Kayla McKeon

kmm874@drexel.edu ● Stratton Hall, 3201 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

EDUCATION

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA **Aug. 2022 - present**
Ph.D., Clinical Psychology (expected 2029)
M.S., Psychology (Jun. 2025)
Master's Thesis: How Restrictiveness of Child Welfare Service Setting and Service Dosage Relate to Rearrest and School Dropout Outcomes Among Dually Involved Youth

Drexel University Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, PA **Aug. 2022 – May 2026**
J.D., Criminal Law Concentration

Amherst College, Amherst, MA **Sept. 2018 - May 2022**
B.A. in Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought and Psychology, *cum laude*
Honors Thesis: *A problematic provocation: The role of gender identity on assessments of guilt and criminal culpability in a mock jury decision-making paradigm*
Thesis funding: Gregory S. Call Student Research Award (total: $5350)

Study Abroad: University of Oxford, St. Catherine's College, Oxford, U.K. **Sept. – Dec. 2021**
Courses: Criminology; Ethics, History & Philosophy of Punishment; Ethics of Rectificatory Justice

HONORS AND AWARDS

CALI Award for Best Student Performance in Federal Criminal Law **Jan. 2026**
CALI Award for Best Student Performance in Juvenile Justice Law **May 2025**
Haskell R. Coplin Prize **May 2022**
Award for excellence in psychology at Amherst College
David Kirp 1965 Stonewall Prize **May 2022**
Award for a work of intellectual merit pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community
Rising Advocate Scholar **Feb. 2022**
Most prestigious merit scholarship at Drexel University's Kline School of Law
Meiklejohn Fellow **2018 - 2022**
Fellowship for first generation students and/or students with low income
Crowell Prize **2018 - 2019**
Award for the highest scholarship in first-year Latin courses at Amherst College

PUBLICATIONS

Levick, M. & **McKeon, K.** (in press). If the US Supreme Court Gives Us Lemons, State Supreme Courts Can Give Us Lemonade: In Search of New Strategies to Transform the Youth Justice System. *Ohio Northern University Law Review*.

NeMoyer, A., DeYoung, L. L., Papunen, I., Anjaria, N., Eom, K., **McKeon, K.**, Kessler, J., Hare, N., & Goldstein, N. E. (2026). Clearing the way: The promise of a comprehensive record clearing initiative in Philadelphia. *Criminal Justice Studies*, 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601X.2026.2739824

NeMoyer, A., Bell, A., King, J., **McKeon, K.**, & Goldstein, N. E. (2026). Expanding juvenile diversion: Toolkit for practitioners. Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab, Drexel University.

McKeon, K. (2025). *Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs) in Pennsylvania's Juvenile Legal System.* In Mozzafar, N. & David, A., *Heavy Burdens: The Weight of Juvenile Fees and Fines in the Keystone State* (pp. 1-19). Juvenile Law Center. https://issuu.com/juvenile_law_center/docs/heavy_burdens_the_weight_of_juvenile_fees_and_fin?fr=sZjNiZDg1MTkyNTc

Papunen, I., NeMoyer, A., DeYoung, L., Anjaria, N., Eom, K., **McKeon, K.**, Hare, N., Kessler, J., & Goldstein, N. E. (2024). *The Promise's Record Clearing Initiative: Two Years of Clinics in Philadelphia*. Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab, Drexel University.

Totton, R. & **McKeon, K.** (2024). Unexpected judgements: The role of gender identity and provocation on blame and affect in a mock jury paradigm. *Frontiers in Social Psychology.* https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/social-psychology/articles/10.3389/frsps.2024.1327799/full.

NeMoyer, A., **McKeon, K.**, Kreimer, R., Goldstein, N., McDowell, G., Stotlar, K., Espinosa, E., Arvizo, B., Miller, E., Park, K., & Wolf, A. (2024). (rep.). *At the Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Legal System Involvement: Research Strategies for Policy and Practice Change*. Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab and Evident Change. https://evidentchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Dual-System-Youth-Research-Agenda.pdf?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9XpSIHxxN1k92D3z1mAnJiXWCvEtwJu80SK2SSxs-gwKDiFLiNdtUjRzLV0JBRt7WjrckBfF-nNnfSLY0bgRu9J8Wdjw&_hsmi=315207629&utm_content=315207627.

McKeon, K. (2021). Presidential speech acts in the digital age: The illusion of authenticity. *Columbia Undergraduate Law Review, 18*(1), 53–84. https://www.culawreview.org/s/CULR_Fall_Journal_Apr_Revision.pdf.

