



Richard A. Myren
10th ACJS President
1972-1973

Richard A. Myren was born on August 9, 1924 in Madison, Wisconsin, to a father who was of Norwegian descent. Growing up in Madison, he developed a strong desire to attend the University of Wisconsin, where he did enroll in the fall of 1942. His plans for obtaining a degree in chemistry were interrupted by World War II. He was drafted, mobilized, and sent to serve in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater. Upon his return from military service in 1946, he returned to working on his Bachelor's degree in chemistry, and he graduated in May of 1948. While attending the University of Wisconsin the second time around, he met Patricia Ross Hubin, and they were married on June 12, 1948. Together they had four children.

Upon graduation, Myren obtained a position in his chosen field as a research chemist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Northern Regional Research Lab (NORLAB). He was employed in the position for a little over one year, from 1948 to 1949, but he found the life of a lab researcher not to his liking. He then applied and was accepted into Harvard University's Law School, graduating in 1952 with his LLB.

He moved his family to North Carolina, where he obtained a position in the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, working his way up to Assistant Director. While there, he joined the Naval Intelligence Reserve, receiving a commission as an officer, and he remained in the Reserves until 1968. He also studied for admission to the Bar in North Carolina and, after passing the examination, was admitted in 1954. While working for the institute he published a number of studies including, *Coroners in North Carolina: A Discussion of their Problems* (Institute of Government, 1953) and *Police Work with Children Perspectives and Principles* (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1962).

In 1956, he left the institute after securing a teaching position in the Department of Police Science as an Assistant Professor of Police Administration at Indiana University in Bloomington. His plan was to return to Wisconsin, but in 1966, the position of Dean in a new law enforcement program at the State University of New York at Albany (SUNY) became available. He applied and joined the faculty at Albany in the summer of 1966 as the first Dean. While there he pushed police education more toward the liberal arts and, eventually, criminal justice academics, after becoming a consultant to the Law Enforcement Assistant Administration, a role he would retain until the LEAA was shut down in 1982.

Myren joined the IAPP during this time period and, along with his good friend Donald Riddle, began pushing the Academy toward becoming a more scholarly academic organization. In 1972 he was elected President of ACJS. Although originally against accreditation, as was Riddle, when Myren became president he abandoned his friend and advocated for ACJS becoming an accrediting organization. In addition, during his presidency, he created the office of ACJS Historian.

After his tenure as President, Myren continued as the Dean at Albany, before taking a position in 1976 in the School of Justice at American University in Washington, D.C. That same year he completed his LLD from the University of New Haven's Law School. While at American he conducted a study on Criminal Justice education for the Coordinating Council of Higher Education, and as a result of that study, he advocated calling these programs and the discipline "Justicology."

Myren retired from American University in 1986 and was named Professor Emeritus. His papers are housed in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Albany.