

KEISHA A. APRIL

3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 • (908) 376-6154 • keisha.april@gmail.com

EDUCATION

- Drexel University**, Philadelphia, PA
PhD., Clinical Psychology *Expected June 2020*
Major Area of Study: Forensic Psychology
- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law**, New York, NY
J.D. *May 2013*
Concentrations in Criminal Law & Family Law
- Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ
A.B., *magna cum laude* in Psychology *June 2010*
Certificates in African American & East Asian Studies

HONORS & AWARDS

- International Experience Award (\$600), *Drexel University Office of International Programs* (competitive funding award awarded to students, faculty, or staff participating in international experiences)
- Patricia M. Bricklin Student Ethics Award (\$1000), *Pennsylvania Psychological Association* (awarded to a student producing a meritorious work product dealing with ethics or law in psychology)
- Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Program, *National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine* (2017)
- Outstanding Student Paper Award (\$200), *American Psychology Law-Society Student Committee* (2017)
- Minority Affairs Committee Student Travel Award (\$500), *American Psychology-Law Society* (2017)
- Dean's Doctoral Award, *Drexel University* (2015) (\$5,000 per year stipend supplement awarded to highly qualified doctoral students to support research efforts during their time at Drexel)
- E. Nathaniel Gates Scholarship, *Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law* (2010-2013) (full tuition scholarship recognizing outstanding potential in those who are first-generation graduate students or who come from under-represented backgrounds in the legal profession)

PUBLICATIONS

- April, K.** (2018). To cross or not to cross?: Special considerations for boundary crossings with racially and ethnically diverse populations. *The Pennsylvania Psychologist*, 78(1), 5-6.
- Cole, L. M., Trinkner, R., & **April, K.** (in preparation). Public trust in the police in the post-Ferguson era. In M. Miller & B. Bornstein's (Eds.) *Advances in Psychology and Law*. Springer Press.
- April, K.** (2012). Cartoons aren't real people, too: Does the regulation of virtual child pornography violate the first amendment and criminalize subversive thought? *Cardozo Journal of Law & Gender*, 19(1), 241-270.

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

- April, K.** (2018, June). The changing face of juvenile justice in the Caribbean: A focus on progress. Paper presented at the annual conference of the *Caribbean Studies Association*, Havana, Cuba.
- April, K.**, Haney-Caron, E., Wagage, S., Kreimer, I. R., Cole, L., Jushchyshyn, J., Gale-Bentz, E., & Goldstein, N. E. S. (2018, March). Understanding school safety officers: The relationship between experience and beliefs about officers' roles in schools. Poster to be presented at the annual conference of the *American Psychology-Law Society* (APA Div. 41), Memphis, TN.
- Haney-Caron, E., **April, K.**, Goldstein, N. E. S., DeMatteo, D., Bomysoad, R., Fishel, S., Moore, C., Singer, S. C., McKibben, K., Desai, A., & Ratkalkar, M. (2018, March). False confession in the lab: Questions raised from use of a novel paradigm. Paper to be presented at the annual conference of the *American Psychology-Law Society* (APA Div. 41), Memphis, TN.
- April, K.**, Wagage, S., Cole, L.M., Nelson, S., Simon, H., & Goldstein, N.E.S. (2017, April). Minority perceptions matter: The relationship between minority youth attitudes toward police and perceptions of unfair treatment. Paper presented at the Drexel Emerging Graduate Scholars Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- April, K.**, Wagage, S., Cole, L.M., Nelson, S., Simon, H., & Goldstein, N.E.S. (2017, March). Minority perceptions matter: The relationship between minority youth attitudes toward police and perceptions of unfair treatment. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Psychology-Law Society, Seattle, WA.
- Bethel, K., Haney-Caron, E., Cole, L.M., Tiger, A., **April, K.**, & Goldstein, N. E. S. (2017, March). The Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program: A 21st century juvenile policing initiative. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Seattle, WA.
- Giles, E. S., Simon, H., NeMoyer, A., **April, K.**, Gale-Bentz, E., Goldstein, N. E. S. (2017, March). Factors associated with youths' opportunity for post-petition, pre-adjudication diversion. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Seattle, WA.
- Newsham, R., **April, K.**, Janssen, J., Pietruszka, V., Ratkalkar, M., Thornewill, A., & Heilbrun, K. (2017, March). The Drexel Reentry Project: Empirical data. In K. Heilbrun (Chair), *The Drexel Reentry Project*. Symposium presented at the annual conference of the American Psychology-Law Society, Seattle, WA.
- Wagage, S., **April, K.**, Ratkalkar, M., Singer, S., & Goldstein, N. E. S. (2017, March). A call to action: National efforts to address disproportionate minority contact. In N.E.S. Goldstein (Chair), *Addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in 21st Century Policing: National and Local Efforts*. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychology-Law Society, Seattle, WA.
- Vora, S., NeMoyer, A., Gale-Bentz, E., **April, K.**, Barry, M., Cole, L., & Goldstein, N.E.S. (2016, August). Do Youth Level of Service Inventory (YLS) scores predict recidivism in youth? Poster presented at the Drexel STAR Scholars Summer Showcase, Philadelphia, PA.
- Gale-Bentz, E., NeMoyer, A., Durham, K., **April, K.**, & Goldstein, N. E. S. (2016, March). Impact of community-based provider reports on juvenile probation officers' recommendations: Effects of positive and negative framing on decision making. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Psychology-Law Society, Atlanta, GA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Sept. 2015—Present

