



B. Earl Lewis
7th ACJS President
1969-1970

B. Earl Lewis was born in California, growing up with the sole desire of being a police officer. He became a deputy sheriff with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department in the early 1950s, and then transferred to the Los Angeles Police Department, where he worked several years in the traffic bureau. Deciding Los Angeles was not for him, he returned to work with the San Clara Sheriff's Department as a Sergeant, then moving through the ranks of Lieutenant and Captain. He then took a position as an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Justice, in the Office of the California Attorney General in San Francisco. It was there that he was exposed to the possibilities of academic pursuits.

Coming to higher education later in his career, Lewis enrolled in the Police School at San Jose State University in the early 1960s. When Gordon Misner (the 9th and 14th ACJS President) came to teach at San Jose State University from the School of Criminology at the University of California at Berkeley, Lewis came under his wing. Misner quickly became Lewis's mentor and they developed a strong friendship.

After obtaining his A.B., Lewis continued on with the M.S. in law enforcement at San Jose State, graduating in 1967. Lewis then obtained a teaching position at Foothill College, a community college, in Los Altos Hills, California, where he began teaching first at Foothills, and then at De Anza College (a second campus to Foothill College) in Cupertino.

While working on his Master's degree, Lewis was encouraged by Misner to join the California Police Educators' Association, and after securing a teaching appointment with Foothills College, he was elected the organization's President. The following year, in 1968, Gordon Misner was the program chair for the annual meeting of the International Association of Police Professors (IAPP) which was meeting in San Francisco. Misner encouraged Lewis to come, despite not being a member of the IAPP. Lewis was welcomed anyway as the President of the California Police Educators' Association, and was asked to give a speech. The speech was considered so successful that his name was passed about as being a possible candidate for the presidency of the IAPP. According to Frank Morn, Misner was also working behind the scenes to support his mentee in the endeavor, and after the votes were collected, Lewis became the 7th President of the Academy.

Lewis's tenure as the President of ACJS was focused on the role of the community college in police education, and the impact that the President's Crime Commission was having on the police and police education.

After his presidency, Lewis took a position at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he served as the program coordinator from 1969 to 1973. He then returned to De Anza College in Cupertino, where he taught policing. During the 1970s, he was primarily active in conducting police reviews and practical training for police officers. For instance, in 1974-1975, he conducted an evaluation of the California Specialized Training Institute, for the California Office of Criminal Justice Planning.

Lewis died unexpectedly in 1981.