

# Neurolaw: A Concept in Development and Enforcement of Criminal Law in Indonesia

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## Abstract

*Neurolaw is an interdisciplinary field that combines law and neuroscience to enhance the understanding of human behavior, decision-making, and their legal implications. This approach is gaining global attention and has potential for application in Indonesia's criminal law system. Neurolaw sheds light on how factors related to the brain and nervous system like impulsivity, mental health issues, and environmental influences can affect criminal behavior and personal accountability. This research, using normative legal method, finds that neurolaw could be valuable in Indonesia's justice system for evaluating testimony, truth, and fairness. Techniques like brain scans and neuropsychological tests offer scientific support for statements made by defendants and witnesses, helping to ensure legal decisions are more objective and just. While neurolaw offers potential advancements for criminal law, it faces challenges in Indonesia. Neuroscience is a complex field that requires specialized knowledge, yet Indonesia currently has few experts in this area. Additionally, the required infrastructure such as brain scanning technology, advanced laboratories, and research funding is limited.*

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## 1. Introduction

Neurolaw, an interdisciplinary field combining knowledge from neuroscience and law, has become an increasingly popular research topic in the last decade.<sup>1</sup> This concept proposes that understanding the brain function can have meaningful implications for criminal law, both in law enforcement and the judicial context. Globally, neurolaw remains a relatively new concept and is not yet fully integrated into the legal systems of existing countries. However, with the exponential growth in knowledge about the brain and human behavior, it is important for countries around the world, including Indonesia, to explore how neurolaw can be applied in the development and enforcement of criminal law.

Neurolaw can provide new insights into criminal capacity and individual responsibility. For example, if neuroscientific knowledge can prove that a particular individual has a brain condition impacting his ability to understand and control his behavior, this could have significant implications for determining criminal liability.<sup>2</sup> Neurolaw can also help understand and improve rehabilitation methods for inmates. By understanding brain functions and behavioral change mechanisms, the legal system could develop more effective rehabilitation programs, focusing on lasting behavioral change rather than short sentences. However, it is important to recognize that neurolaw raises various ethical and practical questions, such as protecting individual privacy and rights in its application, and ensuring that neuroscientific knowledge is not misused in the legal system.<sup>3</sup>

Neurolaw, an interdisciplinary field bridging neuroscience (a branch of science that studies the nervous system) and law, has been applied in several legal cases, especially in criminal defense. Typically, neuroscientific evidence is used to support claims about the mental capacity or sanity of the accused. Some cases using neuroscientific evidence include the Dugan case in the United States (1984), in which Brian Dugan confessed to

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<sup>1</sup> David R. Lawrence, "Neurolaw—a Call to Action," *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 31, no. 4 (October 2022): 415–17, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963180122000123>.

<sup>2</sup> Allan McCay and Jeanette Kennett, "Neuroscience and Punishment: From Theory to Practice," *Neuroethics* 14, no. 3 (2021): 1–14, <https://doi.org/10.1007/S12152-018-09394-0/METRICS>.

<sup>3</sup> Tade Matthias Spranger, *International Neurolaw: A Comparative Analysis*, ed. Tade Matthias Spranger (Berlin: Springer Berlin, Heidelberg, 2012), 179.

several sexual crimes and murders.<sup>4</sup> As part of his defense, his legal team presented his brain scans showing abnormalities in brain areas associated with empathy and impulse control. While this argument does not change his death penalty sentence, it marked one of the first cases of using a neurolaw. In the case of *Roper v. Simmons* in the United States (2005), the US Supreme Court considered neuroscientific evidence in ruling that the death penalty could not be imposed on perpetrators under 18 at the time of the crime. The decision drew on new knowledge about adolescent brain development, indicating that adolescents have less mature impulse control and judgment capacities than adults.<sup>5</sup> In the Hinckley Case in the United States (1982), John Hinckley Jr., who attempted the assassination of President Ronald Reagan, was found not guilty by reason of insanity. Neuroscientific evidence supported the claim that Hinckley suffered from a severe mental disorder.<sup>6</sup>

The development of neurolaw has been driven by various factors, including advances in neuroimaging technology (techniques used to produce images of brain structure and function) and an increased understanding of behavioral neurobiology (a field of study concerned with how the brain influences behavior).<sup>7</sup> Consequently, there is growing interest in applying these insights to the legal field. One of the main areas in the development of neurolaw is the use of neuroscientific evidence in court. For example, evidence about brain function or the presence of brain disorders may be used to support claims about the mental capacity or sanity of the accused. Another area is the application of neuroscientific knowledge in prison rehabilitation.<sup>8</sup> For example, neurofeedback techniques, in which individuals learn to control their brain activity through real-time feedback from brain scans, could be used to help inmates control

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<sup>4</sup> Virginia Hughes, "Science in Court: Head Case," *Nature* 464, no. 7287 (March 2010): 340–42, <https://doi.org/10.1038/464340a>.

<sup>5</sup> Arian Petoft, Mahmoud Abbasi, and Alireza Zali, "Toward Children's Cognitive Development from the Perspective of Neurolaw: Implications of *Roper V Simmons*," *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law* 30, no. 2 (March 4, 2023): 144–60, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2021.2003267>.

<sup>6</sup> Eryn Brown, "The Brain, The Criminal and The Courts," *Knowable Magazine*, 2019, <https://knowablemagazine.org/article/mind/2019/neuroscience-criminal-justice>.

<sup>7</sup> Jay D. Aronson, "The Law's Use of Brain Evidence," *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 6, no. 1 (December 1, 2010): 93–108, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-102209-152948>.

<sup>8</sup> Nicole A Vincent, "Neurolaw and Direct Brain Interventions," *Criminal Law and Philosophy* 8, no. 1 (January 2014): 43–50, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11572-012-9164-y>.

their antisocial impulses or behavior.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, neurolaw also focuses on understanding and regulating the use of new neuroscience technologies, such as non-invasive brain stimulation or brain-computer interface systems, in a legal context.<sup>10</sup>

It is important to note that although neuroscientific evidence has been used in some legal cases, its application remains a topic of debate. Questions remain about the extent to which such evidence should influence legal decisions, alongside concerns about potential misuse or misinterpretation of neuroscientific evidence. This study aims to explore the concept of neurolaw within the context of Indonesian criminal law, assess its potential benefits and challenges, and evaluate how neurolaw can be integrated in an ethical and effective manner within the Indonesian criminal justice system.<sup>11</sup>

The development of neurolaw in Indonesia is of critical importance and must be addressed immediately due to several legal, philosophical, and sociological reasons that underline the urgency of this concept in the realm of criminal law. Legally, neurolaw could strengthen Indonesia's legal framework in addressing issues of criminal responsibility, particularly for offenders with neurological disorders. The 1945 Constitution (UUD 1945) guarantees human rights, including the right to a fair trial and humane treatment. In this regard, Articles 38, 39, and 43 of the new Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) provide provisions on mental disorders and criminal responsibility, emphasizing the need for more scientific methods, such as neurolaw, to accurately assess the mental condition of defendants. Consequently, the application of neurolaw presents a scientifically measurable method for evaluating the defendant's intent (*mens rea*), contributing to judicial decisions that uphold the principles of justice and human rights.

