Fellowship Criteria

Division 41
American Psychology-Law Society

Successful Fellows nominees must meet APA criteria and also demonstrate an unusual and outstanding contribution to psychology and law.

Unusual and Outstanding Contributions

Unusual and outstanding contributions to psychology and law must be documented through exceptional achievements in the domains of research, learning, or service that has had a significant and lasting positive impact. Evidence of impact must be national or international. Although there should be flexibility in judging what constitutes unusual and outstanding contributions to the interface of psychology and law, the mere accumulation of publications, grants, talks, workshops, court appearances, committee memberships, and offices in associations is not evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions to psychology and law. Successful Fellows nominees must have made a sustained, lasting impact on the psychology-law interface and the impact must be documented. The strongest candidates for becoming APLS Fellows will have made unusual and outstanding contributions in more than one of the three domains.

Research: Refereed journal publications or published books, regardless of the quantity, are not in and of themselves sufficient for becoming a Fellow. There must also be evidence that these publications have had a significant impact on the science or practice of psychology and law. Citations to the nominee's work by other researchers, courts, or legislatures, can constitute evidence of impact. Additional indices of exceptional achievements in research could include, but are not restricted to, invited talks centering on the candidate's research and receipt of competitive federal grant funds.

Education: Contributions to education must extend well beyond the confines of the candidate's institution, preferably to a national level. Consequently, classroom teaching in psychology and law, regardless of how exceptional it might be, is not sufficient for becoming a Fellow. Exceptional and outstanding contributions to education could include, but are not restricted to, authorship of widely adopted textbooks in psychology and law, innovative development and delivery of symposia and workshops for regional or national groups, or the development of psychology and law curricula that are adopted by others. Evidence of impact and innovation should be provided.

Service: Service to the advancement of psychology and law must reach a national level of impact. Hence, service to one's own institution, business, or employer, regardless of how exceptional it might be, is not normally considered in relation to the candidate's status as a Fellow nominee. Merely assuming roles on committees or offices in psychology-and-law associations or societies, although relevant, is not in and of itself evidence of outstanding and unusual contributions. Concrete and important results benefiting psychology and law that can be attributed to such activities, on the other hand, could be considered evidence of unusual or exceptional contributions. Expert testimony per se, regardless of frequency, would not normally be construed as evidence of unusual or exceptional contributions to psychology and law. Evidence of broad, positive impact in case law that derives from expert testimony, on the other hand, might be considered to be evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions to psychology and law. Other service contributions could include, but are not restricted to, significant contributions to legislation or to public policy.

Examples of unusual and outstanding contributions:

Conduct legal or empirical research that provides support for policy guidelines recognized by law enforcement officials, treatment providers, corrections officials, or legislators at the state and/or federal level

Receive national awards (e.g., Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy, Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in the Field of Psychology and Law)

Provide meaningful contributions to Scientific Review Paper endorsed by the Division 41 Executive Committee

Bring together other scientists or practitioners working on a particular topic, edit a book that can serve as a compendium of their work or organize a conference to explore current research, practice, and policy regarding that topic.

Serve on the editorial board of psychology-law related journals

Have work cited and relied on by advocacy organizations (e.g., Innocence Project, Center for Wrongful Convictions) or courts

Receive competitive federal grant funds to support research

On multiple occasions, present invited talks on scholarship or practice of psychology and law

Develop and/or psychometrically validate important psychological test(s) for practitioners in psychology and law

Author widely used textbook in psychology and law

Develop and deliver symposia and/or workshops for regional or national groups