

Adolescent Brain Development

Annotated Bibliography

Legal Materials

***Roper v. Simmons* – 543 U.S. 551 (2005)**

Supreme Court case that declared the juvenile death penalty unconstitutional and discusses the developmental differences between juveniles under age 18 and adults.

***Amici Curiae Brief of the American Bar Association, et al., Roper* (2004)**

<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/simmons/aba.pdf> (.pdf format)

This brief contends that youth, under the age of 18, do not possess the degree of moral culpability required to justify the death penalty. The author's compare the developmental characteristics of youth under age 18 to those of the mentally retarded; both having "decreased abilities to regulate their actions, understand the correlation between their actions and the consequences of those actions, and to appreciate the impact of the resulting punishment for their actions." The brief also cites to psychological studies and brain science.

***Amici Curiae Brief of the American Medical Association, et al., Roper* (2005)**

<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/simmons/ama.pdf> (.pdf format)

The brief addresses, from a scientific perspective, the neurological, physiological, psychological, and emotional development of older adolescents. The brief discusses research in the area of adolescent brain development, which shows more activity in the regions related to aggression and less activity in the regions that relate to impulse control, risk assessment and moral reasoning. These differences were compared that the brain activity of adults.

***Amici Curiae Brief of the American Psychological Association, et al., Roper* (2004)**

<http://www.apa.org/psyclaw/roper-v-simmons.pdf> (.pdf format)

The APA and others' appeal in Roper that cites heavily upon new brain science.

***Atkins v. Virginia* – 536 U.S. 304 (2002)**

Supreme Court case that declared the death penalty for mentally retarded persons unconstitutional (uses arguments of brain development)

***Thompson v. Oklahoma* – 487 U.S. 815 (1988)**

Supreme Court case that declared the death penalty illegal for youth under the age of 16.

Testimony of David Fassler, M.D., New Hampshire State Legislature (2004)

<http://ccjr.policy.net/relatives/22020.pdf> (.pdf format)

Testimony given to the State Legislature of New Hampshire in efforts to outlaw the juvenile death penalty in the state (relies heavily on brain development arguments)

Declaration of Ruben C. Gur, Ph.D., *Patterson v. Texas* (2002)

<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/Gur%20affidavit.pdf> (.pdf format)

Declaration in *Patterson v. Texas* (juvenile death penalty case) citing heavily upon recent science regarding adolescent brain development

Academic Articles

ABA Online: *Adolescence, Brain Development and Legal Culpability*, (2004)

<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/Adolescence.pdf> (.pdf. format)

Excellent overview of the implications of adolescent brain development science on the juvenile justice system

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: *Adolescent Brains Show Reduced Reward Anticipation* (2004)

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/feb2004/niaaa-25.htm>

Discusses how adolescents' brains respond differently to incentives (risk/reward)

National Institute of Mental Health: *Imaging Study Shows Brain Maturing* (2004)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/press/prbrainmaturing.cfm>

Discusses how the brain fully matures far after a juvenile reaches age 18

Science Magazine: *Crime, Culpability, and the Adolescent Brain* (2004)

<http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/research/lncd/papers/ScienceLunaOct2004.pdf>

Outlines the way brain development research was used in *Roper v. Simmons*

American Psychologist: *Less Guilty by Reasons of Adolescence* (2003)

http://ccjr.policy.net/cjedfund/resourcekit/Psychology_Less_Guilty.pdf (.pdf. format)

Explains from a medical standpoint how adolescent brain development affects culpability

National Institute of Mental Health: *Teenage Brain: A Work in Progress* (2001)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/teenbrain.cfm>

Lists information about some of the studies performed by 2001

Symposium on the Future of the Juvenile Court: *The Evolution of Adolescence* (1997)

<http://www.youthadvocacyproject.org/lawyers/Grisso,%20Evolution%20of%20Adolescence.doc>

Overview for the direction for the juvenile justice system.

Adolescent Moral Reasoning: The Integration of Emotion and Cognition

www.theteenbrain.com/about/publications/pdfs/2006-Baird-Morality.pdf

Article by Abigail Baird, Ph.D. that discusses moral development of adolescents and how the decision making process for teens is greatly affected by a peer-centered social world.

Neurobiology and the Law: A Role in Juvenile Justice? (2006)

Gruber, Yurgelun-Todd. 3 Ohio St. J. Crim. L. 321

Activation of the Amygdala and Anterior Cingulate

Yurgelun-Todd, Kilgore. *NeuroImage*. Volume 21, Issue 4, April 2004, Pp 1215-1223.

Discusses the Amygdala and the role it plays in processing responses to different emotions.

News Articles

New York Times: *The Brain on the Stand* (2007)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/11/magazine/11Neurolaw.t.html>

Talks with a lot of the experts who are at the forefront of brain science as it applies to juvenile justice.

The American Prospect: *Adolescents, Maturity, and the Law* (2005)

<http://www.prospect.org/web/printfriendly-view.wv?id=10121>

Discusses the relationships between teen brains, immaturity, and the law

Science News: *Teen Brains on Trial* (2004)

<http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20040508/bob9.asp>

A good overview of the science involved and its application to the juvenile death penalty

Scripps Howard: *New Research Shows Differences in Teen Brains* (2004)

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?scid=27&did=1000>

Explains how while teens' bodies may be fully developed, their brains are nowhere near full maturity, especially in the areas related to culpability

Time Magazine: *What Makes Teens Tick?* (2004)

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/article.php?scid=27&did=977>

Discusses the new technology, processes, and findings relating to brain development

Washington Post: *Are Teens Just Wired That Way* (2001)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A13174-2001Jun2?language=printer>

Suggests reckless behavior and impulsivity may be closely related to brain development

Other Resources

PBS Frontline: *Inside the Teenage Brain* (Website/Program)

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/>

This 2002 PBS Frontline specifically dealt with recent technology in the field of neuroimaging as it relates to adolescent brain development. The show gives an in-depth overview of the science and technology involved, has interviews as well as discuss some of the implications of the findings. Watch the entire show online, read the transcript, and read interviews w/ experts.

American Bar Association: *Juvenile Justice Committee* (Website)

<http://www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/>

The ABA's Juvenile Justice website has a myriad of resources regarding adolescent brain development, including most of the legal materials surrounding *Roper v. Simmons*. While much of the site is focused on the juvenile death penalty, simple searches of brain development will yield current articles as well as information about the *Roper* and *Atkins* cases.

Common Sense About Kids and Guns: *Teen Brain Development* (Website)

http://www.kidsandguns.org/study/web_resources.asp?topic=Teen+Brain+Development

A website run by non-profit Common Sense About Kids and Guns that seeks to offer advice and solutions about gun safety as it relates to children and teenagers. On the website, they also have a list of articles and resources regarding adolescent brain development.

MacArthur Foundation on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice (Website)

<http://www.adjj.org/content/index.php>

The MacArthur Foundation's website has numerous documents, briefs, and PowerPoint presentations all discussing adolescent development (immaturity, cognitive abilities, risk-assessment, etc). The Foundation consists of some of the leading researches in the field of adolescent development as it relates to the juvenile justice system.

Laboratory for Adolescent Science at Vassar College

www.theteenbrain.com/

This website currently has research articles that members of the laboratory have published.