



# LU Criminal Justice Newsletter



## New President New Beginnings



*The Investiture of the 16th President of Lamar University, Dr. Jaime R. Taylor, was attended by Criminal Justice faculty members on November 11, 2021.*

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**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley, Esq.,  
Associate Professor of Criminal  
Justice, Lamar University

# Greetings from the CJ Director



**Professor Robert Michael Worley**

**H**ello, friends! 2021 has been a challenging yet rewarding year. It was awesome that our very own Mark Broome and Tim Brewer virtually presented a research talk on hate crimes to the students and faculty at George Mason University—an institution which has a Ph.D. Program in Criminology, Law, and Society. They also presented virtually at the Southern University Law Center. Awesome!

We are also proud of Chen-Hsien Lin, who is now the Vice President of the Faculty Senate. Way to go! And, Vidisha Worley published four peer-reviewed articles for 2021! She was also interviewed by journalism students at Northwestern University about one of the articles she published on prison management. Vidisha also appeared as a guest on Will Aitchison's podcast for the Labor Relations Information System and won the College of Arts and Sciences Research Award for Spring 2022!

Lucy Tsado just put the finishing touches on her latest book, *Exploring Careers in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics* (Rowman & Littlefield).

Sanaz Alasti won the 2021 Bernard Lewis Memorial Prize for her research on the “Comparative Study of Stoning Punishments in the Religions of Islam and Judaism.” She was invited to present her research in Washington, DC. And, she was invited to contribute to a book edited by Dr. Mbuba of Purdue University.

Karen Roebuck has also done a phenomenal job of recruiting and helping to retain students. She continues to go above and beyond in advising our students and worked with students in our Criminal Justice Club to sell fruit and participate in Cardinal View. Jim Mann also has been instrumental in growing our Criminal Justice Program. Students are particularly fond of his graduate-level Leadership course, as well as his other classes, such as, Correctional Administration, Forensic Psychology, and Interpersonal Communication. All of the above are courses that Dr. Mann personally developed, and these classes are now an integral part of our Criminal Justice program. Jim is now the University Ombudsman. I have no doubt that his expertise in mediation and counseling will put him in an excellent position to serve our LU faculty and staff members. We hope Dr. Mann will continue to teach classes for us as his schedule permits.

Finally, a special thanks goes out to the LU administration, as well as our awesome Department Chair, Dr. Stuart Wright. Thanks also to our fantastic admin., Jenny Hamilton. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, everyone!

## Robert Worley Promoted to Full Professor

Director Robert Michael Worley was promoted to full Professor at Lamar University effective Fall 2021. This makes him the second full Professor in the Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice, after Department Chair Stuart Wright. A proud moment for the Division of Criminal Justice!

# ‘Essential to Achieve Power in Numbers’

## A Chat With Deterrence Scholar Brian Forst: A Tribute to Zeisel

Director **Robert M. Worley** interviews **Brian Forst**, Professor Emeritus of Justice, Law and Criminology at the American University’s School of Public Affairs, in Washington, DC. Before his 25 years of teaching and research at AU, Brian was director of research at the Institute for Law and Social Research (1974-85) and the Police Foundation (1985-89), and then assistant professor of statistics at the George Washington University in Washington (1989-92). Brian is perhaps best known for his research on deterrence, prosecution, miscarriages of justice, and terrorism. His book, [Errors of Justice: Nature, Sources, and Remedies](#), received the ACJS Book of the Year award in 2006. In this interview, **Worley** explores **Forst’s** close association with **Hans Zeisel**, on the occasion of **Zeisel’s 30<sup>th</sup> death anniversary (March 7, 2022)**. **Zeisel** was an Austrian-American sociologist and legal scholar who was best known for using quantitative social science techniques to study the law.

