



**Richard R. Bennett**  
**40<sup>th</sup> ACJS President**  
**2002-2003**

Richard R. Bennett was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on June 3, 1944. He attended college at Randolph-Macon in Ashland, VA, graduating with a major in Sociology. He received his Master's degree from Florida State University in Criminology in 1970 and completed his Ph.D. in 1976 in the Sociology Department at Washington State University.

After completing his Master's degree, Bennett accepted a teaching position at East Tennessee State University and later became a Deputy Sheriff- Criminal Investigator with the Washington County Sheriff's Department in 1970. He also served as the Director of Research for the First Tennessee Region Law Enforcement Planning Agency. When he moved to Washington State to work on his Ph.D., Bennett secured a part-time position as Deputy Sheriff with the Whitman County Sheriff's Department. Upon completing his degree he accepted a teaching position at Youngstown State University (1975-1977) and later became an Associate Research Scientist in the Policy Analysis Division for the Highway Safety Research Institute at the University of Michigan, serving from 1977 to 1979.

Bennett currently serves as a Professor of Justice in the Department of Justice, Law and Society at American University in Washington, DC. He has taught graduate and undergraduate students for nearly 34 years at American University and he has served as department chair for two terms and as associate dean of the School of Public Affairs.

A member since 1972, Bennett became active in ACJS affairs after his move to American University. He was first elected to serve as Trustee-at-Large from 1980-1983, and was the chair of the Committee on Journal Publication in 1982, which created *Justice Quarterly*. When ACJS decided to move its headquarters to the Washington, D.C., area, Bennett served as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the ACJS National Office from 1998 to 1999, and he eventually spearheaded the move of the national office from Alexandria, Virginia to Greenbelt, Maryland, which was concluded in 2001. During his second term as Trustee-at-large, he chaired the Ethics Committee which created ACJS' Code of Ethics that took effect in March, 2000. In 2000, Bennett was elected Second Vice President of ACJS.

His areas of expertise and research are in comparative crime and criminal justice. He has conducted research and published over 60 articles in the areas of cross-national correlates of crime, and police attitudes, behaviors and procedures including a book, *Police at Work* (Sage). His work has appeared in *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Social Forces* and other referred journals in the field.

He is currently researching crime and police issues in post-colonial societies, and has just finished a United Nation's-funded research project focused on policing in the Caribbean. His related book, *Policing Paradise*, is nearing completion. Bennett has also served as the principal investigator on several U.S. State Department grants that have provided anti-terrorism and advanced police strategic training to delegations from 44 countries.

Bennett was awarded a Senior Fulbright Scholar to three Caribbean nations in 1994. He is also the recipient of the ACJS's Founder's Award and the International Section's Mueller Award for outstanding contributions to the field of comparative criminal justice.