About the Contributors

**Erica Beecher-Monas** is Professor of Law at Wayne State University Law School, in Detroit, Michigan, where she teaches in the areas of Evidence and Corporate Law. She received her MS in Anatomy / Cell Biology from the University of Miami, and a JD from the University of Miami School of Law. She earned her LLM and JSD from Columbia University School of Law. Prior to entering academia, she clerked for the Honorable William M. Hoeveler, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and was an associate at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson in New York. She writes in the areas of judgment and decision making, with applications to scientific evidence and corporate governance, and is the author of *Evaluating Scientific Evidence: A Framework for Intellectual Due Process* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) as well as numerous law review articles and book chapters. She is a nationally known scholar in the area of expert scientific testimony.

**Veronica Blas Dahir, PhD**, is an adjunct faculty member for the Judicial Studies Program, the Justice Management Program, and the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is also currently the Senior Manager of Survey Services at the Center for Research Design and Analysis. Dr. Dahir has managed over fifty local, state, regional, and national research studies including projects sponsored by the National Judicial College, the National Council of Family Court Judges, and the State Bar of Nevada. She also was the survey manager for a nationwide project involving phone and mail surveys of 400 District Court Judges titled “Science in the Courtroom: Better Understanding through Judicial Education,” sponsored by the State Justice Institute. Dr. Dahir received both her PhD and her MA in social psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno, with an emphasis in justice studies. Her research interests focus on the intersection between social psychology and the justice system, such as jury decision making.
making, courtroom technology, judicial decision making, and forensic evidence. Her dissertation research explored the use in the courtroom of computer animations versus digital still slides or no visual aids. She was one of forty faculty members nationwide invited to participate in a working research group, the Research Conference on Courtroom Technology, in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center, National Center for State Courts, and Courtroom 21 of William and Mary College of Law, Williamsburg, Virginia. She also has co-published with her colleagues several articles about the *Daubert* trilogy and the admissibility of scientific evidence in court. Dr. Dahir currently teaches a graduate-level course for the Judicial Studies Program entitled “Scientific Research Methods for Judges,” and she has presented CLE seminars to attorneys on behalf of the State Bar of Nevada.

**Deborah Davis** received her PhD from Ohio State University in psychology, specializing in social psychology. She is currently Professor of Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno; President of Sierra Trial and Opinion Consultants; and Principal Clarinetist in the Reno Chamber Orchestra. She has served as a jury consultant for over twenty years, and has testified as an expert witness in state and federal courts on issues of witness memory and police interrogation tactics and confessions. Dr. Davis has also published a number of articles and chapters broadly concerned with psychology and law, including jury selection, probative value of evidence, memory, and interrogations and false confessions. These included two chapters in the recent *Handbook of Eyewitness Psychology*. She also conducts research in the area of romantic relationships, with particular focus on Bowlby’s attachment theory, and has published a number of articles and chapters in that area.

**Neal Feigenson** is Carmen Tortora Professor of Law at Quinnipiac University School of Law, where he teaches Evidence, Torts, Civil Procedure, and Visual Persuasion in the Law. He has also taught at Cornell, NYU, the University of Chicago, and the University of Connecticut law schools. His major research interests include the psychology of legal decision making and the uses of visual technologies in court. He is the author of *Law on Display: The Digital Transformation of Legal Persuasion and Judgment* (with Christina Spiesel) (NYU Press, 2009) and *Legal Blame: How Jurors Think and Talk about Accidents* (American Psychological Association, 2000), as well as dozens of articles and book chapters.

**Christine Funk** is a member of the Trial Team in the Office of the Public Defender for the State of Minnesota. She has been with the Public Defender’s
Office since 1994, and received her first DNA case in 1995. Her current job involves work on complex litigation, forensic issues, and other scientific disciplines in the courtroom. Christine is a frequent lecturer on DNA evidence. She serves on the Technical Working Group for DNA for Defense Attorneys, is a member of the Forensic Laboratory Advisory Board in Minnesota, and is on the Board of the Minnesota Innocence Project. Christine is also an adjunct professor at William Mitchell College of Law, where she teaches Criminal Law, Advanced Trial Advocacy, and Wrongful Convictions.

Richard A. Leo, PhD, JD, is Professor of Law at the University of San Francisco, a Fellow at the Criminal Justice Studies Program of the Institute of Legal Research at U.C. Berkeley School of Law, and formerly Professor of Psychology and Professor of Criminology at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Leo is nationally known for his pioneering empirical research on police interrogation, false confessions, the impact of Miranda requirements, and wrongful convictions. Dr. Leo has written more than seventy articles in leading scientific and legal journals, as well as several books on these subjects, including Police Interrogation and American Justice (Harvard University Press, 2008). Dr. Leo has won individual and career achievement awards for research excellence and distinction from many organizations, including the Law and Society Association, the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychology-Law Society, the American Academy of Forensic Psychology, the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the Pacific Sociological Association. Dr. Leo is also often called to advise and assist practicing attorneys and has served as a litigation consultant and/or expert witness in hundreds of criminal and civil cases involving disputed interrogations and/or confessions.

