



James Frank
51st ACJS President
2013-2014

James Frank was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1952. He attended the University of Cincinnati and received a Bachelor of Science in American History in 1970. Jim then attended law school at Ohio Northern University and after completing law school practiced law in a Cincinnati firm for almost 5 years. After leaving the practice of law he began teaching part-time at the University of Cincinnati in their Paralegal program and also for Wilmington College at their Lebanon Prison program, which was an Associate's Degree program for inmates. In conversations with inmates he was intrigued by their comments about the criminal justice system and began work on a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. When he completed his degree he secured a faculty position at Kentucky Wesleyan College and remained there for three years.

After three years at Kentucky Wesleyan College, he wanted to pursue a more research-oriented career, so he entered the doctoral program at Michigan State University. There he was fortunate to work for Timothy Bynum and Robert Worden. They taught him how to conduct quality research and how to work with criminal justice agencies. Five years later, Jim completed his dissertation after joining the faculty at the University of Cincinnati the prior year (1991).

Throughout his academic career, Jim has been committed to service in ACJS and the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association. He first became a member of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association (MCJA) in 1982 and was elected to the MCJA Executive Board in 2001, and served as the MCJA President during the 2003-2004 term. On the national level, Jim became involved in the creation of the ACJS Police Section when he was asked to create a Police Syllabus Bank. Since then he has served on numerous ACJS committees and served as Region 3 Trustee (Midwest) from 2005-2008. Jim was selected as the Second Vice President of ACJS in 2011, and was President in 2013-2014.

His work as President primarily involved developing connections with international, national and regional academic and practitioner organizations. Attendance at international conferences was used to connect with scholars and practitioners outside the U.S. and promote ACJS as an international organization concerned about crime and justice issues throughout the world. Local outreach efforts were used to encourage partnerships with practitioner organizations and the development of on-going research relationships. Attendance at regional criminal justice association meetings was used to promote ACJS and further develop relationships with the associations and their members. Finally, he also oversaw the beginning of the second phase of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy Coalition. This phase initiated work with the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA). This promises to be an important initiative in the future.

His research interests primarily focus on attitudes toward the police and understanding police behavior. He has been the principal investigator for a number of policing-related research projects that primarily focus on understanding the work routines and behavior of street-level police officers and has worked on projects examining juror understanding of death penalty instructions and the impact of collateral consequences of conviction.