**RW:** So, Brian, you were trained as a statistician-econometrician. How did you get into criminology?

**BF:** My first published criminal justice article was on deterrence, "[Participation in Illegitimate Activities: Further Empirical Findings](#)" (*Policy Analysis*, vol. 2, Summer 1976). Using cross-state data for 1970, and a structural equation model to separate the effect of sanctions on crime from a reverse effect, I found no deterrent effect of sanctions on felony crimes. Most remarkable was that an economist, Isaac Ehrlich, had found strong deterrent effects for both the probability and severity of punishment using a similar model with data for 1960 – that a one percent increase in spending

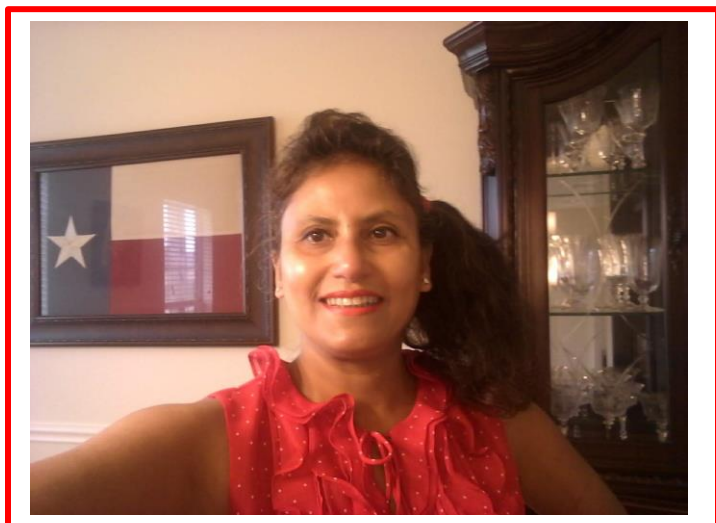
on police would produce, by way of increased probability of punishment, a three percent decrease in the serious crimes rate. ([Journal of Political Economy](#), 1973) I found that the difference in findings was due to analytic choices regarding the selection of control variables, whether and how to weight observations, whether to assume linear or log-linear relationships among the variables, and differences between the 1960 and 1970 cross sections. I concluded that neither Ehrlich’s results nor mine were reliable – that they were too sensitive to selections among equally plausible models to be trusted.

**RW:** And then Hans Zeisel enters the picture, right?

**BF:** Yes. Hans was a member of the research advisory board for the PROMIS Research Project, in which the INSLAW staff were analyzing data on prosecution for 1973-74 on the operations of the US Attorney’s Office for Washington, DC. It was an amazing board that included Zeisel, Edith Flynn, Don Gottfredson, Al Reiss, Leslie Wilkins, and Marvin Wolfgang. Hans was an advocate for the abolition of the death penalty, and Ehrlich had just done a second econometric analysis – this one a time-series analysis of the deterrent effect of the death penalty on homicides in the U.S. for the period 1933 to 1969 – concluding that each execution over that period prevented eight homicides. The U.S. solicitor general had introduced this study as evidence in the Supreme Court to support use of the death penalty. Smelling a rat, Hans persuaded Nobel Laureate Lawrence Klein and me to reanalyze Ehrlich’s data to see if he had once again chosen

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## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021



### Vidisha Worley Bags COAS Research Award Spring 22, Takes Part in LRIS Podcast

Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley won the College of Arts and Sciences Research Competition Award for Spring 2022.

Dr. Vidisha Worley's podcast on Police Recruitment and Retention appeared on the Labor Relations Information System website, <https://lris.com/> on October 27th, 2021. Prominent Labor Attorney of Oregon and founder and executive director of LRIS Will Aitchison interviewed Angie Salvatore, a 20-year veteran of the Anchorage Police Department, Alaska, and Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley, Esquire on the current state of recruiting and retaining quality law enforcement officers. The interview covered the following: 1. The changes in general nature of prospective officers they've seen over time and why they think these changes have occurred. 2. How the changes have escalated post-George Floyd. 3. How students and applicants are reacting to the national narrative about policing post-George Floyd. 4. The influence of a college education has on policing. 5. Career aspirations students have when pursuing a

law enforcement career. 6. Recruiting lateral hires. Here is the link to the podcast:

[https://d33ejgwsompntb.cloudfront.net/interviews/salvato\\_worley.mp3](https://d33ejgwsompntb.cloudfront.net/interviews/salvato_worley.mp3)

### The Worleys Publish Four Peer-Reviewed Articles

Dr. Robert Michael Worley and Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley had four peer-reviewed articles that were published in 2021:

Worley, V.B. & Worley, R.M. (2021). Inmate Public Autoerotism and Hostile Work Environment for Female Correctional Officers: An Examination of Federal Cases. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 44(2), 180-194.

