

Kimberly Larson, J.D., Ph.D. received her law degree from Villanova University School of Law in 2006, where she was a member of the Law Review and the Order of the Coif. She was admitted to the bar in New Jersey and Pennsylvania in 2006 and completed her Ph.D, in Clinical Psychology at Drexel University in 2007. Dr. Larson completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Psychology at UMass Medical School's Law and Psychiatry Program.

Dr. Larson joined the UMass faculty in 2008 and is an Assistant Professor in the Psychiatry Department where she is part of the Law and Psychiatry Program and the Center for Mental Health Services Research. Dr. Larson's research interests focus upon juveniles' psychological developmental capacities in legal contexts. She is particularly interested in the application of psychological literature in the creation of policy and legislation. She is funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to work on policy and practice issues related to juveniles' competence to stand trial. As part of that work, she was the primary author on a book that provides guidance to drafters of juvenile competence to stand trial legislation. She also provides technical assistance to states that are in the process of developing juvenile competence to stand trial legislation and / or services. Other current research efforts include a National Institute of Justice funded project examining youths' understanding of their right to counsel. At the national level, she was recently appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. She also works on state level policy as part of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Section Council of the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Massachusetts Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee / State Advisory Committee (SAG).

Her clinical work has included work with both juveniles and adults in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Clinically, her primary focus has been conducting forensic evaluations including competence to stand trial, criminal responsibility, juvenile Miranda comprehension, aid to sentencing, risk assessments, civil commitment, substance abuse, termination of parental rights/parental fitness, and custody and divorce evaluations. Dr. Larson also teaches Professional Issues and Ethics, Consultation and Testimony, Psychology and the Law, Mental Health and the Law, and Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment at the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology. She also teaches both the psychology interns and the Postdoctoral Fellows in Forensic Psychology and Psychiatry and UMass Medical School.