



Edward Latessa
27th ACJS President
1989-1990

Edward Latessa was born and raised in Ohio, and upon graduation from high school attended Ohio State University. He graduated from Ohio State with a B.S. in Humanities Education in 1976, an M.A. in Public Administration in 1977, and the Ph.D. in Public Administration in 1979. It was during his studies in Public Administration that he became interested in the study of criminal justice, and working as the Assistant Director in the Program for the Study of Crime & Delinquency.

In 1979, the newly minted Dr. Latessa accepted his first tenure-track position in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. He served one year there before accepting a similar position in his home state of Ohio at the University of Cincinnati, where he has remained ever since. At the University of Cincinnati he obtained the rank of Professor, served as the Criminal Justice Graduate Director (1981-1982), Program Coordinator (1982-1985), and in 1985, he was appointed as Department Chair. The position evolved into the Division Head of the Division of Criminal Justice, then Director of the School of Criminal Justice and today, Latessa serves as the Dean of the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services at the University of Cincinnati.

Upon joining the faculty at the University of Cincinnati, Latessa became heavily involved in both the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). In the Academy he first became involved in a number of committees, including the Publications, Site Selection, Budget, and Academic Review Committees. In 1982 he was elected to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer, followed by Trustee-at-Large in 1985, and then Second Vice-President in 1987. After serving through the ranks, he became the 27th President of ACJS in 1989. As President, Latessa helped to develop the ACJS strategic plan process, helped to move the sections of ACJS forward, and established the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*.

Latessa remained active in ACJS after his presidency, which included moving the strategic planning process to completion. The plan would be instrumental in guiding ACJS for the next 15 years. In addition, Latessa remains highly active in his scholarly pursuits. He has published over 140 works in criminal justice, he has co-authored seven books, participated in 150 funded research projects, and has served as a consultant through workshops and seminars in forty-five states.

In recognition of his expansive activities, he has received numerous awards and recognitions including the Maguerite Q. Warren and Ted B. Palmer Differential Intervention Award presented by the Division of Corrections and Sentencing of ASC (2010), the August Vollmer Award from ASC (2004), the Community Hero Award presented by Community Resources for Justice (2010), and the George Beto Scholar, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University (2009).

Most significant, however, is the fact that for his service to the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Latessa has been awarded all three of the major ACJS honors (one of four to do so): Bruce Smith Sr. Award (2010), Academy Fellow (1998), and Founders Award (1992).