Psychology and Law

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD

The field of Psychology and Law involves the application of scientific and professional aspects of psychology to questions and issues relating to law and the legal system. There are a number of specialties that Psychologists may pursue within the larger area of psychology and law. This field encompasses contributions made in a number of different areas--research, clinical practice, public policy and teaching/training among them--from a variety of orientations within the field of psychology, such as developmental, social, cognitive, and clinical. A PhD in Psychology is not always required to be involved in the legal or the criminal justice system. There are some Bachelor’s level positions that incorporate aspects of psychology and law. (Provided by American Psychological Association, American Psychology-Law Society, Div. 41)

CAREERS

• Police Officer, Police Psychology
• Correctional Officer, Probation and Parole Officer, Juvenile Detention Worker, Correctional Psychology
• Forensic Science Technician, Forensic Examiner
• Lawyer, Trial Consultant
• Psychologist subspecialties: Clinical-Forensic Psychologists, Developmental Psychologists, Social Psychologists, Cognitive Psychologists, Community psychologists
• Criminalist: Works with evidence, strong background in Chemistry required for this role

RESOURCES

For more information, please visit the following websites:

American Psychological Association, American Psychology-Law Society, Div. 41
http://www.apadivisions.org/division-41/education/students/careers.aspx

American Psychological Association, Psychologists in Public Service, Div. 18
http://www.apadivisions.org/division-18/

Corrections Connection Network News
http://www.corrections.com/

Law and Society Association
http://www.lawandsociety.org/