief and long-term), and providing consultation to other staff.

For additional details: <https://doc.wi.gov/Documents/AboutDOC/AdultInstitutions/2023-2024%20Internship%20Brochure.pdf>

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## Meet our new student editor!

The editors of *The Gavel* are accepting ongoing submissions for bi-annual publications of *The Gavel*.

Submissions can include;

- 1) case law briefs related to issues in the criminal justice system,
- 2) reviews of books/articles,
- 3) training perspectives and developments (e.g., graduate, internship, and fellowship programs), and
- 4) case studies/conceptualizations.

Authors should highlight implications on clinical practice in the pieces they write.

Please send submissions, as Microsoft Word documents to:

[drbrandidiaz@gmail.com](mailto:drbrandidiaz@gmail.com)  
[lewis.peiper@dac.nc.gov](mailto:lewis.peiper@dac.nc.gov)

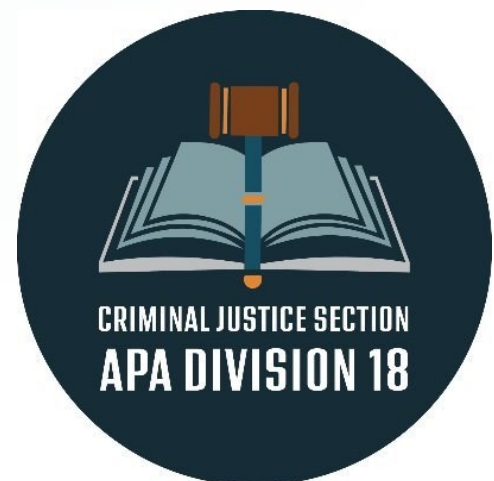
Drs. Peiper and Diaz are excited to welcome our new student editor, Alex Ray, to the editorial team of *The Gavel*. We are looking forward to having Alex on board to facilitate a relationship between the editorial team and the student section. For students who are interested in getting more information about *The Gavel* and submissions, reach out to Alex at [alexmray4@gmail.com](mailto:alexmray4@gmail.com).

Hello, everyone! My name is Alex M. Ray, and I am a rising senior at Bridgewater State University, where I major in psychology. To preface, I have aspirations of obtaining a J.D. and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology to serve my community as a clinical-forensic psychologist, attorney and professor/researcher. I am also a proud first-generation college student and Hispanic-American. Early in my childhood, I was subjected to a heated child custody debate in which a judge decided on a custody arrangement that was unsafe for me. This left me feeling powerless and questioning a system that I thought was flawlessly supposed to protect me. It was from these experiences that I developed an interest in understanding the law and the mechanisms behind it. In the present day, I am faced with one of my greatest challenges yet - the daunting process of graduate school applications. With this in mind, in coordination with editors from APA Division 18's *The Gavel*, I have put together a list of questions for professionals and academics in the field of Public-Service Psychology (Criminal Justice Section), about the graduate school process with the hope that their words may be able to help others like me!



### CJ Section Leadership Team:

- Katy Hayes Owen, Ph.D., Section Chair (2022-2024)
- Morgan Hill, Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer (2023-2025)
- Kaylee Cook, B.A., Student Section Chair (2023-2024)
- Jade Horton, B.A., Student Section Chair Elect (2023-2024)
- Brandi Diaz, Psy.D., The Gavel Co-Editor (2023-2024)
- Lewis J. Peiper, Ph.D., The Gavel Co-Editor (2023-2024)
- Alex Ray, The Gavel Student Editor (2023-2024)





# The Many Housing Crises of the Unfortunate Class

Robert K. Ax, Ph.D.

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# The Many Housing Crises of the Unfortunate Class

Robert K. Ax, Ph.D.

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