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<sup>9</sup> Manfred Klöbl et al., "Individual Brain Regulation as Learned Via Neurofeedback Is Related to Affective Changes in Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder," *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health* 17, no. 1 (January 12, 2023): 6, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-022-00549-9>.

<sup>10</sup> Owen D. Jones and Francis X. Shen, "Law and Neuroscience in the United States," *International Neurolaw: A Comparative Analysis* November, no. 1 (2013): 349–80, [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-21541-4\\_19/COVER](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-21541-4_19/COVER).

<sup>11</sup> Sofyan Rauf, "The Ideal Model for Returning Criminal Case Files Based on the Integrated Criminal Justice System Approach," *Philosophia Law Review* 4, no. 1 (2024): 21–42, <https://doi.org/10.56591/pilar.v4i1.17851>.

From a philosophical perspective, the implementation of neurolaw aligns with the values of Pancasila, particularly in upholding the principles of human dignity and social justice. Neurolaw provides deeper insight into human behavior, especially in distinguishing between free will and neurological disorders. This distinction has significant implications for determining decisions regarding criminal responsibility and sentencing. The philosophy of criminal law in Indonesia emphasizes not only punitive law enforcement but also the potential for offender rehabilitation. In this context, neurolaw provides a stronger scientific basis for determining the extent to which an individual can be held criminally responsible, ensuring a balance between justice and humanity.

Sociologically, Indonesia faces complex challenges with the rising number of mental health cases among offenders. Integrating neurolaw into the criminal justice system would enable a more accurate response to issues of recidivism and the impact of mental health on criminal behavior. In this context, neurolaw could play a pivotal role in developing more effective rehabilitation programs within correctional facilities. Neuroscience-based approaches, such as neurofeedback, can help inmates control their antisocial impulses, thereby reducing recidivism rates and ensuring that individuals with mental disorders receive appropriate care rather than solely punishment.

The application of neurolaw in Indonesia's criminal law becomes increasingly relevant, as the existing legal framework acknowledges mental health issues but lacks effective tools for their accurate assessment. Integrating neurolaw into the criminal justice system would enhance Indonesia's ability to distinguish between intentional criminal acts and actions influenced by neurological disorders, ultimately leading to fairer judicial outcomes.

Cases in Indonesia, particularly those involving defendants with mental disorders, highlight the urgent need for a more scientific approach in legal proceedings. The increasing emphasis on rehabilitative justice, as reflected in the recent reforms to the Criminal Code, presents opportunities for Indonesia to adopt cutting-edge neuroscience techniques in assessing criminal responsibility and developing

rehabilitation programs tailored to the individual conditions of offenders. The urgency of this topic lies in its potential to modernize Indonesia's criminal law by integrating scientific advancements that align with the nation's philosophical values while addressing critical social issues related to mental health and justice.

One illustrative case is the 16-year prison sentence imposed on a young man with schizophrenia for a murder case, raising questions about whether individuals with mental disorders (ODGJ) can be criminally prosecuted and whether imprisonment is the appropriate solution. Andi Andoyo, an 18-year-old diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, was found guilty and sentenced to 16 years in prison by the West Jakarta District Court for a murder committed at Central Park apartments in 2023.<sup>12</sup> This case highlights the dilemma in Indonesia's criminal justice system regarding how to treat defendants with mental disorders.<sup>13</sup> On the one hand, there is a need to uphold legal order and deliver justice to victims.<sup>14</sup> On the other hand, punishing someone suffering from a mental illness like schizophrenia without scientifically considering their mental condition raises ethical and legal issues. In this context, the application of neurolaw could provide a more appropriate approach by assessing the defendant's neurological condition and offering more humane alternatives, such as rehabilitative care, rather than simply imposing a prison sentence.

## 2. Problem Statement

The implementation of neurolaw in Indonesia's criminal justice system faces several critical challenges and issues. A primary problem involves the need for substantial legal reforms to seamlessly integrate neurolaw principles into the existing legal framework. The admissibility and reliability of neuroscience evidence in Indonesian courts pose

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<sup>12</sup> Zintan Prihatini, "Hukum: Pemuda Skizofrenia Divonis 16 Tahun Penjara Atas Pembunuhan Di Jakarta Barat - Apakah ODGJ Dapat Dipidana?," *BBC News Indonesia*, 2023, <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/articles/c2v030n390yo>.

<sup>13</sup> Arthur Josias Simon Runturambi, Munarni Aswindo, and Eliza Meiyani, "No Viral No Justice: A Criminological Review of Social Media-Based Law Enforcement from the Perspective of Progressive Law," *Jurnal IUS Kajian Hukum Dan Keadilan* 12, no. 1 (April 30, 2024): 177–95, <https://doi.org/10.29303/ius.v12i1.1361>.

<sup>14</sup> La Gurusi et al., "Islamic Legal Perspective on Data of Child Victims of Sexual Violence: A Case Study of the Indonesia's Court," *De Jure: Jurnal Hukum Dan Syar'iah* 16, no. 2 (2024): 456–79, <https://doi.org/10.18860/j-fsh.v16i2.28358>; Dian Ekawaty Ismail et al., "Collocation of Restorative Justice with Human Rights in Indonesia," *Legality: Jurnal Ilmiah Hukum* 32, no. 2 (September 20, 2024): 394–417, <https://doi.org/10.22219/ljih.v32i2.35374>.

significant concerns, demanding clear standards to ensure its validity. Protecting privacy and human rights in the application of neuroscience technology is another pressing issue, requiring the development of regulatory measures. Equitable access to neuroscience technology also presents a challenge, potentially leading to biases in legal outcomes if not adequately addressed. Furthermore, comprehensive education and training programs for legal professionals are essential to equip them with the knowledge to engage effectively with neurolaw concepts and collaborate with neuroscientists. Public perception and awareness of neurolaw represent another challenge influencing its successful implementation. The potential impact of neurolaw on rehabilitation programs for individuals involved in criminal activities raises questions about their effectiveness. Additionally, regulatory frameworks governing technological developments in neuroscience demand attention to prevent misuse and uphold ethical standards.

### 3. Methods

The research method employed in this study is the normative legal research method, which focuses on legal norms and principles of applicable law and is conducted through library research.<sup>15</sup> Library research involves collecting legal materials categorized as primary, secondary and tertiary legal materials.<sup>16</sup> Primary legal materials include sources of law, such as statutes, government regulations, court decisions and international agreements. Secondary legal materials consist of literature that discusses or interprets primary legal materials, such as textbooks, journals and articles. Tertiary legal materials provide instructions or references for finding primary and secondary legal materials, for example, legal encyclopedias, legal dictionaries, and bibliographies. The assessment and analysis in this study were carried out using several approaches. These include a statutory approach, which highlights research on laws and regulations, a conceptual approach that analyzes legal concepts and theories, a comparative

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<sup>15</sup> Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2005), 93.

