

Launching a Law and Psychology Lab

Annual Workshop on Transforming Humiliation and Violent Conflict
Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies
“How Can We Cultivate Dignity” Dignilogue – December 6, 2019

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How can we encourage future lawyers to incorporate principles of therapeutic jurisprudence and relevant insights from psychology into their legal practices? How can we foster perspectives on the law that value human dignity?

In an effort to advance these outcomes, in the spring of 2020 I will begin teaching a new Law and Psychology Lab course at Suffolk University Law School. It will be a 4-credit, one-semester offering in which students apply psychological insights to projects designed to improve our laws, legal systems, and legal institutions. It will consist of (1) a weekly law & psychology seminar; and (2) a weekly law & psychology workshop, which operate in tandem throughout the semester.

The seminar component provides a substantive grounding in psychology, relevant legal applications, and the field of therapeutic jurisprudence, while the workshop component provides experiential opportunities to apply this knowledge. It will consist of readings, discussions, short essays, and a brief online course in Psychological First Aid offered by Johns Hopkins University.

The workshop component will include (1) an individual project designed by each student in consultation with me, with wide flexibility on developing a topic; (2) a group project on a selected theme, which for this initial offering will be bullying, abuse, and trauma across the lifespan.

Potential workshop products may include substantive reports and papers, legislative and policy briefings, amicus briefs and litigation assistance, drafting assignments, and social media writings – at times partnered with outside groups and individuals. Potential subject matter areas include, but are not limited to, dispute resolution, judicial administration, mental health, employment, criminal, civil rights, education, business, public interest, international human rights, and legal profession.

We will utilize guest speakers for both the seminar and workshop components.

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Relevant Writings and Resources

Most of my scholarly articles are freely downloadable at:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=506047

My *Minding the Workplace* blog (<http://newworkplace.wordpress.com>) has become a popular source of commentary on employee relations, workplace bullying, dignity at work, employment law & policy, etc., with some 1.1 million page views since its launch in late 2008.

I served as a subject matter expert for the American Psychological Association's Center for Organizational Excellence in creating a webpage of resources on workplace bullying, including an animated educational video, website and blog links, and book list:

<https://www.apaexcellence.org/resources/special-topics/workplace-bullying>.

I served as founding board chair of the new International Society for Therapeutic Jurisprudence and remain very active in the organization:

<https://www.intltj.com/>