

Lydia Becker

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EDUCATION

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

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-Present
University of Maryland

- Utilize court data to understand prosecutorial decision-making for firearm offenses for National Institute of Justice grant

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

Johnson, B., Nakamura, K., **Becker, L.**, Hernandez., R. (2024) *Assessing the Impact of Plea Bargaining on Subsequent Violence for Firearm Offenders*. National Institute of Justice. (forthcoming)

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

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

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy | *Policy Analyst* August 2023-August 2024

- Conducted statistical analyses on Maryland Circuit Court data to develop “sentencing snapshot” reports in an effort to promote sentencing transparency
- Met 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
- Created briefs on how new legislation impacts Maryland’s sentencing guidelines

Campaign Zero | *Consultant* August 2023-June 2024

- Met regularly with Campaign Zero staff to advise ongoing plea deal reform campaigns
- Informed 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
- Facilitated critical conversations about the criminal justice system
- Held 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

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

LEADERSHIP

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

- Established 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

- Proposed 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

- Promoted 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

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

August 2024-June 2027

- Received prestigious national fellowship to pursue personal research with an anticipated funding amount of \$159,000

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

- 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

Software Proficiencies:

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