Worley, R. M., Worley, V. B., & Lambert, E. F. (2021). Deepening the Guard-Inmate Divide: An Exploratory Analysis of the Relationship between Staff-Inmate Boundary Violations and Officer Attitudes regarding the Mistreatment of Prisoners. *Deviant Behavior*, 42(4), 503-517.

Lambert, E. F., Hogan, N., Worley, R. M., & Worley, V. B. (2021). How the Workplace Plays a Role in a Good Life: Using the Job Demands-Resources Model in Predicting Correctional Staff Life Satisfaction. *American Journal of Criminal Justice* (Published Online First May 2021).

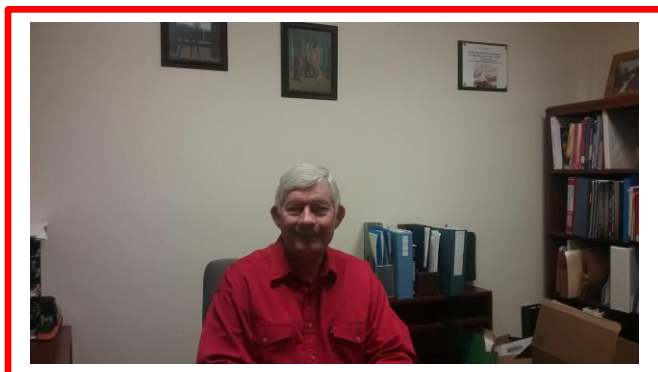
Lambert, E., Leone, M, Hogan, N.L., Buckner, Z, Worley, R.M., & Worley, V.B. (2021). To Be Committed or Not: A Systematic Review of the Empirical Literature on Organizational Commitment among Correctional Staff. *Criminal Justice Studies*, 34(1), 88-114.

## Alasti Gets Certificate of Recognition, Grant from ASMEA



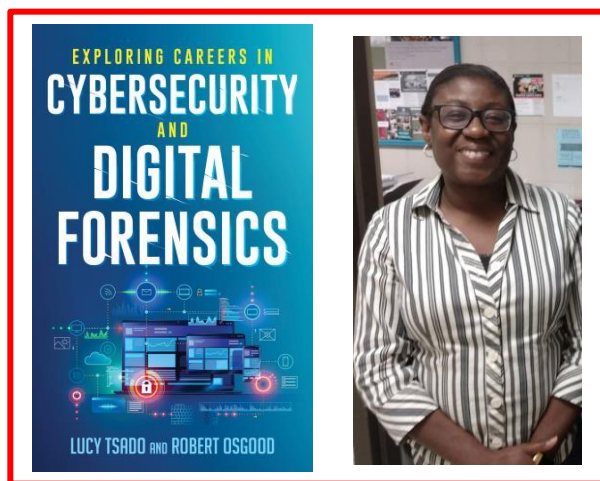
Dr. Sanaz Alasti received a research grant from ASMEA (Association of Middle Eastern and African Studies) for her research on “Gender Discrimination in Capital Punishment System of Iran.” Dr. Alasti also received a certificate of recognition for the Bernard Lewis Memorial Prize in Washington DC. Bernard Lewis, the founder of ASMEA, passed away in 2018.

## Mann is LU Ombudsman



Dr. Jim Mann is now the LU Ombudsman. The Ombuds serves as a neutral person with which faculty members can seek to informally resolve disputes fairly and equitably. The Ombuds provides an avenue to confidentially voice concerns, evaluate situations, and identify options to mediate conflicts. The Ombuds office acts independently from the formalized hierarchy of the university, only reporting to the President. The Ombuds adheres to the ethics and standards of practice of the International Ombudsman Association. Some of the services offered by the Ombuds include mediation, problem-solving, and conflict management coaching.

## Tsado Has a New Book



Dr. Lucy Tsado’s cybersecurity book will be out in 2022. *Exploring Careers in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics* is a one stop shop for students and advisors, providing information about education, certifications, and tools to guide them in making career decisions within the field.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538140611/Exploring-Careers-in-Cybersecurity-and-Digital-Forensics>

**PRACTICUM IN POLICING (PIP) ACADEMY 2021****17 CJ Students Graduate From PIP Academy in 2021**

Taught by former FBI Agent and current LU Instructor Mark Broome, seventeen students successfully completed the Practicum in Policing Course (PIP Academy) (CRIJ 4313) which included both lecture and hands on experiential training about the changing world of policing. We are not aware of another Program that partners with a large police department for a full credit course which includes legal issues, self-defense, live firearms training , and many aspects of police culture. This course is of value not just to potential police officers, but any student interested in understanding where policing fits into the criminal justice system.