Mara L. Merlino, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Psychology and Sociology at Kentucky State University. Prior to her appointment at Kentucky State, Merlino was an instructor and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she earned both her doctoral and master’s degrees in the Interdisciplinary PhD Program for Social Psychology. She continues to serve on the graduate faculties of the University of Nevada, Reno’s Judicial Studies Program. Dr. Merlino’s research interests include judicial decision making, jury decision making, judge and attorney education, the use of scientific evidence in court, gender and the law, domestic violence and the law, and the influence of extralegal factors in the presentation of evidence. She has designed, directed, and supervised a number of large-scale research projects,
the most current of which is a national multimodal study of the reliability and validity of forensic document examination funded by the National Institute of Justice. Other projects include a multimodal national study of science in the law school curriculum sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and a national multimodal survey of state trial court judges sponsored by the State Justice Institute, the Federal Judicial Center, the National Judicial College, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies, and the Judicial Studies Program at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her current work is an extension of her doctoral dissertation titled “The Social Construction of the Admissibility of Expert Testimony after Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.”

Stephen J. Morse, JD, PhD, is Ferdinand Wakeman Hubbell Professor of Law and Professor of Psychology and Law in Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. Trained in both law and psychology at Harvard, Dr. Morse is an expert in criminal and mental health law whose work emphasizes individual responsibility and the relation of the behavioral and neurosciences to responsibility and social control. Professor Morse was Co-Director of the MacArthur Foundation Law and Neuroscience Project, and he co-directed the Project’s Research Network on Criminal Responsibility and Prediction. He is currently working on a book, Desert and Disease: Responsibility and Social Control. Professor Morse is a founding director of the Neuroethics Society. Prior to joining the Penn faculty, he was the Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences at the University of Southern California.

Deborah Runkle is a Senior Program Associate at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She is the Associate Staff Officer of the American Bar Association–AAAS National Conference of Lawyers and Scientists, provides staff support for the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, and is the staff liaison for the AAAS Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award. She is part of the leadership group of the ABA Science and Technology Law Section and is on the Board of Trustees of the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, Inc. Her interests include subjects at the intersection of science and society and science and law. Since 2006, she has been the project coordinator for the ABA award-winning series of educational seminars for state, federal, and administrative law judges, “Emerging Issues in Neuroscience.”
ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Alexandra E. Sigillo is a doctoral candidate in the Interdisciplinary Social Psychology program at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is expected to graduate in December 2011. Her research interests lie within the intersection of psychology, health, and law, with particular emphases in sexual and reproductive health, juvenile and family court proceedings, and policy development. Her dissertation investigates individuals’ attitudes and support toward in-vitro fertilization, and the factors that influence such views. It is anticipated that the findings will help inform infertility-related policy decisions. She received her bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of California, Davis in 2007.

Christina Spiesel is a Senior Research Scholar at Yale Law School. As an Adjunct Professor of Law at Quinnipiac University School of Law, she teaches Visual Persuasion in the Law. She is a trained humanist (MA Humanities, University of Chicago) and a trained artist who has exhibited widely and won commissions. She has knowledge of technology from working with a software development company at the beginning of desktop computing. She is co-author of Law on Display: The Digital Transformation of Legal Persuasion and Judgment with Neal Feigenson. In the spring of 2010, she won the Otto Walter Prize for Distinguished Writing by an Adjunct at New York Law School.

Victoria Springer is a graduate research assistant at the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies and the Center for Research Design and Analysis at the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a doctoral student in the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Social Psychology Program at the university, having earned her MA in 2008 from the same program. Her primary research interest is social psychology and law, with an emphasis on forensic evidence handling and the use of information in the courtroom and judicial decision making. She has presented papers at numerous conferences, including the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the American Society of Criminology, the American Psychology-Law Society, and the Law and Society Association and has published several scholarly works on the admissibility of forensic evidence. She is currently engaged in dissertation research on heuristic patterns of information use in felony in sentencing in the state of Nevada.

Ken Strutin is the Director of Legal Information Services at the New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA), and has worked there in various capacities for fourteen years. His previous employment included time spent as a
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**Andrew E. Taslitz** is the recent past Welsh S. White Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Professor of Law at the Howard University School of Law. He has also taught at the Duke University and Villanova University Schools of Law. He teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Free Speech, Terrorism and the Law, and advanced courses in those areas. A theme running through much of Professor Taslitz’s work is the connection between criminal justice system practices and issues of governance, including how democracy writ small can impact criminal justice policies writ large. His scholarship has recently focused on issues of racial bias, the cognitive psychology of policing, the social significance of probable cause, the Thirteenth Amendment’s modern application to the criminal justice system, the Fifth Amendment’s privilege against self-incrimination, prosecutorial practices, innocence issues, the political forces behind mass incarceration, and the connection between compassion and the law of excuses. He has published over 100 scholarly works, including six books, the most recent of which is *Reconstructing the Fourth Amendment: A History of Search and Seizure, 1789–1868* (paperback ed. 2009). Professor Taslitz is the Reporter for the Committee on a Uniform Statute for the Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and is also a member of the ABA Committee on Transactional Surveillance Standards, a member of the ABA Criminal Justice Section’s Governing Council (starting August 2009), chair of the Criminal Justice periodical Editorial Board, immediate past chair of the Criminal Justice Book Committee, former director of the Communications Division, chair of the Committee on Race and Racism, and chair of the Eyewitness Identification Subcommittee of the Committee on Innocence and the Integrity of the Criminal Justice System. Professor Taslitz is also a former chair of both the Evidence and Criminal Justice Sections of the American Association of Law Schools and is a newly admitted member of the American Bar Foundation.