



Francis T. Cullen
31st ACJS President
1993-1994

Francis T. Cullen, known to his friends and colleagues as “Frank,” was born in Boston, Massachusetts on March 2, 1951 and has had the burden and joy of being a life-long Red Sox fan. He graduated with a B.A. in psychology from Bridgewater State College in 1972. He then briefly attended the University of Rhode Island before moving on to Columbia University. There, he entered the Sociology and Education program, where his older brother John was a student. They both earned their Ph.D.’s, with Frank’s awarded in 1979.

In his first year at Columbia, Cullen enrolled in a social work course on “Deviance and the Social Structure” taught by Richard Cloward (Robert Merton also was one of his professors). After earning an A+ on his course paper, he built up the courage to ask Cloward to direct him in an independent study focusing on theories of crime and deviance. A few weeks into this tutorial, Cloward inquired whether Cullen would like to write a theoretical dissertation under his guidance that would expand ideas that had appeared in Cloward’s classic *Delinquency and Opportunity* (coauthored with Lloyd Ohlin). Although taken by surprise, Cullen immediately agreed—a decision that led to his becoming a criminologist. His dissertation was eventually published as *Rethinking Crime and Deviance Theory: The Emergence of a Structuring Tradition* (1984).

Cullen obtained his first teaching position in 1976 in the sociology department at Western Illinois, before moving in 1982 to the criminal justice program at the University of Cincinnati. There, he devoted much effort to help build a nationally recognized department and to mentoring doctoral students, a number of whom have become successful, if not prominent, academics. While giving a talk as part of an audition for a courtesy joint appointment in sociology at Cincinnati in 1983, he met Dr. Paula Dubeck, his future wife (who would head that department for nearly two decades). In 1993, the university named him a Distinguished Research Professor.

From 1987-1989, he served ACJS as the second editor of *Justice Quarterly*. He continued to remain active in ACJS and was elected President in 1993. During his ACJS presidency and time on the Academy’s Executive Board, Cullen supported the expansion of ACJS publications, worked to increase membership, and attempted to improve the quality and inclusiveness of the annual meeting. He also used his 1994 ACJS Presidential Address to set forth a social support theory of crime.

During his career, Cullen has published over 300 works and has been widely cited. Cullen has had a sustained interest in theoretical criminology, publishing a text (now in its fifth edition, with J. Robert Lilly and Richard Ball), a reader (now in its fourth edition, with Robert Agnew), an encyclopedia and handbook (with Pamela Wilcox), several edited books, a monograph and other works on labeling theory, and a variety of empirical tests and meta-analyses. Since the 1982 publication of *Reaffirming Rehabilitation* (with Karen Gilbert), he has been known as a prominent advocate of offender treatment. He also has contributed noted studies on the prosecution of corporate crime, the job reactions of criminal justice workers, and public opinion on crime-control policies.

Cullen served as the President of the American Society of Criminology (2003-2004) and was the 2010 recipient of ASC’s Edwin H. Sutherland Award. Within ACJS, he has been honored with all three awards (one of only four to do so): Academy Fellow (1989), Founders Award (2002), and the Bruce Smith Sr. Award (1996). In 2011, his *Unsafe in the Ivory Tower: The Sexual Victimization of Women*, coauthored with Bonnie Fisher and Leah Daigle, won the ACJS Outstanding Book Award.