<sup>16</sup> Zico Junius Fernando et al., "Deep Anti-Corruption Blueprint Mining, Mineral, and Coal Sector in Indonesia," *Cogent Social Sciences* 9, no. 1 (December 31, 2023): 2187737, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2023.2187737>; Herliana Herliana, "How Judiciary Supports Contract Law Enforcement: Indonesian Experience," *Jurisdictie* 13, no. 2 (January 30, 2023): 143–61, <https://doi.org/10.18860/j.v13i2.18941>.

approach, which compares legal and regulatory systems between countries.<sup>17</sup> The collected legal materials are analyzed qualitatively to classify and understand their meaning and implications. This is achieved through content analysis, a research method used to systematically and objectively interpret the meaning of text communications. This method enables researchers to identify patterns, themes or biases within the analyzed legal material.<sup>18</sup> This normative legal research method aims to provide an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of neurolaw in the context of criminal law in Indonesia.

#### **4. Neurolaw's Understanding, Hopes and Challenges Today in the World and Indonesia**

In recent years, interest in the intersection of law and neuroscience has surged, accompanied by growing attention of scholars from various disciplines.<sup>19</sup> Experts in law, psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, and other fields are eager to explore how new findings in neuroscience can be applied to the justice system and deepen our understanding of human behavior in relation to the law. The study of neurolaw is expected to provide new insights into how the human brain functions and influences moral and legal decision-making. This interdisciplinary collaboration is expected to enhance legal and justice systems in the future.<sup>20</sup> The intersection of law and neuroscience, often referred to as "neurolaw," has become an increasingly popular area of research in recent years.<sup>21</sup> Neurolaw seeks to apply knowledge and methods from neuroscience to address legal questions.

For example, is the defendant truly responsible for his or her criminal actions? What is

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<sup>17</sup> Zico Junius Fernando et al., "The Freedom of Expression in Indonesia," *Cogent Social Sciences* 8, no. 1 (December 31, 2022): 2103944, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2022.2103944>.

<sup>18</sup> Zico Junius Fernando et al., "Preventing Bribery in the Private Sector Through Legal Reform Based on Pancasila," *Cogent Social Sciences* 8, no. 1 (December 31, 2022): 2138906, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2022.2138906>.

<sup>19</sup> Francis X. Shen, "The Law and Neuroscience Bibliography: Navigating the Emerging Field of Neurolaw<sup>†</sup>," *International Journal of Legal Information* 38, no. 3 (2010): 352-99, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0731126500005916>.

<sup>20</sup> Gerben Meynen, "Neurolaw: Neuroscience, Ethics, and Law. Review Essay," *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 17, no. 4 (August 2014): 819-29, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-014-9501-4>.

<sup>21</sup> Oliver R. Goodenough and Micaela Tucker, "Law and Cognitive Neuroscience," *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 6, no. 1 (December 1, 2010): 61-92, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.lawsocsci.093008.131523>.



a fair punishment for a criminal? Studying human brain activity, emotions, and cognition aims to provide answers to such questions. In this way, neurolaw seeks to offer a new understanding of human behavior in a legal context. While still controversial, the field is expected to contribute to improvements in the justice system and public policy in the future.<sup>22</sup>

Neurolaw, a concept that combines neuroscience with law, is a relatively new field and is still being explored in many countries, including Indonesia. Although the current understanding of neurolaw is still developing, it suggests that a knowledge of brain function and structure can have significant implications for criminal law, particularly in law enforcement and the determination of criminal responsibility.<sup>23</sup> The field has been developed and promoted by many researchers, academics and legal practitioners from various backgrounds and institutions.

Individuals such as Owen D. Jones, Francis X. Shen, Nita A. Farahany, and Oliver R. Goodenough have made significant contributions to the development of neurolaw through their research and writing. They, along with many others, have worked to explore how discoveries and concepts from neuroscience could be applied in law and law enforcement. Additionally, organizations like the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience and the Center for Law, Brain, and Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital have played a crucial role in supporting research and fostering dialogue in this field.<sup>24</sup> The concept of neurolaw, a merger of neuroscience and law, is becoming increasingly important in the context of future criminal law.<sup>25</sup> There are several reasons for this:

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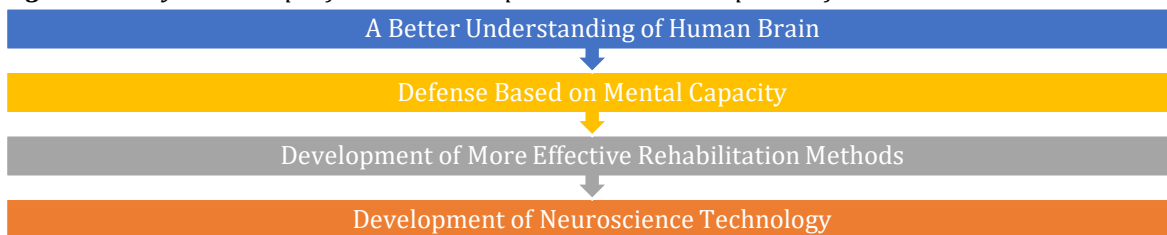
<sup>22</sup> Zico Junius Fernando et al., "The Role of Neuroprediction and Artificial Intelligence in the Future of Criminal Procedure Support Science: A New Era in Neuroscience and Criminal Justice," *Yuridika* 38, no. 3 (September 1, 2023): 593–620, <https://doi.org/10.20473/ydk.v38i3.46104>.

<sup>23</sup> Delphine Rabet, *Personhood in the Age of Biolegality: Brave New Law* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan Cham, 2020).

<sup>24</sup> Owen D. Jones, "Law & Neuroscience: What, Why, and Where to Begin," *MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience*, 2017, 1–14.

<sup>25</sup> Shane S. Bush and Chiscelyn M. Tussey, "Neuroscience and Neurolaw: Special Issue of Psychological Injury and Law," *Psychological Injury and Law* 6, no. 1 (March 2013): 1–2, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12207-013-9144-0>.

**Figure 1.** Why the concept of neurolaw is important in the development of criminal law



1) A Better Understanding of Human Brain

With the development of neuroscience, we are gaining a deeper understanding of how the human brain works.<sup>26</sup> Neuroscience offers new insights into various aspects of criminal law, such as mental capacity, sanity, and impulse control. For example, brain scans can reveal whether a person has a brain disorder that affects their behavior, or help determine if someone was truly insane when committing a crime. With a better understanding of the human brain, the criminal justice system can become fairer and more effective. Judges can make more informed decisions about criminal responsibility and appropriate punishment. Neuroscience opens up opportunities for reforming the criminal justice system to make it more humane and evidence-based.