Mentor: Naomi Goldstein, PhD

Graduate Research Assistant

- Co-investigator on experimental study examining relationship between police officers' color-blind racial beliefs and likelihood to disproportionately interact with youth of color.
- Contributed to the creation of survey materials and organized the collection of data for a project aimed at identifying disproportionate minority contact (DMC) between police and youth and implementing trainings to reduce DMC.
- Assisted in data collection, presentation, and research on school diversion for a project aimed at reducing the number of school-children who are arrested in the city of Philadelphia (also known as the school-to-prison pipeline).
- Collaborated on project to raise awareness among school children about consequences of bringing weapons into schools.

Research Assistant Supervisor

Sept. 2015—Dec. 2017

- Supervised undergraduate research assistants in completion of lab projects involving data collection, entry and analysis, report creation, and literature searches.
- Advised and oversaw students on independent research projects culminating in the creation of abstracts, posters, or papers for presentation at local and national conferences.
- Led weekly progress meetings and delegated assignments and responsibilities.
- Facilitated communication between research assistants and graduate students.

Thomas R. Kline School of Law

July 2016—Aug. 2016

Drexel University, Philadelphia PA

Supervisor: Kevin Woodson, J.D., PhD.

Graduate Research Assistant

Researched information pertaining to early childhood education and prepared reports for use in legal research articles.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Psychology Extern

July 2018—Present

Forensic Assessment Clinic

Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD

Conducted forensic evaluations with adolescents and adults to address legal referral questions, including juvenile decertification, mental state at time of the offense, sentencing, and independent medical evaluations. Administered, scored, and interpreted assessment instruments, including measures of risk assessment, personality, psychopathology, intellectual/cognitive functioning, and academic achievement. Authored comprehensive assessment reports utilized in legal matters.

Psychology Extern

July 2018—Present

Penn Memory Center

Philadelphia, PA

Supervisor: Dawn Mechanic-Hamilton, PhD

Administered a series of neuropsychological batteries to aid in diagnosing cognitive impairment among older adults at a comprehensive medical center for treatment of progressive memory loss. Scored and interpreted assessment measures, including measures of mental status, working memory, attention, verbal and category fluency, visual attention and task-switching, word retrieval, and premorbid functioning.

Psychology Extern

Jan. 2018—June 2018

Terry Children's Psychiatric Center

New Castle, DE
Supervisor: Erica Burgoon, PhD.

Conducted group and individual therapy with youth under the age of 13 in day, residential, and crisis programs at a state psychiatric hospital. Conducted diagnostic and psychoeducational assessments. Participated in weekly didactic meetings and weekly treatment team planning meetings.

Psychology Extern

June 2017—Dec.2017

Friends Hospital
Philadelphia, PA
Supervisors: Patrick Mitchell, Psy D & Amanda Darnley, PsyD.

Conducted group and individual therapy with severely mentally ill youth and adults in a private inpatient hospital setting using a variety of treatment modalities, including cognitive behavioral and dialectical behavioral therapies. Attended and assisted at treatment team meetings with doctors, social workers, and psychologists. Conducted suicide risk assessments of at-risk clients.

Practicum Student

Nov. 2017—March 2018

Child Diagnostic Service, Drexel University Psychological Services Clinic
Supervisor: Thomas Olson, PhD.

Conducted diagnostic evaluations for ADHD, learning disorders, and differential diagnoses for children and adolescents.

Graduate Research Assistant

Oct. 2016—June 2017

True and False Confessions Study
Philadelphia, PA
Supervisor: David DeMatteo, J.D., PhD.

Administered IRB-approved protocol to gauge likelihood of true and false confession among college students, as part of graduate dissertation research project. Performed series of psychological assessments, including the WASI-II and the Gudjonsson Suggestibility Scale.

Practicum Student

June 2016—June 2017

Prison Reentry Project, Drexel University Psychological Services Clinic
Philadelphia, PA
Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, PhD.

Performed intakes and administered assessments, including the LS/CMI and WASI, for a federal court reentry program. Administered individual and group therapy aimed at building communication, relationship, anger-management, and other prosocial skills among recently released offenders who are currently on community supervision. Prepared intake reports and provided feedback to clients on the results of their assessment through motivational enhancement sessions.

Practicum Student

June 2016—June 2017

Child & Adolescent Team, Drexel University Psychological Services Clinic
Philadelphia, PA
Supervisors: Brian Daly, PhD. & Margot Burke, PsyD.

Conducted individual therapy with youth and adults using a variety of treatment modalities within a cognitive and behavioral framework. Administered assessments and prepared intake reports to facilitate case conceptualization and shared theories and conceptualization with clients. Collaboratively set therapy goals with clients and worked toward achieving those goals.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Drexel University
Undergraduate Course: Neuropsychology
Supervisor: Karol Osipowicz, PhD.