PRESENTATIONS

McKeon, K., Eom, K., Cienfuegos-Silvera, A., Papunen, I., DeYoung, L., Hare, N., NeMoyer, A., & Goldstein, N. E. (2026, March 12–14). *Hoping for Change: How Does Having Hope at the Initiation of Record Clearing Influence Motivation to Seek New Opportunities?* [Paper Presentation]. AP-LS 2026 Conference, Reno, NV, United States.

Eom, K., **McKeon, K**., Cienfuegos-Silvera, A., NeMoyer, A., Anjaria, N., Kessler, J., DeMatteo, E., & Goldstein, N. E. (2026, March 12–14). *Early Signs of Progress: Hope, Stress, and Short-Term Change Among Individuals Pursuing Record Clearing* [Poster presentation]. AP-LS 2026 Conference, Reno, NV, United States.

Papunen, I., Kessler, J., NeMoyer, A., DeYoung, L., Eom, K., **McKeon, K**., Steele, F., & Goldstein, N. E. (2026, March 12–14). *Clearing Things Up: Comparing Self-Reported and Official Case Progress Data for Individuals Pursuing Record Clearing* [Paper Presentation]. AP-LS 2026 Conference, Reno, NV, United States.

Hare, N., Kessler, J., NeMoyer, A., Papunen, I., DeYoung, L., Anjaria, N., Eom, K., **McKeon, K.**, Easie, A., Perkins, E., & Goldstein, N. E. (April 2026). *Stigma at work: Criminal record stigma management, employment, and gender* [Paper Presentation]. Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

McKeon, K., Eom, K., NeMoyer, A., Kreimer, R., DeYoung, L., & Goldstein, N. E. Convening Cross-System Stakeholders to Build a Research Agenda for Youth with Dual Involvement in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Legal Systems. Paper presented at the annual conference of the *American Psychology-Law Society*, San Juan, PR.

Eom, K., **McKeon, K.**, NeMoyer, A., DeYoung, L., Kessler, J., Ing, C., & Goldstein, N. E. The Relationship between Age at Initial Arrest and Employment Outcomes. Paper presented at the annual conference of the *American Psychology-Law Society*, San Juan, PR.

Kessler, J., Hare, N., NeMoyer, A., Anjaria, N., **McKeon, K.**, Bass, T. The Relationship between Stigma Management Strategies on Employment Outcomes among Individuals with Criminal Records. Paper presented at the annual conference of the *American Psychology-Law Society*, San Juan, PR.

Papunen, I., DeYoung, L., NeMoyer, A., Hare, N., Anjaria, N., **McKeon, K.**, Anderson, K., & Goldstein, N. E. Two Years of Criminal Record Clearing Clinics in Philadelphia: Reflecting on the Results of a Research-Practitioner Partnership. Paper presented at the annual conference of the *American Psychology-Law Society*, San Juan, PR.

Totton, R. & **McKeon, K.** Unexpected Judgements: Gender Identity and Provocation on Mock Jury Decisions. (2024, April 18-20). Paper presented at the 96th Annual Meeting of the *Midwestern Psychological Association*, Chicago, IL.

McKeon, K., Eom, K., NeMoyer, A., Kreimer, R., Hare, N., Kessler, J., Gray, E., & Goldstein, N. E. (2024, March 21-23). From care to consequences: How child welfare services relate to rearrest and school dropout among dually involved youth. Paper presented at the annual conference of the *American Psychology-Law Society*, Los Angeles, CA.

McKeon, K. & Totton, R. (2022, May 6). A problematic provocation: The role of gender identity on assessments of guilt and criminal culpability in a mock jury decision-making paradigm. Poster presented at the *Amherst College Psychology Honors Student Poster Presentation Day,* Amherst, MA.

McKeon, K. & Totton, R. (2022, April 14-15). A problematic provocation: The role of gender identity on assessments of guilt and criminal culpability in a mock jury decision-making paradigm. Panel Presentation. *Harvard Undergraduate Scholarship and Social Justice Conference.* Virtual.

McKeon, K. & Totton, R. (2022, February 16-19). A problematic provocation: The role of gender identity on assessments of guilt and criminal culpability in a mock jury decision-making paradigm. Poster presented at the annual convention of the *Society for Personality and Social Psychology*, San Francisco, CA.

McKeon, K. & Totton, R. (2021, November 12). A problematic provocation: The role of gender identity on assessments of guilt and criminal culpability in a mock jury decision-making paradigm. Data Blitz presented at the Trends in Psychology Summit, hosted by *Harvard Women in Psychology.* Virtual.

