



Alida V. Merlo
37th ACJS President
1999-2000

Alida V. Merlo was born in Youngstown, Ohio. She attended Youngstown State University, and earned a B.A. in Sociology in 1971. Upon graduation, Merlo accepted a position with the Mahoning County Juvenile Court in Youngstown, as a Juvenile Probation Officer and Intake Supervisor. She remained there until 1974, when she decided to continue her graduate education at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated with a M.S. in Criminal Justice in 1975. She entered the Ph.D. program in Sociology at Fordham University in New York City, and was awarded the Ph.D. in 1980.

In 1975, Alida Merlo began teaching in the Department of Criminal Justice at Westfield State University in Westfield, Massachusetts, where she remained until 1995. She was promoted through the academic ranks, becoming Professor of Criminal Justice. She served as the Department's Chair from 1979 to 1985, and as the Graduate Coordinator in her last academic year at Westfield (1994-1995). In 1995, Merlo accepted a faculty position in the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she continues to teach.

Early in her career, Merlo became active in a number of organizations, including the Massachusetts Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, serving as its President from 1980-1981 and again from 1987-1989. In addition, Merlo was involved in the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS) serving on numerous committees and on the Executive Board.

Alida Merlo also joined the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, serving as the Region I Trustee on the Executive Board from 1989 to 1992, and then as Trustee-at-Large from 1992 to 1995. She was a member or chair of various committees, including the Series Editor Committee, the Publications Committee, and the Editor Search Committee for the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. For her hard work and dedication to the Academy, she was elected Second Vice-President in 1997, and served as First Vice-President in 1998-1999. She was the 37th President of ACJS, and held that office from 1999 to 2000.

During her tenure as president, six initiatives/projects were undertaken or completed, including the approval of a Code of Ethics, increasing use of technology by ACJS, creation of the position of webmaster, complete review of the Academy's policies, procedures, and bylaws, publication of a booklet of the ACJS Minimum Standards, and further establishment of the national office and its staff in new offices in the Washington, D.C. area. Since her term as ACJS President, Merlo has remained dedicated to the Academy, continuing to serve on committees including Nominations and Elections, Finance, Program Committee, Academic Review Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Certification, and the Awards Committee.

Merlo is a productive scholar and her research interests, eight books, book chapters, and numerous journal articles focus on juvenile justice policy, criminal justice policy, and women and the law.

In recognition of her scholarly activities, Merlo has been the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at Westfield State University twice, and the NEACJS Fellow Award (2001). Slippery Rock University established the Alida V. Merlo Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Student in 2006. In the Academy, she has been awarded the ACJS Donal A.J. MacNamara Outstanding Publication Award (2002), the ACJS Minorities and Women's Section Becky Tatum Award for Excellence (2009), the ACJS Founder's Award (1997), the Academy Fellow Award (2004), the Outstanding Mentor Award (2010), and the Minority Mentorship Grant Award (2012).