

## **Laura Kunard**



Dr. Laura Kunard is the founding director of the Institute on Public Safety and Social Justice of the Chicago-based Adler School of Professional Psychology. Launched in 2009, the institute is the Adler School's second institute for social change, in furtherance of the School's commitment to social justice and social responsibility. Among other goals, the institute explores the pursuit of public safety and national security through socially just practices, procedures and programs via research, public speaker series, community service projects and Adler student engagement. Previously, she served from 2006 to 2009 as associate director of the Center for Research in Law and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Before that, her positions included coordinator of research and academic programs for the Graduate Program in Public Administration in the University of Illinois at Chicago's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs; assistant director, project manager and research assistant in the Institute for Public Safety Partnerships of the University of Illinois at Chicago's Center for Research in Law and Justice; and data collection supervisor of the San Diego-based Directions in Research.

Besides membership in several professional organizations, Kunard is the founding member of the Illinois Task Force on Family Violence and Animal Abuse. She has taught public policy, criminology, social change and contemporary social theory courses at the Adler School of Professional Psychology, Governors State University (University Park, Illinois), Dominican University (River Forest, Illinois), and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has authored and co-authored reports, publications and presentations on building trust between police and minority or immigrant communities; the Justice Department's Project Safe Neighborhoods; racial and other patterns of traffic stops in Illinois; evaluating a legal aid program in Illinois; and evaluating the Illinois Department of Corrections' reception and classification system.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from Northwestern University, a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Justice Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her dissertation topic was capital jury selection.