

Emerging Trends in Emerging Adults: Adolescent Brain Development and the Law



As the science of adolescent brain development continues to evolve, so too does its impact on the legal treatment of emerging adults—individuals aged 18 to 25. This panel will explore the latest research on brain development during this critical life stage and how it influences decision-making, impulse control, and emotional regulation. Panelists will discuss how courts are integrating this science into sentencing, rehabilitation, and juvenile justice practices. Attendees will gain insights into emerging legal trends and how an understanding of brain development can inform fairer, more effective legal responses for young adults, particularly in the areas of criminal responsibility, mental health, and rehabilitation.

Learning Objectives:

1. **Understand Adolescent Brain Development:** Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the latest scientific research on adolescent brain development, including how the brain continues to mature into the mid-20s, and its impact on behavior and decision-making.
2. **Apply Brain Development Science in Legal Contexts:** Judges will learn how to incorporate findings on brain development into sentencing, rehabilitation, and decision-making for emerging adults, particularly in criminal cases and juvenile justice matters.
3. **Evaluate Emerging Legal Trends:** Attendees will assess current legal trends that address the unique needs of emerging adults, including the implications for fair treatment, mental health considerations, and the potential for rehabilitation in this age group.

Speakers:



Stephanie Tabashneck, Psy.D., J.D., Licensed Psychologist

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Dr. Stephanie Tabashneck is a psychologist and attorney in Boston, and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. She serves as Senior Fellow of Law and Applied Neuroscience at Harvard Law School and the Center for Law, Brain and Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital. She is widely published and provides trainings on the science of adolescence,

the science of addiction across the country.

Hon. Robert Ullmann (Ret.)