**PRACTICUM IN POLICING (PIP) ACADEMY 2021**



**PRACTICUM IN POLICING (PIP) ACADEMY 2021**



**Broome and Brewer  
Present on Hate Crimes**



In 2021, Criminal Justice Instructors and former FBI Agents Mark Broome

and Tim Brewer presented on hate crimes at George Mason University (GMU) Fairfax, VA and at the Southern University Law Center (SULC) in Baton Rouge, LA.



## Wright talks to CJ students on New Religions and Governmental Raids

## Chief Gratus on Technology and Policing



*Criminal Justice students engage in a round table discussion with Dr. Stuart Wright on governmental raids on new religious movements. Also seen in the picture are Director Robert M. Worley and Ms. Karen Roebuck.*

*On September 23rd, Deputy Chief Mike Gratus lectured to LU Criminal Justice students about technology and law enforcement.*



## Landry talks on Juvenile Justice Reform



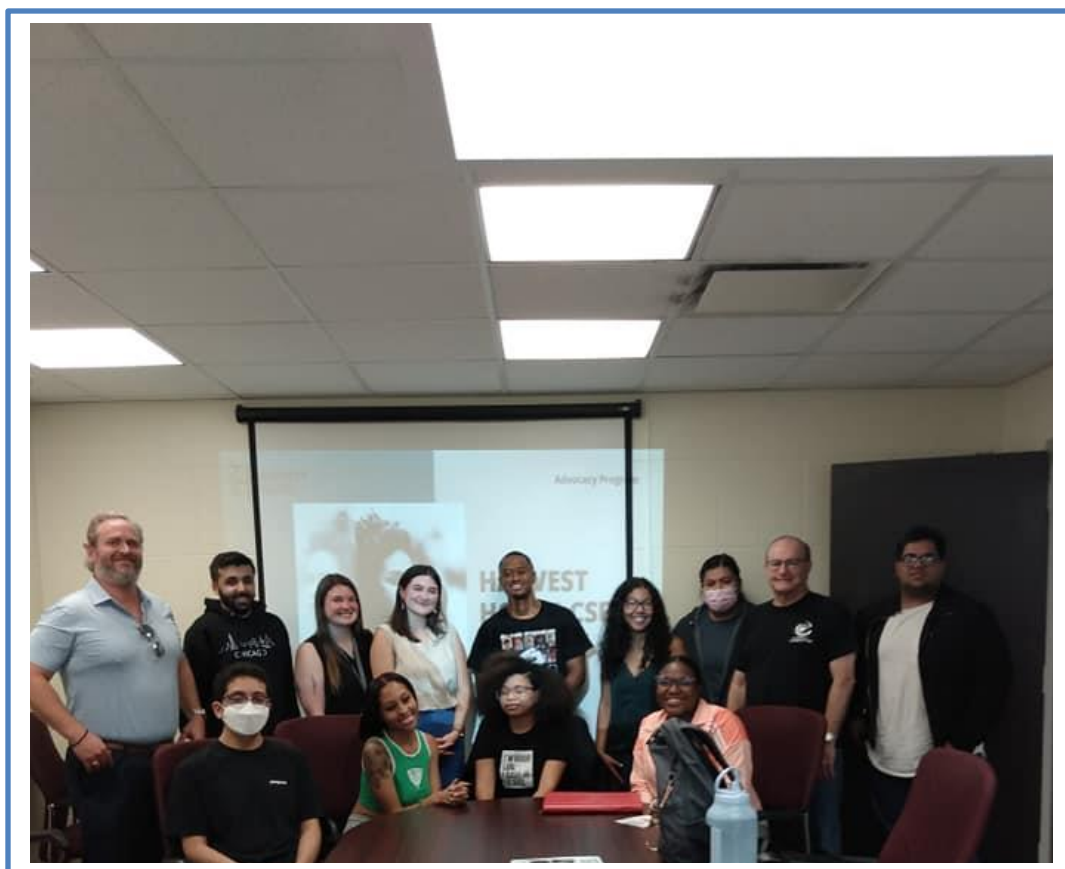
*Joshua Landry Lamar University alumni and Harris County Juvenile Probation Officer with Criminal Justice students, Director Robert M. Worley, Ms. Karen Roebuck, and Mr. Mark Broome.*

## LAMAR UNIVERSITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS AND ALUMNI



On October 13th, several LU Criminal Justice students sold healthy fruit snacks to raise money for future experiential service-learning projects. By selling fruit, rather than candy, LU Criminal Justice students helped promote a healthy lifestyle. Go, Cardinals!

