

# Owen Jones

**Glenn M. Weaver, M.D. and Mary Ellen Weaver Chair in Law, Brain, and Behavior at Vanderbilt University**

Nashville, TN, US

Expert in the intersection of law and behavioral biology.

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## Biography

Owen Jones specializes in the intersection of law and behavioral biology. Holding joint academic appointments, he uses methods and insights from brain-imaging (fMRI), evolutionary biology, and behavioral economics to learn more about how the brain's varied operations affect behaviors relevant to law. With four grants from the MacArthur Foundation, totaling over 7.6 million dollars, he designed, created and directs the national Research Network on Law and Neuroscience. The Network partners selected legal scholars and brain scientists at leading universities, including Yale, Stanford, Columbia, Virginia, Cornell, Northwestern, and the University of Pennsylvania, among others, to explore systematically both the promise and the limitations of using new neuroscientific techniques to improve criminal justice. Since 2011, this Network team has published more than 95 brain-scanning and conceptual works. Professor Jones is one of the authors of the book *Law and Neuroscience*. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 scholarly articles, book chapters, and essays in such legal venues as the *Columbia Law Review*, *Chicago Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *NYU Law Review*, *Northwestern Law Review*, *Cornell Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, and *Michigan Law Review*, and in such leading scientific journals as *Neuron*, *Nature Neuroscience*, *the Journal of Neuroscience*, *Current Biology*, *Evolution and Human Behavior*, and *the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Before joining the legal academy, Jones was a law clerk for Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and practiced law with the D.C. law firm Covington & Burling. Professor Jones was named a Chancellor's Chair in 2010 and became the inaugural holder of the Weaver Chair in 2019. In 2014 he received the 2014 Joe. B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor Award, which annually honors one member of the Vanderbilt University faculty for accomplishments that bridge multiple academic disciplines and yield significant new knowledge from research. In 2015, he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

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## Areas of Expertise

Contracts, Law and Neuroscience, Law and Behavioral Sciences, Law and Behavioral Biology, Evolutionary Analysis in Law

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## Education

**Yale Law School**

J.D. Law

**Amherst College**

B.A.

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