



Ben Menke
29th ACJS President
1991-1992

Ben Menke was born and raised in Nevada and upon graduation from high school he attended the University of Nevada in Reno, Nevada, where he graduated with a B.A. in Sociology in 1967. He then pursued his graduate studies at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, where he earned his M.A. in Sociology in 1970, followed by his Ph.D. in 1974.

Menke's first academic post was actually at Washington State University upon the completion of his M.A. degree there. He was appointed as an Assistant Professor in 1972, teaching classes in criminal justice. In 1974, upon completion of his Ph.D., Menke also took on the additional responsibility of serving as the Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Planning and Development Project in the Social Research Center at Washington State University, a position in which he served from 1974-1976. In 1977, he became the Director of the Criminal Justice Research Unit, a position he held until 1982, and in the 1978-1979 academic year, Menke served as the Acting Chairperson for the Department of Criminal Justice. In 1978, Menke was promoted to Associate Professor of both Criminal Justice and Political Science. In 1982, he became the Director of the Criminal Justice Program, a position in which he would remain until 1990. In 1988, Menke became a Visiting Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, serving there for two years, before returning to Washington State University and once again assuming the role of Director of the Criminal Justice Program at Washington State University. In addition, Menke served as the Director of the Washington State Institute for Community Oriented Policing which became the partnership model for the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPIs).

Menke became involved in ACJS early in his career and, as he explained, "I attended my first ACJS meeting about 1972, in Santa Rosa, California – there were about 35 attendees." serving on numerous committees including the Basic and Programmatic Research Committee (1970), the Accreditation Committee (1974-1980), and the Site Selection Committee (1989-1992). He was the Program Chair for the 1980 conference in Oklahoma City, and in 1983, he was made one of the first Associate Editors of the new ACJS journal *Justice Quarterly*. In 1987, Menke has served as the Chair of the Ethics Committee. Menke was elected Regional Trustee in 1982, then Trustee-at-Large in 1985, and in 1989, Second Vice President. After serving as First Vice President, Menke was elevated to President, serving the 1991-1992 term in office.

After his tenure as President, having had a very successful career, Menke retired in 1993 from his position as Director of both the Criminal Justice Program and the Washington State Institute of Community Oriented Policing. Since his retirement, Menke has continued to serve as a speaker, consultant, and trainer, primarily in the area of community policing.