Parent, M., Hynes, K., Radavich, R., Stanley, J., **McKeon, K.**, & Twyman-Ghoshal, A. (2019, July 24). Contemporary Maritime Piracy. Poster presented at the *Stonehill College Undergraduate Research Program's Poster Session*, Easton, MA.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA **Aug. 2022 – Present**

Juvenile Justice Research and Reform Lab

Graduate Research Assistant; Supervisor: Naomi Goldstein, Ph.D.

- Serving as the graduate student lead for three projects related to legally involved youth
- Planned and implemented a convening of professionals from across the country to discuss challenges faced by youth involved in both the juvenile legal and child welfare systems; generated survey to understand participants' perspectives on the most pressing barriers for dually involved youth; supervised graduate student assistants taking notes during the convening; assisting in the drafting of a position paper based on convening takeaways

- Contribute to implementation evaluation of a novel initiative that provides additional supports to youth and families during the arrest and booking process; analyze data and create user-friendly results summaries; conduct interviews with youth support workers
- Generated survey for youth participating in prosecutor-led diversion programs in two counties; planned and prepared for project meetings with a community advisory board consisting of youth with lived expertise of legal system experience.
- Assist in recruitment and consenting of community members pursuing criminal record clearing to participate in a longitudinal study focused on record clearing outcomes.

Master's Thesis: How Restrictiveness of Child Welfare Service Setting and Service Dosage Relate to Rearrest and School Dropout Outcomes Among Dually Involved Youth

- Defense: June 2025
- Committee Members: Naomi Goldstein, Ph.D. (Chair); Amanda NeMoyer, J.D., Ph.D.; Emily Perkins, Ph.D.

Amherst College, Amherst, MA **Feb. 2021 – May 2022**
Department of Psychology
Research Intern; Supervisor: Rebecca Totton, Ph.D.

- Helped design and conduct quantitative and qualitative studies on anti-transgender bias in the media, perceptions of transgender defendants, how often transgender individuals are seen as untrustworthy compared to other groups, and perceptions of nonbinary identities

Stonehill College, Easton, MA **Jun. 2019 – Aug. 2020**
Criminology Department
Legal Research Intern; Supervisor: Anamika Twyman-Ghoshal, Ph.D.

- Conducted in-depth legal research and analysis into prosecution of Somali nationals accused of piracy around the world
- Summarized case information; collected and inputted data based on more than 40 criteria
- Independently analyzed international piracy proceedings and statutes; identified jurisdictional inconsistencies that obstructed justice, fairness, equity, and humane treatment for Somali defendants

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) **Jul. 2026 – present**
Child and Adolescent Mood Program (CHAMP) and Trauma Rotation
Psychology Extern | Supervisors: Cherie Gerstadt, Ph.D. & Claire Hatkevich, Ph.D.

- Delivering individual therapy using CBT and TF-CBT to children and adolescents (ages 10–17) in an outpatient psychiatric setting.
- Completing diagnostic assessments of children and adolescents experiencing mood-related symptoms and trauma-related symptoms.
- Co-leading multifamily DBT skills groups with adolescents and parents/guardians.

Forensic Assessment Clinic **Jul. 2026 – present**

Forensic Assessment Associate | Supervisor: Kirk Heilbrun, Ph.D.

- Conduct forensic evaluations to address a variety of referral questions including personal injury, juvenile decertification, competency to stand trial, sentencing recommendations, and mental state at the time of an offense.
- Administer and score standardized assessment instruments (including measures of risk assessment, personality, psychopathology, intellectual/cognitive functioning, academic achievement, mental status at time of the offense, and malingering).
- Write comprehensive legal reports synthesizing evaluation findings for attorneys.

Fairmount Behavioral Health Systems **Sep. 2025 – Jun. 2026**

Practicum Student | Supervisors: Karen Kampmeyer, Ph.D. & Jeffrey Alpart, Psy.D.

- Delivering individual and group therapy to children and adolescents (ages 12–17) in an inpatient psychiatric setting.
- Conducting intake evaluations and generating behavioral health treatment plans for new admissions throughout the facility (children and adults).
- Performing psychological assessments on an as-needed basis for patients throughout the facility.

