



Donald F. McCall
1st ACJS President
1963-1964

Donald D. McCall was born in Bonner, Idaho, on October 7, 1907. Raised in Bonner, he attended college in Eugene, at the University of Oregon, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Science just prior to the Great Depression in 1929. Unable to find a job, he continued his education at the University of Oregon, obtaining a Master's Degree in the Sciences. He then spent several years on staff at the Medical Laboratory, in Portland, Oregon, before joining the Portland Police Department. As a police officer who had not lost his interest in the sciences, when the Portland Police created its first police laboratory in 1942, McCall was placed in charge and for the next several years he established their crime laboratory.

In 1944, McCall was contacted by Professor V.A. Leonard, the chair of the Department of Police Science and Administration at Washington State College in Pullman, Washington, and offered a position on faculty. Leonard, a former Berkeley Police Officer, had created the Police Science program at Washington State University in 1941, and for three years had been the sole professor. As the program developed, he recognized the need for someone in the science field to assist in the teaching load and McCall was offered, and accepted the position.

McCall maintained his contacts with the Portland Police Department, and in 1947, because of Leonard's close association with former Police Chief August Vollmer, Vollmer was brought in to conduct a review of the Portland Police. Both Leonard and McCall assisted Vollmer in this review.

McCall primarily taught and conducted research in the area of what is referred to today as forensic science. He presented a well received paper before the American Medicolegal Congress in St. Louis Missouri on temperature variations with respect to the specific gravity of glass fragments. In 1957, he testified in a trial as a ballistics expert, and he taught such classes as Advanced Deception Techniques, essentially a class dedicated to instruction on the polygraph (lie detector). McCall also authored a Laboratory Manual for his Police 110 class on Criminal Investigation and Identification. He was a popular professor with his students, and as Police Science graduate Gwen Rounsaville, Alumnus of the Class of 1959 recalled, Donald McCall was "my favorite professor."

In 1959, when Leonard stepped down as chair, McCall became the new chair. In 1963, when Leonard decided to retire, McCall and his two other colleagues, Felix Fabian and Harry More, decided to throw Leonard a retirement party by inviting colleagues from across the country. That retirement party in Pullman, Washington became the first annual meeting of the International Association of Police Professors where McCall was voted its first president. McCall's tenure as president from 1963 to 1964 was dedicated to the issue of developing standards for the rapidly growing degree of police science.

He retired from Washington State University in the late 1960s and spent his retirement years in Alachua, Florida. He died on December 12, 1995.