2) Defense Based on Mental Capacity

Neuroscientific evidence can be used to support claims about the mental capacity or sanity of the defendant.<sup>27</sup> For example, if the defendant suffers from a brain disorder that impairs their ability to distinguish right from wrong, this could be a mitigating factor in sentencing. By examining brain activity, experts can assess whether the defendant is truly unable to control their behavior or understand the consequences of their actions. If so, this could serve as a defense, arguing that the defendant should not be held criminally responsible. Neuroscientific evidence offers a new approach for lawyers to defend their clients and help ensure justice is achieved in the legal system.

<sup>26</sup> Manlio De Domenico, "Multilayer Modeling and Analysis of Human Brain Networks," *GigaScience* 6, no. 5 (May 1, 2017), <https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/gix004>.

<sup>27</sup> Daniel Lawer Egbenya and Samuel Adjorlolo, "Advancement of Neuroscience and the Assessment of Mental State at the Time of Offense," *Forensic Science International: Mind and Law* 2 (November 2021): 100046, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fsimpl.2021.100046>.

### 3) Development of More Effective Rehabilitation Methods

Neurolaw can also help develop more effective rehabilitation methods for prisoners.<sup>28</sup> By understanding how the brain works, we can develop more targeted and effective rehabilitation strategies, thereby reducing recidivism rates. For example, neuroscience-based behavioral therapy can help inmates in controlling their emotions and impulses. Rehabilitation programs can be specifically designed to target certain brain areas and thought patterns that contribute to criminal behavior. With more effective, neuroscience-based rehabilitation, more prisoners will be able to successfully reintegrate into society upon release.

### 4) Development of Neuroscience Technology

Developments in neuroscience technologies, such as neuroimaging, allow us to study the human brain in ways never before possible. This technology can be applied in criminal law, for example, to support claims of mental state or brain damage.<sup>29</sup> Brain imaging techniques, such as fMRI and EEG, can detect brain activity and abnormalities.<sup>30</sup> The results of these brain imaging techniques can serve as strong scientific evidence in a trial regarding the defendant's particular mental state. As a result, judges and juries can make decisions based on scientific evidence of the brain, rather than mere speculation. The development of neuroscience technology is crucial for the future development of neurolaw.

Technically, the use of neurolaw involves applying neuroscience findings and technologies to the legal system.<sup>31</sup> This can include various elements, depending on the particular context and purpose. Here are some ways in which neurolaw can be applied technically:

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<sup>28</sup> Jonathan Pugh and Thomas Douglas, *Neurointerventions as Criminal Rehabilitation: An Ethical Review* (The Routledge Handbook of Criminal Justice Ethics, 2016), 95–109.

<sup>29</sup> Henry T. Greely and Nita A. Farahany, "Neuroscience and the Criminal Justice System," *Annual Review of Criminology* 2, no. 1 (January 13, 2019): 451–71, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-criminol-011518-024433>.

<sup>30</sup> Shiva Asadzadeh et al., "A Systematic Review of Eeg Source Localization Techniques and Their Applications on Diagnosis of Brain Abnormalities," *Journal of Neuroscience Methods* 339 (June 2020): 108740, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneumeth.2020.108740>.

<sup>31</sup> Gerben Meynen, *Legal Insanity: Explorations in Psychiatry, Law, and Ethics* (Switzerland: Springer Cham, 2016), 115.

### 1) Neuroscience Evidence in Court

Neuroscientific evidence, such as brain scans, can be used in court to support claims about the defendant's mental capacity or sanity.<sup>32</sup> For example, if the defendant has a brain disorder that affects their ability to distinguish between right from wrong, this can be a mitigating factor in sentencing. Brain imaging results can reveal specific brain abnormalities or damage relevant to the case at hand. Neuroscientific evidence provides objective scientific information about the state of the defendant's brain, beyond mere speculation or opinion. As a result, the judge can make a fairer and more informed decision based on the neuroscience evidence presented. Although still controversial, the use of neuroscience evidence in court is expected to increase in the future.

### 2) Neuroimaging in Criminal Investigation

Brain imaging (neuroimaging) technology, such as MRI or PET scans, can be used in criminal investigations to help understand an offender's motives or mental state.<sup>33</sup> For example, neuroimaging can determine if a person has brain features often associated with anti-social or violent behavior. Techniques like fMRI can identify abnormal brain activity and patterns that may contribute to criminal behavior. This information can help investigators understand what motivates a person's criminal behavior. While still controversial, some believe that neuroimaging could eventually be used alongside other evidence to determine whether someone is guilty of a crime. The use of neuroimaging in criminal investigations is expected to continue to grow in the future.

### 3) Neurofeedback in Prisoner Rehabilitation

Neurolaw can also be used to develop more effective methods of prisoner rehabilitation. For example, neurofeedback techniques, where a person learns to control their brain activity through direct feedback from brain scans, can help

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<sup>32</sup> Michael S. Gazzaniga, "Neuroscience in the Courtroom," *Scientific American* 304, no. 4 (April 2011): 54, <https://doi.org/10.1038/scientificamerican0411-54>.

<sup>33</sup> Michael J. Vitacco et al., "Limitations Using Neuroimaging to Reconstruct Mental State After a Crime," *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 30, no. 4 (October 2021): 694-701, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963180121000165>.

inmates control their urges or anti-social behavior.<sup>34</sup> With neurofeedback, prisoners are trained to regulate their own brain activity patterns. They learn to dampen areas of the brain associated with impulsive behavior and increase activity in areas responsible for self-control. Early studies reveals that neurofeedback is quite effective in rehabilitating criminal behavior. The use of neurofeedback techniques and other neuroscience interventions is expected to enhance prisoner rehabilitation programs in the future.

#### 4) Use of Neurotechnological Assistive Devices

Neurotechnology aids can be used legally, such as non-invasive brain stimulation or brain-computer interface systems. For example, they can help individuals with severe mental disorders or prisoners undergoing rehabilitation. Brain stimulation, in the form of small electric currents or magnetic fields, can modulate neural activity, improve cognitive function, or reduce the symptoms of neuropsychiatric disorders. Brain-computer interfaces allow individuals to control external devices through brain signals, which can help paralyzed patients communicate or operate a wheelchair. The use of targeted neurotechnology aids is expected to become more common in the future, both for therapeutic purposes and cognitive enhancement.

#### 5) Application in Law and Policy

Neuroscience findings and technologies can help formulate and evaluate policies and laws. For example, an understanding of adolescent brain development can be used to assess the punishment given to young lawbreakers. Research reveals that the adolescent brain is still developing rapidly into the mid-20s, particularly in areas such as self-control and risk consideration.<sup>35</sup> This information can inform youth-specific criminal law policies, such as prioritizing rehabilitation programs over harsh punishment. Similarly, neuroscience knowledge can help formulate policies on mental health, education, poverty,

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<sup>34</sup> C. Lorient, C. Ziane, and S. Ben Hamed, "Neurofeedback for Cognitive Enhancement and Intervention and Brain Plasticity," *Revue Neurologique* 177, no. 9 (November 2021): 1133–44, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neurol.2021.08.004>.