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Demi Schlageter and Emily Buesing (both LU Alumni) spoke to our Criminal Justice students about the work they are doing at Harvest House. The Harvest House is an organization dedicated to the eradication of child sex trafficking in Southeast Texas.



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analytic alternatives that would create the appearance of deterrence. ("The Deterrent Effect of Capital Punishment: An Assessment of the Estimates," in [Deterrence and Incapacitation](#), 1978) We did so and found that, as before, Ehrlich had done the analysis under a narrow, dubious range of analytic options. We found his analysis to be especially sensitive to whether the outlier data for the late 1960s were included, a period when the death penalty was temporarily suspended while homicide rates soared.

**RW:** So, Hans's suspicion was vindicated.

**BF:** Indeed, and then Hans asked for more. He suggested specifically that I focus on the 1960s to see whether the relationship between the ending of the death penalty and the soaring homicide rate in that decade was causal or spurious. So, I offered to analyze the state-by-state variations in homicides and the death penalty over the decade. If the relationship is causal, we should find that the states that ended use of the death penalty during the 1960s would have experienced a loss of deterrence and a larger increase in the homicide rate than the states that weren't using the death penalty in 1960. The results, reported in the article, "[The Deterrent Effect of Capital Punishment: A Cross-State Analysis of the 1960's](#)" (*Minnesota Law Review*, 1977), confirmed Hans's expectation. Not only was no deterrent effect found, but the states that ended the death penalty tended to experience slightly *lower* increases in the homicide rate than the other states, controlling for a host of other factors: the homicide conviction rate, average term served by homicide offenders, percentage of the population in the 21-24 age group, percentage of males, the percentage of the population living in urban

areas, median family income, proportion in poverty, the percentage of adults employed, school enrollment rates, divorce rates, and dummy variables for region. Hans documents much of this in his essay, "[The Deterrent Effect of the Death Penalty: Facts and Faith](#)," *Sup. Ct. Rev.* 317 (1976).

**RW:** Why, do you suppose, Ehrlich kept finding deterrent effects while you and others didn't?

**BF:** A fascinating question. Isaac Ehrlich was a student of Gary Becker, steeped in the tradition of neoclassical economics. I met him in 1975 at a conference in which we faced off to explain our different findings. We didn't get into research ethics questions, but we each made our case quite civilly. I was left with the impression that he had a strong belief in standard economic doctrine: people respond to incentives rationally in a world of perfect information. If he found otherwise on the deterrence question, the analysis must be wrong. Call it "voodoo econometrics" -- driven no less by strongly held beliefs than by facts. Thanks largely to the new field of behavioral economics -- led by Daniel Kahneman, Amos Tversky, and Richard Thaler -- we know now that people are often, if not usually, anything but rational, often impulsive and short-sighted in their thinking, and that their information about pertinent matters is typically far from perfect.

**RW:** Interesting. Let's get back to Hans Zeisel. He was obviously very smart. I'm quite familiar with his iconic American Jury study. What was his story?

**BF:** Hans was born in Czechoslovakia and raised in Austria, where he earned doctorate degrees in sociology and law. He co-authored with Paul Lazarsfeld to research on the social impacts of unemployment in Austria in the

became a University of Chicago law professor, co-investigator of the controversial 1954 *Wichita Jury* study – What? You bugged the jury room without telling the jurors? (the project was approved by Chicago Law School dean Ed Levi) -- and a brilliant common-sense statistician, author of [Say It with Figures](#) (1947) and a leading proponent of the quantitative assessment of legal issues, like jury rules and the death penalty. He was an authority also on political and market survey techniques. With Harry Kalven, he analyzed the jury system under the Chicago Jury Project and produced two books: [Delay in the Court](#) (1959) and [The American Jury](#) (1965). A key finding was that judges agree with jury verdicts in about 80% of cases in which the jury was able to reach a verdict; another was that the juries generally understand the judges' instructions on the law. In 1977 Zeisel was named fellow of the American Statistical Association, largely for his straightforward, policy-oriented approach to statistics. This was a remarkable achievement for a sociologist and legal scholar.

