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Trained as a lawyer, with a Ph.D. in Public Administration, Dr. Chanin’s scholarly interests lie at the intersection of law, criminal justice, and governance. He has used both quantitative and qualitative techniques to examine the extent to which constitutional law and legal values, like due process, equity, and transparency, shape the administration of public programs.

Much of Dr. Chanin’s work has focused on policing. He has written extensively about the U.S. Department of Justice’s “pattern or practice” initiative, with a focus on the implementation and sustainability of federal efforts to remedy systematic misconduct among state and local police departments. He has also written about the disparate impacts of police enforcement and how the various individual, organizational, and contextual factors that shape bureaucratic behavior affect the treatment of racial minorities. He is currently working on a project related to police transparency.

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