<sup>35</sup> Dustin Albert, Jason Chein, and Laurence Steinberg, "The Teenage Brain: Peer Influences on Adolescent Decision Making," *Current Directions in Psychological Science* 22, no. 2 (April 2013): 114–20, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721412471347>.

and other social issues. By understanding the biological basis of human behavior, neurolaw has the potential to provide a more objective basis for decision-making in law and public policy.

In Indonesia, the concept of neurolaw has yet to be implemented in legal practice. However, with the growing knowledge in neuroscience, the potential application of neurolaw in Indonesian criminal law is a possibility that needs to be considered. One of the most relevant applications is in the determination of criminal liability.

Traditionally, criminal law has relied on the concept that individuals can make free and rational choices and be held responsible for their actions. However, neuroscience findings suggest that some neurological conditions or brain disorders can affect an individual's decision-making ability and control over their behavior.

In this context, neurolaw can provide new insights into criminal liability. For example, if neuroscientific knowledge can prove that an individual has a brain condition affecting their ability to understand and control their behavior, this could have significant implications for criminal law. This could mean that the individual may not be fully responsible for their actions or may require a different form of punishment or rehabilitation.

However, there are challenges in applying neurolaw in criminal law. One of the challenges is how to interpret and apply neuroscience findings in a legal context. For example, how to ensure that neuroscience evidence is properly understood and used by courts, and how to keep it from being misused or over-interpreted. Additionally, there are also ethical and legal questions to consider, such as how to protect individual rights and privacy when using neuroscience evidence, and how to ensure that neuroscience findings are not used to demean or discriminate against certain individuals.<sup>36</sup> Despite these challenges, neurolaw has the potential to provide new insights and help improve the criminal justice system in Indonesia. Achieving this will require a careful and open approach, as well as collaboration between jurists,

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<sup>36</sup> Marcus Moore, "Freedom of Thought at the Ethical Frontier of Law & Science," *Ethics & Behavior* 32, no. 6 (August 18, 2022): 510–31, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10508422.2021.1928500>.

neuroscientists, and others involved in the legal system.

To proceed, it will be necessary to also refer to law enforcement. Neurolaw can provide new knowledge in law enforcement, especially in detecting and understanding criminal behavior.<sup>37</sup> For example, knowledge of how the brain and mind work can assist in understanding perpetrators' motives and intentions, as well as in identifying and preventing potential criminal behavior. Additionally, neurolaw can also support law enforcement by providing new tools and methods for investigative and judicial processes. For instance, technologies such as neuroimaging could help prove or disprove claims about certain neurological conditions that may affect a person's behavior.

However, as with determining criminal liability, using these technologies raises ethical and legal questions that must be carefully addressed. In the end, integrating neurolaw into criminal law in Indonesia will require a deep understanding of neuroscience principles and findings, as well as an understanding of how these principles and findings can be applied in a legal context. This will require collaboration between jurists, neuroscientists and others involved in the legal system. Additionally, there must be discussion and resolution of the ethical and legal issues that may arise from applying neurolaw, as well as the development of regulations and guidelines to guide the use of neuroscientific evidence in courts. It will also be crucial to provide education and training to jurists and other legal professionals about neurolaw and its implications to ensure that it is used correctly and effectively. Overcoming these challenges will be an important step in ensuring that neurolaw can improve law enforcement and justice in Indonesia.

The application of the concept of neurolaw has occurred in various countries worldwide, including but not limited to the United States, Canada, several European countries, and Australia. In U.S. cases, neuroscience data has been used in several ways, including helping to determine criminal responsibility, evaluate competence for trial, and in sentencing arguments. In Europe, legal and ethical principles encourage a

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<sup>37</sup> Arian Petoft and Mahmoud Abbasi, "Current Limits of Neurolaw: A Brief Overview," *Médecine & Droit* 2020, no. 161 (April 2020): 29–34, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meddro.2019.11.002>.

cautious approach to neurolaw, but examples of its use can also be found. For instance, in Italy, courts have considered neuroscientific evidence in sentencing decisions. In Australia, research reveals that courts have considered neuroscientific evidence, especially in cases where the accused has a brain disorder or injury. An example of a case law where neuroscientific evidence was used is *Roper v. Simmons* (2005). In this case, the US Supreme Court considered research on adolescent brain development in its decision to prohibit the death penalty for offenders under the age of 18.<sup>38</sup> This decision was based on the idea that adolescent brains are still developing, so they may not have the same level of moral responsibility as adults. Another case is *Dugan v. State* (2010), in which Brian Dugan, a defendant in a murder case, used brain scans as evidence in his sentencing trial to argue that he had a brain disorder affecting his behavior.<sup>39</sup>

Although this evidence failed to prevent the death penalty, this case is an important example of how neuroscientific evidence can be used in sentencing trials. In another example, in the Novara Serial Murder case (2009), serial killer Roberto Succo was tried in Italy, where neuroscientific evidence influenced his sentence.<sup>40</sup> Neuroimaging evidence suggests that Succo has brain pathology, which may have contributed to his behavior. The judge considered this evidence when determining his sentence.

The case of Vince Li (Canada, 2009), who was diagnosed with schizophrenia, involved him killing and mutilating bus passengers. His defense used medical evidence of his mental health condition, and he was found "not liable for reasons of mental disorder".<sup>41</sup> He was then treated in a psychiatric facility instead of jail. In another example, in the Novara Serial Murder case (2009), serial killer Roberto Succo was tried in Italy, where

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<sup>38</sup> Aronson, "The Law's Use of Brain Evidence."

<sup>39</sup> Arielle R Baskin-Sommers and Karelle Fonteneau, "Correctional Change Through Neuroscience," *Fordham Law Review* 85 (2016): 423.

<sup>40</sup> Michele Farisco and Carlo Petrini, "On the Stand. Another Episode of Neuroscience and Law Discussion from Italy," *Neuroethics* 7, no. 2 (2014): 243–45, <https://doi.org/10.1007/S12152-013-9187-7/METRICS>.

<sup>41</sup> Anne G Crocker et al., "The National Trajectory Project of Individuals Found Not Criminally Responsible on Account of Mental Disorder in Canada," *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 60, no. 3 (March 2015): 96–97, <https://doi.org/10.1177/070674371506000303>.



neuroscientific evidence influenced his sentence.<sup>42</sup> Neuroimaging evidence suggested that Succo had brain pathology, which may have contributed to his behavior. The judge considered this evidence when determining his sentence.

However, because neurolaw is such a fast-evolving field, laws and regulations may change over time and vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Therefore, it is always important to consult up-to-date and jurisdiction-specific sources when considering legal questions regarding neurolaw.

