



William J. Mathias
11th ACJS President
1973-1974

William J. Mathias was born in Atlanta and raised in Wilmington, NC. He attended the University of Georgia, where he earned his B.B.A., M.S. and Ed.D. degrees. Prior to graduate study, he founded the University of Georgia Police, one of the first such units in the South before the advent of state mandated police standards in Georgia and most other states. Experience in this position made clear the urgent and critical need for professional development of police and criminal justice personnel.

After four years, he entered graduate school at UGA in educational psychology on a National Defense Education Act Fellowship preparing for a career in developing criminal justice personnel. During graduate school, he served as a criminal justice training coordinator for the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at UGA.

Upon graduation he initiated criminal justice degrees from the associate through the masters level at Georgia State University in Atlanta 1967-1975. Mathias joined the International Association of Police Professors in 1967 and was an advocate for the later name change to the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Former ACJS President Gordon Misner once noted that it was Mathias who articulated the constraints associated with using individual faculty members with limited institutional resources as the sole support of the organization. Mathias twice served ACJS as the Secretary/Treasurer, was appointed to serve on the Standards Committee in 1973 and elected President in 1973. During his tenure as ACJS President, Mathias advocated for the creation of a national secretariat, supported the concept that ACJS should be an accrediting body in the criminal justice field, and urged that ACJS affiliate with the *Journal of Criminal Justice*, published by Pergamon Press and edited by Kent Joscelyn of Indiana University. Two of Mathias' proposals would come to fruition; affiliation with the journal was achieved in 1976 and the national secretariat was created in 1982.

After eight years at Georgia State, he was selected as the first dean of the College of Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina serving from 1975-1994 before moving fulltime to the classroom until retirement. The College of Criminal Justice was created and funded by special legislation passed by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1974. Upon retirement from the University of South Carolina in 2002, he was honored with the titles Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice Emeritus.

After his tenure as ACJS President, Mathias remained involved in both ACJS and SCJA while continuing to teach at the University of South Carolina. He authored or co-authored a number of articles and monographs including *Out-of-Home Placement of Children: SC Orphanages from 1790-1900*, *School Safety as a New Millennium Begins* and *Criminal Justice Architecture: A Tribute to Robert Mills* as well as two books; *Horse to Helicopter: The First Century of the Atlanta Police Department* (1973) and *Foundations of Criminal Justice* with Prentice Hall (1980).

With grant support from the U. S. Department of Justice In 1972, Mathias hosted the inaugural meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA) and served as the Association's first President from 1972-1973.

Mathias served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve for 10 years, both as enlisted and officer, in what was then the brand new field of Port Security, now an integral component of the U. S. Department of Homeland Security.

Since retirement he has remained active in the study of youth-at-risk, child abuse, history of criminal justice, school security and continuing professional development issues.