



Gary Cordner
36th ACJS President
1998-1999

Gary Cordner was born and raised in Maryland, and upon graduation from high school attended Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. While a student of criminal justice, Cordner became a Seasonal Officer with the Ocean City, Maryland, Police Department, working summers as a police officer. Upon graduating with his B.S., he worked full-time in Ocean City for two years and then attended Michigan State University where he earned his M.S. in 1979 and his Ph.D. in Social Science in 1980.

Cordner's first academic post was at Washington State University where he worked one year as an Assistant Professor, before taking a similar position at the University of Baltimore in 1981. He served there for two years and then became the Chief of Police in St. Michaels, Maryland. After serving as Chief for three years, he obtained a position in Eastern Kentucky University's College of Law Enforcement (now the College of Justice & Safety), where he worked through the academic ranks, becoming Professor of Police Studies and served as the Dean from 1997 to 2003. In addition to all of this, he served as the editor of *American Journal of Police* (1987-1992), was a Visiting Fellow at the National Institute of Justice (1994-1995), and became the founding editor of *Police Quarterly* (1997-2002).

Cordner became involved with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in the late 1970s as a graduate student and winner of the Outstanding Student Paper Award. He joined the Awards Committee and served as its chair from 1982-1983, he helped co-found the Police Section, the first of the ACJS Sections, in 1989, he was the Program Chair for the annual meeting in 1991, and he served as the Chair of the Police Section from 1993-1995. In light of his service to ACJS, and because of his service as Dean and editor, Cordner was elected to the Vice Presidency and served as the 36th President of ACJS.

According to Cordner, he was especially proud of becoming President, for as he explained, "It was a special honor for me to follow in the footsteps of my mentor Robert Sheehan from Northeastern University, who was the 5th ACJS President, serving in 1967-1968." While President, he oversaw a successful conference in Orlando, Florida, and most significantly, he oversaw the move of the ACJS national headquarters from Northern Kentucky University to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

After his Presidency, Cordner served as the Director of the Kentucky Regional Community Policing Institute (1996-2007) and Director of the International Justice & Safety Institute (2001-2007), and he continued to serve at Eastern Kentucky University until his retirement in 2007. Not one to take it easy, Cordner became a Co-Principal Investigator with the National Police Research Platform (2008), a Commissioner with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) (2006), a Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania (2008), and he has held a joint appointment with the Division of Public Safety Leadership at Johns Hopkins University since 2012.

Cordner has earned a number of awards and recognitions over the course of his career, including a place on the Wall of Fame in the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University and the Outstanding Criminal Justice Educator Award from the Southern Criminal Justice Association. In the Academy, he has been awarded the O.W. Wilson Award by the Police Section (2007), the Outstanding Paper Award (2004), and he was made an ACJS Fellow in 2006.