

# Lydia Becker

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Maryland** | College Park, MD August 2022-Present  
Doctoral Student in Criminology & Criminal Justice

**Villanova University** | Villanova, PA May 2022  
B.A. Criminology and Sociology | Minor: Spanish  
*Summa Cum Laude*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Racial Disparities in Prosecution** | *Research Assistant* June 2023-Present  
University of Maryland

- Perform data analyses for a multi-jurisdictional study on prosecutorial practices and racial disparities under the instruction of Dr. Brian Johnson
- Collaborate with Maryland State's Attorney's Offices to develop data dashboards and public research reports

**Prosecution of Firearm Offenses** | *Research Assistant* June 2023-December 2023  
University of Maryland

- Utilized web scraped court data to understand prosecutorial decision-making for firearm offenses under the instruction of Dr. Brian Johnson

**Governor's Behavioral Health and Public Safety Commission** | *Project Assistant* September 2022-June 2023  
University of Maryland

- Created a strategic plan for Maryland's Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence
- Collaborated with experts and stakeholders such as crisis intervention facilitators and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
- Developed racial impact analysis report outlines for behavioral health and public safety legislation

**Philadelphia District Attorney's Office** | *Research Intern* May 2022 – August 2022  
DAO DATA Lab Philadelphia, PA

- Produced data visuals for Philadelphia stop-and-frisk data using R (programming language)
- Conducted literature review on the history of stop-and-frisk in Philadelphia
- Coded 1,000 firearm arrest reports for future research

**National Science Foundation** | *Research Experience for Undergraduates* Summer 2021  
Wayne State University Detroit, MI

- Worked directly with Wayne State University faculty mentors on a selected research topic
- Developed omnibus survey on sociopolitical sentiments to be administered annually to Detroit citizens
- Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in March of 2022

**Text Analysis of Online Police Forums** | *Research Assistant* November 2020 – March 2021  
Villanova University Villanova, PA

- Analyzed corpora from online police forums using Voyant Tools textual analysis software to find trends relating to colorblind racism and racial profiling
- Presented findings at Midwest Sociological Society's 2021 Annual Conference

## RESEARCH REPORTS

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Johnson, B., Galvin, M., Xuanying, C., Petersen, K., Redlich, A., **Becker, L.** (2023) *Racial Justice in Prosecution in Montgomery County*. Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office. ([link](#))

Bersani, B., Kozerra, K., Porter, L., Artigiani, E., **Becker, L.**, Bujtor, S. (2023) *Maryland's Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence Strategic Plan*. Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center. ([link](#))

**Becker, L.** (2023) *Racial Differences in Maryland Guidelines-Eligible Sentencing Events*. Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy. ([link](#))

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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*Understanding the Impact of a Maryland Cash Bail Reform*  
November 2023

American Society of Criminology Annual Conference | Philadelphia, PA

*Trends in Pretrial Detention*  
September 2023

European Society of Criminology Annual Conference | Florence, Italy

*Exploring the Link Between Police Officer Stress, Job Satisfaction, and Organizational Attachment*  
March 2022

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference | Las Vegas, NV

*A Textual Analysis of Online Police Forums*  
March 2021

Midwest Sociological Society Annual Conference | Virtual Conference

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy** | *Policy Analyst* August 2023-Present

- Conduct statistical analyses on Maryland Circuit Court data to develop “sentencing snapshot” reports in an effort to promote sentencing transparency
- Meet regularly with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and other criminal justice stakeholders across the state of Maryland to inform the revision of the state’s sentencing guidelines
- Create briefs on how new legislation impacts Maryland’s sentencing guidelines

**Campaign Zero** | *Consultant* August 2023-Present

- Meet regularly with Campaign Zero staff to advise ongoing plea deal reform campaigns
- Inform staff members of new and emerging plea research through briefs and summaries

**Campaign Zero** | *Policy Fellow* June 2023-August 2023

- Collaborated with non-profit criminal justice organization to develop a plea deal reform campaign
- Conducted literature reviews on plea bargaining research and developed overviews of the historical emergence and prevalence of pleas in U.S. courts
- Presented policy briefs on new legislation regarding pleas, such as plea discovery reform and prosecutorial screening policies

**University of Maryland Criminology and Criminal Justice** | *Teaching Assistant* August 2022-May 2023

- Lead four discussion sections for Dr. Justine Madoo's Criminal Justice 100 course
- Facilitate critical conversations about the criminal justice system
- Hold weekly office hours, grade papers, and answer student emails for Dr. Madoo

**The Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls** | *Intern* Spring 2021-Spring 2022

- Work Directly with incarcerated women in Pennsylvania to promote commutation applications and PCRA's (post conviction review applications)
- Advocate for the gendered interest of incarcerated women and girls through information sessions, public gathering, social media, and petitions

## **LEADERSHIP**

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**Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Committee** | *Committee Chair* September 2022-May 2023

- Chaired the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Interaction Day for Graduate Students Committee
- Hosted professional development and networking events for graduate students in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

**Villanova Chapter of the Philadelphia Justice Project** | *Founder & President* June 2020-May 2022

- Establish an engaging student organization that inspires students to advocate for social justice and learn about the criminal justice system
- Lead weekly executive meetings and monthly general body meetings for over 60 members

**Student Government Association** | *Senator* April 2019-May 2021

- Propose bills for changes throughout campus
- Activist for the Student Voter Empowerment Act to encourage students to register to vote

**McNulty Institute for Women's Leadership** | *Equity Advocate* March 2019-March 2020

- Promote gender equity on campus by attending Think Tanks and regular meetings

**Community Outreach Villanova** | *Elementary Tutor* September 2019-March 2020

- Tutored elementary students in Philadelphia from 3pm-6pm every Monday

## **AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

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**Sutherland Medallion of Excellence in Criminology** | Villanova University May 2022

- Received the Villanova Medallion that is awarded to the top student in each major

**Phi Beta Kappa** | Villanova University May 2022

- Inducted into prestigious honor society

**Villanova University Social Impact Design Winner** | Villanova University April 2021

- Designed and implemented the most successful social impact campaign
- Led team of four students to present social impact campaign results against other teams to a panel of judges
- Awarded \$5,000 to continue social impact campaign related to women's incarceration in Pennsylvania

## DATA ANALYSIS

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### Software Proficiencies:

- Stata
- R
- Microsoft Excel
- SPSS
- Voyant Tools Textual Analysis Software
- Qualtrics Survey Tools