



Harry E. Allen
32nd ACJS President
1994-1995

Harry E. Allen was born in Selma, Alabama on February 16, 1938. His stepfather was a career military officer, so much of his residency in earlier years was geographically scattered. He attended college at Stetson University in Deland, Florida, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960. He was ordained a Southern Baptist minister in 1959. He continued his education at Vanderbilt University, obtaining a Master of Arts degree before he enrolled at The Ohio State University to study under Simon Dinitz and Walter Reckless. A newly-minted Ph.D. (1969), he taught at Florida State University briefly before being recalled to Ohio to serve as Executive Secretary of the Ohio Governor's Task Force on Corrections.

His work for the Task Force led to an invitation to join the School of Public Administration at The Ohio State University as a tenured Associate Professor (1971) and Professor (1975), and as Director of the Program for the Study of Crime and Delinquency. He recruited and surrounded himself with exceptional doctoral candidates and undertook an extensive research program culminating in over 100 papers presented at professional meetings of relevant criminology and justice programs, 20 monographs, many chapters in books, and 19 books authored, co-authored or edited. With graduate student Clifford Simonsen, he authored in 1975 what is the longest continuously published corrections textbook, now in its 13th edition (*Corrections in America*). He takes particular pride in the careers and performances of his former doctoral graduates, including Edward Latessa, Gennaro Vito, Chris Eskridge, Rick Seiter, and Charles Eden, among numerous others.

In 1978, when The Ohio State University was buffeted by arctic weather and -63 degree wind chill factor, he received and accepted an offer to teach at San Jose State University in the Department of Justice Studies, San Jose, California. He taught a wide variety of core and elective courses, and retired in 1998 to return to seminary at the Pacific School of Religion on "Holy Hill" in Berkeley, California. Professor Allen remains Professor Emeritus, San Jose State University.

Professor Allen was extensively active in the leadership of professional organizations. He was the first criminologist to serve as President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the American Society of Criminology. In the Academy, he served as Program Committee Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, President (Second Vice-President, First Vice-President, President and Immediate Past President), among other roles.

Harry Allen has received many recognitions, awards and honors, including the Block Award (American Society of Criminology). In 1996, he was recognized as the most-often cited scholar in Corrections, is a Fellow in the Western Society of Criminology, Recipient of the Founders Award and an Outstanding Mentor Award of the Academy, among others. In 2001, he was Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the University of Louisville.

In 2002, Harry Allen began online teaching for the University of Louisville, team-teaching with his husband Bruce Ponder on a wide variety of courses, including Corrections, Community Corrections, Victimology, Alternatives to Incarceration, International Terrorism, Intelligence and Homeland Security, Drug Abuse, and Ethics.

An online interview of Harry Allen can be found at: http://www.asc41.com/videos/Oral_History/Harry_Allen.html