



Richard Ward
15th ACJS President
1977-1978

Richard “Dick” Ward grew up in New York City and, after graduating from high school in 1957, joined the United States Marine Corps. He served his country from 1957 to 1961, including a security assignment in the Philippines and a tour with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division. He returned home to New York City in 1961 and applied for a position with the New York City Police Department. In 1962, he entered the police academy and served as a patrolman, youth investigator, and eventually in the position of Detective until 1970. During this time, Ward became interested in pursuing a degree in higher education, so he enrolled in the John Jay College of Criminal Justice (City University of New York). Upon graduation with his Bachelor’s Degree in 1967, he began his studies at the University of California at Berkeley, where he earned his doctorate in criminology.

Ward began teaching at his alma mater, John Jay College in 1970, but quickly moved into administration. He served as the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Students, and finally as Vice President of the College. In 1977, Ward ran for president of ACJS and was elected the 15th president. He had also applied to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to serve as Vice Chancellor and was hired. So, the same year he served as President of ACJS, he began a new position at UIC.

During his tenure as President of ACJS, Ward became heavily involved in the professionalization of criminal justice academia, and worked on obtaining a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to establish a commission to that end. The grant was awarded, and a joint commission between ASC and ACJS was established to look at education standards. Ward served as the grant’s project director and the results of the commission developed into his seminal book *Quest for Quality*.

After his presidency, Ward continued working at UIC, serving in a number of positions, including Vice Chancellor for Administration and Associate Chancellor and Director of the Office of International Criminal Justice. He also held an academic position as Professor of Criminal Justice in the Department of Criminal Justice of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and was named Professor Emeritus upon his retirement from UIC in 1999.

Despite retiring from UIC, Ward moved on to become the Dean of the College of Criminal Justice and Director of the Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, before moving into the position of Associate Vice President for Research. In 2006, he accepted a position at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, where he served as Dean of the Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences. Currently, Dr. Richard Ward serves as the Associate Vice President for Research and Special Programs at the University of New Haven.

During an academic career that has spanned more than 40 years, Dr. Ward has been involved in virtually every aspect of academic life, as a faculty member and senior administrator. He is the author of numerous books and articles in his field, and he has directed research projects in excess of \$10 million. In addition to more than 100 professional presentations, he has served as a consultant to numerous state, local and federal agencies in the United States and abroad. He has visited more than 50 countries, frequently as a consultant or trainer, and has lived and taught in China, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. He has received numerous awards in his lifetime including the Friendship Medal by the government of China and the ACJS Founders Award.