



Jeffery T. Walker
44th ACJS President
2006-2007

Jeffery T. Walker was born in Mena, Arkansas in 1962. Raised in Mena, he attended the University of Arkansas, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1984. After a short stint in business, he joined the Army, serving in both active and reserve capacities in the Army and Air Force and retiring after 23 years. In 1987, Jeff entered the Master of Arts program in Criminal Justice at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, where he found his calling in life and a love for gaining knowledge and doing research. After graduating in 1989, he attended Sam Houston State University, where he received his PhD in 1992.

Jeff joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock in 1990, intending to stay for a year while finishing his dissertation. Never finding a place he liked better, he stayed there and moved through the ranks to professor; becoming chair in 2011. While at UALR, Jeff oversaw the expansion of the MACJ program, eventually creating a separate on line master's degree that was one of the first on line master's programs in the country. He also created a PhD program that began in 2010.

Jeff was committed to service in the academic organizations from the beginning; joining the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) as a master's student and ACJS and ASC soon thereafter. He attended his first conference at ACJS in Washington DC in 1989 and was hooked from then on. After an unsuccessful bid to become president of SWACJ as a doctoral student, he was elected a year later in 1993. Jeff began national service work in 1994 as Secretary of the ACJS Police Section. Serving on several ACJS and ASC committees, he was elected as ACJS Secretary in 2000. Jeff was then elected Second Vice President of ACJS in 2004, progressing to President in 2007.

At the beginning of his presidency, Jeff set out three goals: greater involvement of graduate students in ACJS, greater involvement of ACJS in international organizations, and a high quality conference. During his time on the Executive Board, he worked to do away with the "students with journals" option for student memberships and to lower the student membership fee; increasing the number of students involved in ACJS. The Board also approved a free 1-year membership for doctoral students that could be used any time in their doctoral program. He also placed doctoral students on every committee during his term, facilitating greater involvement of students and making linkages with ACJS members. Finally, the Seattle provided students with luncheons during the conference. This was undertaken to facilitate greater interaction of students and to lower student cost of attending the conference. Supporting his focus on greater involvement in and recognition of ACJS in international organizations, while he was president, Jeff attended the meetings of the British Society of Criminology, European Society of Criminology, Stockholm Prize in Criminology, International Police Executive Symposium, and a meeting of the UN Crime Prevention Council. Flyers promoting ACJS were distributed and many contacts were made with people who did not previously know about ACJS at all. During his term, he and ACJS joined a group of distinguished non-profit organizations that fought for support for the 2010 Census. Although not of his doing, Jeff was fortunate enough to be President when ACJS made its big voyage to the Northwest U.S. The meeting in Seattle was by most accounts a great success. There a large number of quality panels, including feature panels that included some of the leading people in the field who had never attended an AJC meeting or not attended one for a long time.

As of 2012, Jeff was still active in the discipline with no thoughts of retiring. Although not as active in the academic organizations as in the past, he continues to encourage active participation in the students and young faculty with whom he has contact and works to be a strong mentor to people in the discipline.