The concept of neurolaw can be very crucial for the future of criminal law in Indonesia. Here are some reasons why neurolaw can play an important role:

1) Improving Justice in the Criminal Law System

As neuroscience advances, we gain a better understanding of how the human brain works and how it affects human behavior. In criminal law, this insight can be used to consider factors such as the mental capacity and sanity of the accused, helping to ensure a fairer evaluation of the offender.

2) Development of More Effective Rehabilitation Methods

Understanding neuroscience can also help develop more effective rehabilitation methods for prisoners. For example, by understanding the link between brain and behavior, rehabilitation programs can be more targeted and effective, ultimately helping to reduce recidivism rates in Indonesia.

3) Readiness to Face Technological Developments

Technological advances, including those in neuroscience, can significantly change how the legal system works. By understanding and integrating neurolaw, the Indonesian legal system can be better prepared to address and take advantage of this development.

4) Contributions to International Law

Along with the development of neurolaw at the international level, Indonesia has the potential to contribute to establishing global standards and norms in this regard. For example, through research and application of neurolaw,

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<sup>42</sup> Cristina Scarpazza et al., "The Role of Neuroscience in the Evaluation of Mental Insanity: On the Controversies in Italy: Comment on 'on the Stand. Another Episode of Neuroscience and Law Discussion from Italy,'" *Neuroethics* 11, no. 1 (April 2018): 83–95, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12152-017-9349-0>.

Indonesia can share its experiences and best practices with the international community.

However, while applying the concept of neurolaw concept in Indonesia has the potential to offer significant benefits, it also poses some challenges.

**Table 1.** *Potential Benefits and Challenges of Implementing the Concept of Neurolaw in Indonesia*

No.	Benefit/ Challenges	Detail
<i>Benefit</i>		
1.	Improving Justice in Courts	Neurolaw can assist in determining a fairer sentence by considering neurological factors such as brain disorders or mental health issues that may affect a person's behavior.
2.	Inform Public Policy and Legal Practice	Knowledge from neuroscience can inform public policy and legal practice by providing a better understanding of how the human brain works and how this can influence behavior.
3.	Improving Rehabilitation Methods	Neurolaw can contribute to developing more effective rehabilitation programs by enhancing our better understanding of the human brain and behavior.
4.	Preparing for New Technologies	Neurolaw can help Indonesia prepare to face and take advantage of new technological developments in neuroscience.
<i>Challenges</i>		
1.	Use of Neuroscience Evidence	One of the main challenges is how neuroscientific evidence is used in court. There is a risk that such evidence could be misused or misinterpreted.
2.	Privacy and Human Rights Issues	The use of neuroscience technology can raise questions about privacy and human rights. For example, how individual rights could be protected when using technology such as neuroimaging in a legal context.
3.	Access and Equality:	There are also concerns about who has access to neuroscience technologies and how to ensure that their use does not exacerbate social and economic inequality.
4.	Education and training	There is a need for adequate education and training for legal professionals and others about neuroscience and how research results can be used in a legal context.

The application of Neurolaw encompasses juridical, philosophical, and sociological objectives that work together to achieve a more humane and holistic form of justice.

From a juridical perspective, Neurolaw aims to establish a more scientific and objective legal foundation in enforcing laws and deciding criminal cases. By introducing neuroscientific evidence, such as brain scans or proof of neurological disorders, the legal system can better assess an individual's mental capacity and criminal responsibility. This approach ensures that individuals are treated fairly based on their physical and mental conditions, which may impact their behavior. Additionally, the juridical objective also includes the use of neuroscience technology to enhance accuracy and fairness in gathering and interpreting evidence in court. On the other hand, the philosophical objective of Neurolaw is to deepen the understanding of justice and individual responsibility in the context of criminal law. Neurolaw offers a new perspective on free will and moral accountability, considering that certain criminal actions may stem from neurological or biological factors beyond the offender's control. As such, Neurolaw encourages the judiciary to understand and consider these factors in determining sentences, aiming to achieve substantive justice.

This philosophical goal emphasizes that justice should not solely be based on actions but should also take into account the conditions and underlying factors influencing those actions. Furthermore, from a sociological perspective, Neurolaw seeks to enhance public understanding of the role of science, especially neuroscience, within the legal system. By utilizing neuroscience in law enforcement, the public is expected to gain a deeper appreciation for science-based rehabilitation methods designed to reduce recidivism rates and support offenders in reintegrating into society. Neurolaw can also boost public trust in the justice system by demonstrating that legal decisions are based on scientific evidence and objective reasoning. This approach has the potential to strengthen legal legitimacy in society and promote a more inclusive understanding of the factors influencing criminal behavior. Overall, the application of Neurolaw in criminal law strives to achieve comprehensive justice, considering not only legal aspects but also philosophical and sociological dimensions, which together support a fairer and more human-centered legal system.

## **5. The Concept of Neurolaw in Assisting the Development of Criminal Law in Indonesia**

Neurolaw, a field of study combining neuroscience and law, is a relatively new and still

developing phenomenon. Although the underlying concepts and ideas have existed for some time, their significant development began in the late 20th and early 21st centuries with advances in neuroscientific technology.<sup>43</sup> Neurolaw is a product of these advances in neuroscience.<sup>44</sup> As knowledge about the human brain grows, so does our understanding of how brain structure and function influence behavior.<sup>45</sup> This opens the door to questions about how this knowledge can be applied in law. For instance, how evidence about an individual's brain function can be used in court, or how a new understanding of the brain can help prisoners' rehabilitation process.

The concept of neurolaw has the potential to assist the development of criminal law in Indonesia, particularly through the application of knowledge from neuroscience, which can significantly contribute to the development of more effective rehabilitation methods for prisoners in Indonesia. First, understanding neuroscience can provide new insights into how and why individuals commit crimes. For example, understanding how certain brain conditions or other neurobiological factors can influence behavior may help identify risk factors for criminal behavior and design targeted interventions to reduce those risks. Second, neurolaw can also provide insight into how behavior can be changed.<sup>46</sup>

For instance, approaches based on the principle of neuroplasticity (the brain's ability to change and adapt in response to experience) can be used to help prisoners build new, more adaptive skills and behaviors. However, there are also challenges in applying neurolaw to develop rehabilitation methods. One of the main challenges is converting knowledge from neuroscience into practical interventions that can be applied in rehabilitation settings. This will require cooperation between lawyers, neuroscientists, psychologists and other rehabilitation professionals. Additionally, challenges exist in measuring the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions based on neurolaw. Further research will be required to evaluate these interventions'

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<sup>43</sup> Marcello Ienca, "On Neurorights," *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 15 (September 24, 2021): 701258, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2021.701258>.

<sup>44</sup> David E. J. Linden, *Neurolaw: Advances in Neuroscience, Justice & Security*, ed. Gerben Meynen Sjors Ligthart et al. (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan Cham, 2021), 3–4.

<sup>45</sup> Eugenio Picozza, *Neurolaw: An Introduction*, *Neurolaw: An Introduction* (New York: Springer International Publishing, 2016), 21–22.