Drexel Reentry Project, Philadelphia, PA **Jun. 2024 – Jul. 2026**

Supervision to Aid Reentry (STAR) Clinician; Supervisor: Kirk Helibrun, Ph.D., ABPP

- Provide individual psychotherapy to formerly incarcerated clients to aid reintegration into the community using a manualized criminogenic-CBT approach and Recovery-Oriented Cognitive Therapy (CT-R)
- Conduct intake evaluations and administer psychological testing
- Write therapy session notes and intake evaluation reports
- Communicate with Federal Reentry Court personnel and probation officers about client progress and attendance in the STAR program

CORA Services, Philadelphia, PA **Sept. 2024 – Jun. 2025**

Practicum Student, Supervisor: Paul Haughton, Psy.D.

- Administer psychoeducational testing (WAIS-IV, WISC-IV, WIAT-III, BASC-3) to adolescents and children at two Philadelphia schools (St. James School and CB Community School)
- Write psychoeducational assessment reports and provide feedback and recommendations to students, caregivers, and school personnel

South Boston TMS, East Bridgewater, MA **Feb. 2021 – Aug. 2022**

TMS Coordinator

- Administered NeuroStar Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) treatments and Beck Depression Inventory
- Coordinated patient health questionnaires, scheduled patient appointments, followed up on patient referrals, and documented treatment notes
- Reviewed patient toxicology reports and oversaw current opioid medication prescriptions and prescription history
- Conducted social media marketing, industry networking, and community outreach

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Drexel University, Graduate College, Philadelphia, PA **Mar. 2025 – Jun. 2025**
Teaching Assistant: General Psychology

Drexel University, Graduate College, Philadelphia, PA **Aug. 2024 – Dec. 2024**
Teaching Assistant: General Psychology

Drexel University, Graduate College, Philadelphia, PA **Jan. 2024 – Jun. 2024**
Teaching Assistant: General Psychology

Drexel University, Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, PA **Jan. 2024 – May 2024**
Dean's Scholar: Criminal Law

Drexel University, Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, PA **Aug. 2023 - Dec. 2023**
Dean's Scholar: Torts

Drexel University, Kline School of Law, Philadelphia, PA **May 2023 – Aug. 2023**
Dean's Scholar: Legal Methods I

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Psychology-Law Society, Campus Representative **Sept. 2023 – present**
American Psychology-Law Society, Student Member **Jan. 2024 – present**

WORK AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

The American Insurance Trust, Rockville, MD **Aug. 2024 – present**
Research Assistant

- Review and update risk management database for psychologists
- Researching statutes, regulations, case law, and attorney general opinions pertaining to psychologists in all 51 United States jurisdictions

Faerieworks of New England, West Bridgewater, MA **Jun. 2019 – present**
Small Business Owner

- Independently founded a vegan and cruelty-free crystal candle company focused on helping clients relax and reduce anxiety; established an Etsy shop; created Shopify website
- Design and manufacture products by hand, package and ship orders, coordinate supply orders, maintain books, provide customer service, manage social media and marketing
- Organized liability insurance; developed shipping contracts; created legally compliant labels

Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA **Jan. 2026 – Apr. 2026**
Legal Intern

- Conducted interdisciplinary legal and social science research on youth justice issues at both national and international levels.
- Developed a database of 95 countries' constitutional provisions on children's rights.
- Analyzed state corollaries of the 4th and 8th Amendments and relevant state case law for a database of state corollaries and state courts' interpretations of those corollaries.
- Produced legal memoranda and policy-relevant analyses on juvenile sentencing, appellate procedure, and social security benefit data.
- Supported amicus briefs on emerging adults' brain development and contributed to legal scholarship on expanding constitutional protections for youth.

Law Offices of M.J. Snyder, LLC., Philadelphia, PA **May 2024 – Aug. 2024**
Legal Intern

- Developed criminal defense case strategies and prepared summaries of cases
- Researched criminal and election law matters
- Conducted mitigation interviews and drafted mitigation memorandums
- Filed entry of appearance documents and ordered notes of testimony
- Managed client files and coordinated client communication

Amherst College Department of Psychology, Amherst, MA **May 2021 - May 2022**
Committee on Inclusion and Belonging
Member

- Served on a faculty/student committee focused on fostering inclusion and belonging within the Amherst College Department of Psychology

- Planned events and department-wide initiatives cultivating community and diversity; provided student support and identified ways to increase psychology students' engagement with, and understanding of, issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion

SKILLS

Computer: Java, C++, R, SPSS
Languages: Proficient in reading Latin; basic Arabic and Spanish (reading and speaking)
Certifications: CITI – Social Behavioral, RCR, GCP, COI; Neurostar TMS Clinical Operator, CPR/AED First Aid; AAAI/ISMA Certified Personal Fitness Trainer