Mar. 2016—June 2016

Prepared and taught individual lectures on the intersection of neuropsychology and forensic psychology in an advanced level undergraduate psychology course.

Teaching Assistant, Drexel University
Undergraduate Course: Pre-Professional Psychology II
Supervisor: Jennifer Gallo, PhD.

Jan. 2016—Mar. 2016

Designed and independently taught lectures in lab component of introductory psychology course for psychology majors; instructed students on scientific method and how to conduct and interpret research in the behavioral sciences; graded research papers and provided feedback.

Teaching Assistant, Drexel University
Undergraduate Course: Pre-Professional Psychology I
Supervisor: Jennifer Gallo, PhD.

Sep. 2015—Dec. 2015

Designed and independently taught lectures in lab component of introductory psychology course for psychology majors; instructed students on the different forms of research in the behavioral sciences; instructed students on components of scientific writing; met with students to provide guidance on work; graded article critique papers and provided feedback.

Teaching Assistant, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Lawyering Skills: Legal Writing & Research
Supervisor: Jai Griem, J.D.

Aug. 2011—May 2012

Served as facilitator between students and professor; instructed students how to use legal library and conduct legal research; planned and instructed select lessons; evaluated student papers; held trainings to instruct students on mock oral arguments; held weekly office hours.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Drexel Writing Center, Philadelphia, PA
Graduate Writing Consultant

Jan. 2018—Present

Worked collaboratively with graduate students to provide feedback and assistance on writing with a focus toward helping students develop as writers.

Drexel Committee on Technology-Enhanced Teaching, Philadelphia, PA
Accessibility Initiative Consultant

Aug. 2017—Present

Assisted faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences in creating accessible electronic materials in line with ADA standards; consulted with faculty on ways to improve usability and access to online course materials; led workshops training graduate student teaching assistants in use of online course platforms; and created and disseminated tutorials for use by faculty and students.

New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, Union County, Elizabeth, NJ
Public Defender Fellow

Sept. 2013—Aug. 2014

Provided legal representation to indigent clients in pre-trial disposition court and juvenile proceedings. Drafted legal briefs and conducted legal research for emergent legal issues. Conducted client interviews and case reviews.

CBS Corporation, Law Department, New York, NY

Intern

Jan. 2013—April 2013

Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda for pending matters in advertising, trademark, labor & employment, publishing and litigation. Gained exposure to unique issues in entertainment and corporate law.

Levy Ratner, P.C., New York, NY

Law Clerk

Sept. 2012—Dec. 2012

Researched and drafted legal memorandum pertaining to union-side labor law under the National Labor Relations Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Assisted in case preparation for anti-discrimination class action suit.

New York County District Attorney's Office, New York, NY

Legal Intern, Trial Bureau 80

June 2012—Aug. 2012

Drafted legal memoranda, motions, and pleadings in preparation for trial. Assisted during arraignments, case assessments, and calendar parts. Attended hearings and second-sat trials with assistants.

The Innocence Project Clinic, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, NY

Legal Intern and Clinic Student

June 2011—May 2012

Researched and drafted motions in support of the reopening of cases and reversal of convictions through post-conviction DNA testing. Reviewed and analyzed transcripts, trial and appellate briefs, laboratory reports and police records for incorporation into memoranda. Corresponded with police, district attorneys, and forensic and laboratory personnel to locate and obtain evidence. Negotiated with district attorneys to obtain consent to DNA testing.

Princeton University Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding, Princeton, NJ

Programming Intern

Sept. 2007—Dec. 2009

Responsibilities included devising and implementing diversity awareness-building events for Princeton community; directed the Diversity Council, comprised of cultural student group leaders; Participated in weekly event-planning meetings to create lectures, study breaks, and conferences aimed at promoting diversity on campus.

New Jersey Parents' Caucus, Elizabeth, NJ

Intern for "Youth Justice Initiative"

June 2009—Aug. 2009

Contributed to initiative focused on ending the practice of trying and sentencing juveniles as adults in New Jersey by conducting legal research related to advocacy for juveniles tried as adults; organizing meetings with legislators; planning legislative advocacy meetings with parents of juveniles; drafting and finalizing a press release and statewide fact sheet; and managing a database of all NJ youths currently in adult prisons.

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark, Newark, NJ

Intern/Summer-School Teacher

June 2008—Aug. 2008

Through Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS) taught English Literature to 11th grade summer-school students; devised comprehensive lesson plans for the summer; coached students through SAT practice; engaged in after-school college-mentoring; and performed administrative duties relating to tracking school achievement and performance.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSES

Memberships

American Psychology-Law Society Student Committee, *Secretary* (2017-2018)

Drexel Psychology Department Diversity Advocacy Committee, *Chair* (2016 - present)

American Psychology-Law Society, Student Affiliate Member (2014 – present)

Licenses

New Jersey Bar (Admitted: Dec. 2013)

New York Bar (Admitted: Jan. 2014)