

Laura L. Kunard, Ph.D. serves as senior research scientist for Justice Programs in CNA's Safety and Security division where she works on a variety of U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) initiatives focused on law enforcement research, training and technical assistance. She currently supports the National Crisis Intervention Team training curriculum project and the Smart Policing Initiative for the DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Advancing 21st Century Policing Initiative, based on President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Dr. Kunard serves as the Principal Investigator on a DOJ National Institute of Justice-supported study of police technology. She was appointed under the terms of a consent decree between the DOJ and the City of Albuquerque as an Associate Monitor on the Independent Monitoring Team for the Albuquerque Police Department. She also leads a research project exploring barriers and opportunities in healthcare system employment for people with criminal records for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Prior to her position at CNA, Dr. Kunard served as director of the Center for Public Safety and Justice (CPSJ), one of the original COPS Regional Community Policing Institutes, which was situated within the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) at the University of Illinois. While director, Kunard shepherded CPSJ's move from IGPA to the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). CPSJ specializes in training and technical assistance for law enforcement as well as projects related to public safety, including homeland security and emergency management. Her portfolio of projects included, law enforcement leadership, procedural justice training for police supervisors, crisis intervention team approaches, and revising the basic law enforcement curriculum for the state of Illinois, as well as law enforcement responses to missing people with Alzheimer's disease. These projects included extensive work fostering and rebuilding relationships between residents and local police departments.

Prior to her time at CPSJ, Dr. Kunard was the founding director of the Institute for Public Safety and Social Justice at Adler University in Chicago where she focused on police interactions with people with mental illness as well as explored restorative justice practices. Kunard served in several capacities at the UIC prior to her time at Adler – as a researcher at the Center for Research in Law and Justice, where she worked on corrections projects and as the associate director of the Institute for Public Safety Partnerships (IPSP), a community policing institute that fostered the development and evaluation of local community public safety partnerships. While at IPSP Kunard worked on the NIJ-supported national evaluation of Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiatives and served on the steering committee for Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), led by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. She also worked on grant-funded projects in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs while at UIC. Throughout her career, Dr. Kunard has approached public safety projects through the lens

of community policing, emphasizing the importance of meaningful partnerships between communities and local police. In many communities, Dr. Kunard has organized and facilitated community policing training, in which community members, local government representatives and officers sit side-by-side to learn about problem solving and safety initiatives. Her training emphasizes public safety as a shared endeavor in which trust and relationships are integral to solving crime and disorder problems.

Dr. Kunard is also an experienced community policing organizer, professor, project manager and police trainer. She taught university courses on criminological theory; psychology of police organizations; policy, advocacy and social change; and social justice. She has trained law enforcement officers on topics including procedural justice, ethics and integrity, community policing, impartial policing and social change.

Dr. Kunard earned her B.A. in Sociology and Psychology from Northwestern University, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Criminology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She spent 11 years on the Board of the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, which achieved its mission in 2011. She currently serves as a gubernatorial appointee to the Illinois Department of Corrections Adult Advisory Board.