The discovery of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which permits non-invasive imaging of brain function, was an immense scientific breakthrough that seemed to create the possibility of previously unimaginable understanding of the relation between brain function, mind and behavior. Legal academics and lawyers, especially within criminal law, were quick to embrace this new technology. Some thought new discoveries might cause profound changes in legal doctrine and practice and perhaps even revolutionary reforms. This talk addresses the current state of law and neuroscience and suggests that legal changes based on neuroscience have been few to date and that contributions for the foreseeable future will be modest.

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