<sup>46</sup> Linden, *Neurolaw: Advances in Neuroscience, Justice & Security*.

effectiveness and to understand how they can be improved. Ethical questions should also be considered when applying neurolaw in rehabilitation. For instance, how the rights and dignity of prisoners can be protected during the rehabilitation process, and how we can ensure that interventions based on neurolaw are not used to control or manipulate individuals in an unethical way. Despite these challenges, neurolaw has the potential to contribute to the development of more effective methods of rehabilitation for prisoners in Indonesia. An integrated, collaborative, ethical approach will be required to realize this potential.

In the context of rehabilitation, neurolaw can help implement a more individualized and personalized approach. By understanding how brain conditions and other neurobiological factors influence behavior, we can design rehabilitation programs that are tailored to individual needs and conditions. This approach can be more effective in helping prisoners to make positive changes and sustain those changes. Additionally, neurolaw can assist in identifying and treating mental conditions or disorders that may contribute to criminal behavior. For example, if a prisoner suffers from a disorder such as ADHD or PTSD, it may affect their ability to control their behavior. In that case, neuroscience knowledge can help identify and treat these conditions, which in turn can assist in the rehabilitation process. However, a collaboration between various parties will be required to truly harness the potential of neurolaw in developing more effective rehabilitation methods. This includes lawyers, neuroscientists, psychologists, rehabilitation professionals, and others such as policymakers and social workers. Such collaboration will be essential to ensure that knowledge from neuroscience is applied ethically and effectively, taking into account individual needs and rights.<sup>47</sup> Ultimately, despite the challenges, with the right approach, neurolaw can play an important role in helping Indonesia develop more effective and individualized rehabilitation methods, which in turn can help prevent recidivism and support prisoners to have more successful reintegration into society.

The pattern used in applying neurolaw in prisoner rehabilitation will depend on

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<sup>47</sup> Diego Borbón and Luisa Borbón, "A Critical Perspective on NeuroRights: Comments Regarding Ethics and Law," *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 15 (2021): 1–4, <https://doi.org/10.3389/FNHUM.2021.703121/BIBTEX>.

various factors, including the specific circumstances and needs of the individual, available resources, and current knowledge of neuroscience. However, here are some common patterns that might be used:

1) Individual Approach

Every individual is unique in terms of their brain condition and neurobiology. Therefore, rehabilitation methods must be personalized to meet each individual's specific needs and conditions. This may involve a neurological evaluation to determine an individual's brain condition and other neurobiological factors that may be influencing their behavior and then using this information to design a targeted rehabilitation program.

2) Use of Neuroscience Technology

Neuroscience technologies, such as neuroimaging and neurofeedback, can be used in rehabilitation. For example, neuroimaging can identify brain changes that may be associated with criminal behavior, while neurofeedback can help individuals learn to control and change their patterns of brain activity.

3) Holistic Approach

Rehabilitation based on neurolaw must consider the individual as a whole, addressing not only the condition of their brain but also the psychological, social and environmental factors that may influence their behavior. This approach may involve a combination of neuroscience-based therapy with other interventions such as psychological counselling, education, and life skills training.

4) Evidence-Based Approach

Rehabilitation interventions should be grounded in current research and evidence from neuroscience and related fields. This means that rehabilitation methods must be constantly updated and adapted as knowledge and technology develop.

5) Ethical Approach

The use of neurolaw in rehabilitation must be carried out in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of the individual. This may involve ethical considerations regarding how neuroscience technology is used, how

information about an individual's brain condition is obtained and applied, and how to ensure that individuals are not coerced or manipulated in rehabilitation.

Implementing these patterns can help ensure that neurolaw is used in an effective and ethical manner in inmate rehabilitation. Neurolaw can be applied with various tools, most of which are rooted in neuroscience. The following are some tools commonly used in neurolaw:

1) Neuroimaging

Techniques such as MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), fMRI (functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging), PET (Positron Emission Tomography), and DTI (Diffusion Tensor Imaging) are used to visualize and monitor brain activity. They can help identify unique brain activity patterns or structural changes associated with certain behaviors or mental states.<sup>48</sup>

2) Neuropsychological Testing

This test is used to evaluate an individual's cognitive and behavioral functioning, which can assist in determining whether there is a neurological or psychiatric disorder may be affecting their behavior.<sup>49</sup>

3) EEG (Electroencephalography)

This technique tracks and records brain wave patterns, which can assist in detecting changes in brain activity.<sup>50</sup>

4) Neurofeedback

This technique involves using biofeedback technology to help individuals learn how to control and change their patterns of brain activity.<sup>51</sup>

5) Genomic Testing

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<sup>48</sup> Dieter F Braus, "[Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) and Functional Magnetic Resonance Tomography (fMRI) Expand Methodological Spectrum in Psychiatric Research]," *Der Nervenarzt* 72, no. 5 (2001): 384–90.

<sup>49</sup> Chiara Zucchella et al., "Neuropsychological Testing," *Practical Neurology* 18, no. 3 (June 2018): 227–37, <https://doi.org/10.1136/practneurol-2017-001743>.

<sup>50</sup> Mahtab Roohi-Azizi et al., "Changes of the Brain's Bioelectrical Activity in Cognition, Consciousness, and Some Mental Disorders," *Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran* 31, no. 1 (December 30, 2017): 307–12, <https://doi.org/10.14196/mjiri.31.53>.

<sup>51</sup> Savani Bartholdy et al., "The Potential of Neurofeedback in the Treatment of Eating Disorders: A Review of the Literature," *European Eating Disorders Review* 21, no. 6 (November 2013): 456–63, <https://doi.org/10.1002/erv.2250>.

While it is not a neuroscience tool specifically, genetic testing can be used in the context of neurolaw to understand how genetic variation might contribute to behavior.<sup>52</sup>

Several neuroimaging techniques, such as MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), fMRI (functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging), PET (Positron Emission Tomography), and DTI (Diffusion Tensor Imaging), are used to visualize and monitor brain activity. They can help identify unique patterns of brain activity or structural changes associated with certain behaviors or mental states. Neuropsychological tests are used to evaluate a person's cognitive function and behavior, helping to determine any neurological or psychiatric disorders are affecting their actions. EEG (electroencephalography) techniques track and record brain wave patterns, which can detect changes in brain activity.

Neurofeedback uses biofeedback technology to help individuals learn to control and change their brain activity patterns. Genomic testing, while not a neuroscience tool specifically, can be used in the context of neurolaw to understand how genetic variations might contribute to behavior. It is important to remember that these tools provide only additional information that can help understand behavior and legal decision-making. However, their use in a legal context also raises significant questions about privacy, consent, and the interpretation of results.

