



Melissa Hickman Barlow
49th ACJS President
2011-2012

Melissa Hickman Barlow grew up in Columbia, South Carolina where she attended the University of South Carolina. Graduating with a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice in 1979, she secured a position as a correctional officer at the Federal Correctional Institution in Fort Worth, Texas. After working at FCI-Forth Worth for one year, Barlow returned to the University of South Carolina to work on her M.C.J. in Criminal Justice, graduating in 1982. She then went to Florida State University in Tallahassee to pursue doctoral study in the School of Criminology. While working on her doctoral dissertation, Barlow secured a position with the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in Tallahassee, before accepting her first academic post in 1987 as an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice in the Department of Human Services at South Carolina State University. In 1991, Barlow defended her dissertation at Florida State University and was awarded the Ph.D. in Criminology.

In the fall of 1991, Barlow served as a lecturer in Criminal Justice at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and in 1992 she accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Change and Development at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. In 1995, Barlow returned to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 1997. From 1999 to 2002, Barlow served as director of Criminal Justice Programs at UWM. In 2003, she moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, accepting the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University (FSU). Barlow was promoted to Professor with tenure in 2005. She served as assistant dean in the College of Basic And Applied Sciences from 2005 to 2006, then as interim chair in the Department of Criminal Justice from 2006 to 2007. Beginning in 2007, Barlow served as director of FSU's newly established Institute for Community Justice. In 2009, she secured funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service to develop a community-based service learning program at FSU, and the Institute was renamed the Center for Community Justice & Service, where Barlow served as director until August 2012.

Barlow became actively involved in both the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) in the late 1980s. She has remained active in both organizations throughout her career, and her section affiliations in the ACJS include Minorities and Women and Critical Criminal Justice. In 2001, she served as Program Chair for the 38th annual meetings of the ACJS in Washington, D.C. Barlow was elected as Second Vice President of the ACJS in 2009 and, after serving as First Vice President in 2010-2011, was elevated to become the 49th President of the ACJS, serving from 2011 to 2012.

Since her presidency, Barlow continues to teach and conduct research at Fayetteville State University. Her areas of research and publication include the history and political economy of crime control policy, crime and justice in the news media, and issues of race and class in criminal justice. She is the co-author of *Police in a Multicultural Society* (Waveland, 2000), and is author or co-author of numerous peer reviewed articles. Barlow's 2012 presidential address on sustainable justice reflects her current focus on the impacts of crime control policy in economically disadvantaged communities and her interest in promoting asset based community development and community justice.