



George T. Felkenes
13th ACJS President
1975-1976

George T. Felkenes was born in Dayton, Ohio in 1930. After graduating from high school in 1949, he attended the University of Maryland where he earned both his B.S. and J.D. He then changed coasts, and after earning a M.A. at California State University he enrolled in the D.Crim. program in Criminology at the University of California at Berkeley. While there, he was a student of Gordon Misner (ACJS President 1971-1972 & 1976-1977) who took him under his wing.

Upon completion of his Ph.D., Felkenes obtained an academic appointment at Long Beach State College where he was placed in charge of restructuring the program from law enforcement to the more modern criminal justice. After successfully updating the program, he accepted a position as Chair and Professor of the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, where he served from 1971 until 1977.

Because of his association with Misner, Felkenes became a member of ACJS and was part of the Hard Labor Creek Group. He was an advocate of a more liberal arts orientations and not the “nuts-and-bolts” courses which put him at odds with the more grounded police professors. Felkenes was also an advocate for ACJS accreditation and he became a member of the accreditation committee, and just prior to the Executive Board voting its demise, served as the committee’s chair.

Elected in 1975 as the 13th ACJS president, he faced a number of issues during his presidency. The first was an external issue when the Ford Administration threatened to cut the Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP) funding in half. The LEEP funding had generated a number of criminal justice programs, but more importantly, it was funding police officers to enroll in higher criminal justice education programs. Felkenes was called to testify before the United States Congress on behalf of criminal justice/law enforcement educators in the United States. The second issue was internal, for it was discovered that someone had embezzled most of the funds from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the organization was nearly bankrupt. Felkenes looked to his friend Richter H. Moore, Jr. (ACJS President 1978-1979) to help recover from this devastating blow.

During this time period, Felkenes authored a number of books including *The Criminal Justice System: Its Functions and Personnel* (Prentice Hall, 1974), *Constitutional Law for Criminal Justice* (Prentice Hall, 1978), and *Criminal Law and Procedure: Text and Cases, 2nd Edition* (Prentice Hall, 1985).

In 1977, Felkenes took a position as the head of the criminal justice program at Michigan State University, where he served for three years. He then decided to return to California State University in Long Beach in 1980, where he was appointed Dean of Arts and Sciences. He served in that position until 1985, when he took his final academic appointment as Professor of Political Science (Criminal Justice) at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. In 1995, Dr. Felkenes retired as Professor Emeritus Claremont Graduate University, and now resides in Portland, Oregon.

In 1978, Felkenes was awarded the ACJS Founder’s Award.