While these neuroscience tools have the potential to offer valuable insights, we must be cautious in their interpretation and application within the legal system. Neuroscience data is only one type of evidence that must be considered alongside other evidence and it cannot be an absolute determinant of truth. Additionally, many other factors outside the brain, such as one's environment and life experiences, can influence behavior. Therefore, neuroscientific information should be used wisely by law enforcers, lawyers, and policymakers in making fair and appropriate decisions. The application of neuroscientific tools and techniques in law should be done with great care, taking into account ethical standards and the protection of individual privacy.

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<sup>52</sup> Jelle J. Goeman and Aldo Solari, "Multiple Hypothesis Testing in Genomics," *Statistics in Medicine* 33, no. 11 (May 20, 2014): 1946–78, <https://doi.org/10.1002/sim.6082>.



In the context of criminal liability, the principle of mens rea (guilty mind) has traditionally served as the foundation for determining criminal responsibility. Criminal law assumes that every individual is capable of making rational decisions and understanding the consequences of their actions. However, the development of neurolaw challenges this assumption by introducing scientific evidence about brain function that may impair an individual's ability to act rationally or control their behavior. Neuroscientific evidence, such as brain scans showing damage to areas responsible for impulse control or decision-making, may indicate that the defendant's capacity to form intent has been diminished.

This raises questions about the partial or even complete elimination of responsibility in cases where neurological impairments significantly influence behavior. Criminal liability theories, such as the excuse theory, suggest that individuals can be excused from responsibility when they lack the mental capacity to understand their actions. Neurolaw can redefine the thresholds for mental illness or incapacity defenses, potentially leading to new interpretations of diminished responsibility. However, a major challenge is distinguishing individuals who are genuinely affected by neurological impairments from those who might exaggerate symptoms to avoid punishment, as well as ensuring that courts interpret neuroscientific evidence accurately without over-relying on scientific findings.

Neurolaw has the potential to reshape the philosophy of punishment by introducing new approaches to understanding human behavior. In traditional criminal justice systems, punishment is often justified by the principles of retribution, deterrence, rehabilitation, and incapacitation. However, neurolaw challenges the idea of retributive justice by questioning whether it is morally justifiable to punish individuals whose criminal actions may be influenced by neurological impairments. For example, neuroscience research on brain development reveals that the human brain, especially in adolescence, is not fully developed, which can affect an individual's ability to make rational decisions and control impulsive behavior. As a result, neurolaw may also shift the approach to deterrence, suggesting that for individuals with certain neurological impairments, traditional punishments like imprisonment may not effectively prevent future criminal behavior.

Additionally, neurolaw opens opportunities for introducing more effective rehabilitation methods. A deeper understanding of how the brain works could allow law enforcement to design rehabilitation programs that are more specific and effective, ultimately reducing recidivism rates. For instance, neuroscience-based behavioral therapies that target neuroplasticity (the brain's ability to change) can help inmates manage impulses and emotions that may lead to criminal behavior. In this way, neurolaw could shift the rehabilitation paradigm from mere containment to a more humanistic, evidence-based approach.

Traditional penitentiary systems often apply a one-size-fits-all approach to inmate rehabilitation, which may not address individual neurological or psychological needs. Neurolaw provides solutions by introducing personalized rehabilitation programs based on neurological evaluations. Drawing on criminology theories like social learning theory and strain theory, neurolaw suggests that brain-based interventions can prevent future criminal behavior by targeting underlying neurological causes. For example, neurofeedback and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) could be incorporated into inmate rehabilitation programs to help those with impulse control issues or aggressive tendencies. As such, neurolaw can contribute to a penitentiary reform that emphasizes rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society.

In criminology, neurolaw provides scientific support for longstanding theories about the relationship between biology, behavior, and crime. For example, early biological theories of crime, such as Lombroso's theory, suggested that criminal behavior could be linked to certain biological traits. Neurolaw refines this theory by showing that specific brain conditions, such as damage to the frontal lobe, which is responsible for impulse control, may contribute to criminal behavior. However, neurolaw also emphasizes that environmental and social factors remain crucial in shaping behavior. In the context of rational choice theory, neurolaw challenges the assumption that individuals are always capable of making rational decisions. Brain damage or neurological impairments can affect an individual's ability to weigh risks and consequences, potentially leading to irrational criminal acts.

The application of neurolaw in Indonesia's criminal law presents both challenges and

significant opportunities for creating a more just and humane legal system. As a country that bases its legal system on the principles of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, Indonesia is committed to respecting human dignity and upholding social justice. The implementation of neurolaw could help Indonesia achieve these goals by introducing more evidence-based approaches to determining criminal responsibility and designing more effective rehabilitation programs for inmates. However, achieving this requires collaboration between legal experts, neuroscientists, and policymakers to ensure that neuroscientific evidence is used ethically and appropriately within the legal system.

## **6. Conclusion**

Neurolaw, a field that integrates neuroscience and law, holds significant potential to shape the future of criminal law, including in Indonesia. This study has examined the concept of neurolaw, its history, its development, and its application within criminal law, highlighting both the benefits and challenges it presents. The core idea of neurolaw is that human behavior, including criminal behavior, is influenced by the brain's structure and function. Therefore, a deeper understanding of the brain can enhance how we interpret, prevent, and address criminal behavior. In the United States and other countries, neurolaw is already being applied to assess criminal liability and improve rehabilitation methods. In Indonesia, adopting neurolaw could bring numerous advantages, such as enabling fairer sentences that consider neurological factors, influencing public policy and legal practices with neuroscience insights, facilitating the development of more effective rehabilitation programs, and preparing the legal system to manage new advancements in neuroscience. However, the integration of neurolaw also raises several challenges. These include ensuring the proper use of neuroscience evidence in court, protecting privacy and human rights in neuroscience applications, addressing access and equity in neuroscience technology, and providing adequate education and training for legal professionals on neuroscience. Despite these challenges, advancements in neuroscience and the growing need to adapt the legal system underscore neurolaw's relevance for the future of criminal law in Indonesia. Implementing neurolaw could improve the criminal justice system by introducing neuroscience-based rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities to

create targeted interventions, particularly for offenders with neurological conditions. Neurological evaluations could assist judges in assessing criminal responsibility, promoting fairer sentencing, especially in cases involving mental health conditions. Additionally, training programs for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers would be essential to ensure the proper application of neuroscientific evidence in court. Privacy regulations must also be developed to protect the personal data gathered through neuroscience technologies in legal contexts. Further research and dialogue are crucial to effectively adapting neurolaw in Indonesia. International case studies from countries like the United States, Japan, and Italy offer practical models that can be tailored to Indonesia's legal context. Research on the impact of neuroscience-based rehabilitation on recidivism rates, as well as studies on public perception of neuroscience's role in criminal responsibility, will also provide valuable insights. Together, these efforts will support the development of a neurolaw framework that upholds humane, evidence-based justice principles in Indonesia, guiding the legal system towards a more nuanced and fair approach to criminal responsibility and rehabilitation.

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contributes to the conversation, providing valuable insights and perspectives that help in understanding the complexities of legal situations in our societal context.

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