**RW:** What was Hans like? Was he personable?

**BF:** Hans was a dear friend -- warm, engaging, inquisitive, generous, and funny. His decency was matched by his capacity to maintain his cool under fire. He was also a canny tennis player, the sort who managed to stay in one spot while he had you running all over the court. And it turns out that his wife, Eva -- an internationally renowned ceramics sculptor and industrial designer, and teacher of design at the Pratt Institute -- was more famous than he! Those interested can learn about her extraordinary life and work from the documentary, [Throwing Curves: Eva Zeisel](#) (2002) and from the 16-page *New Yorker* essay, "[The Present Moment: Profile of Eva Zeisel](#)" (April 13, 1987). The story of Hans and Eva is more than fascinating. They knew each other in Vienna in the 1930s, were separated and then reunited in England, where they married and sailed to the US in 1938 with less than \$100 between them. They raised two children,

(born in 1940) and John (1944). In *Throwing Curves*, both children comment on their parents' tempestuous relationship. John described the union of these two strong personalities as a "collision of forcefields". Hans died in 1992 at age 87, and Eva in 2011 at 105 years of age. Their lives were as long as they were rich.

**RW:** Dr. Forst, did you know that Hans Zeisel was the jury consultant for Ford when it was put on trial for reckless homicide during the Ford Pinto defense?

**BF:** I did not know that. But I do know that Hans had an overarching respect for the jury decision-making process and for the intelligence and moral sense of most jurors. He cared mostly to ensure that the selection of jurors be untainted by attempts to put thoughtless people on juries. This is an inescapable conclusion of his body of work with Shari Diamond on juries and jury selection. In 1987 he wrote this: "One of the undesirable by-products of discovery is the implied diminution of the jury's intelligence and decency, a by-product that obviously fuels partisans' efforts to abolish the jury in civil cases. Although there may be arguments for abolition, jurors' lack of decency and intelligence should not be among them, because the average jury has both." ("[A Jury Hoax: The Superpower of the Opening Statement](#)," *Litigation*, Vol. 14)

**RW:** I once heard that Zeisel believed that if a woman was selected on the jury, she had to drive a truck, figuring out that if a woman drove a truck she would vote to acquit. In the end, almost all of the jurors, except for one, I think, drove trucks. Is that true?

**BF:** I don't know. It sounds implausible to me. I'm guessing that fewer than 10% of all women are truck drivers, and Hans wouldn't have advised rejecting 90% of all women from any jury. Moreover, it's not apparent why truck drivers would be more likely to acquit than others, or why men would be more likely to acquit than nontruck-driving women. As I noted, he was a canny competitor. But his moral sense and respect for law always served as his guiding lights. He also had good common sense.

**RW:** Either way, he was quite a man! And what did

you and your INSLAW colleagues find in your research on the PROMIS data?

**BF:** We learned in great detail what happens after arrest – in prosecution and sentencing, at a time when such large data bases could be analyzed using new high-powered computers and sophisticated statistical methods. It was really this extraordinary data base and a fine staff of researchers – Bill Rhodes, Jeff Roth, Barbara Boland, Kris Williams, and Kathleen Brosi – that allowed a host of new insights on what had previously been the black hole of the CJS, and arguably its most powerful component. Among the findings were that for every felony case over which the judge presides in trial, the prosecutor decides the fate of about 15 brought by the police. (“[Prosecution](#),” in *Crime and Public Policy*, 2011) We found also that the vast majority of cases dropped by the prosecutor failed because of insufficient evidence, not because of “technicalities” related to 4th Amendment violations (about 5% of all cases brought), as had been widely believed, and that the relatively few dropped due to illegal searches usually involved drugs. ([What Happens After Arrest](#), 1978). And that police officers varied substantially in the quality of the arrests they brought to the prosecutor. ([Arrest Convictability as a Measure of Police Performance](#), 1982).

**RW:** Were the results for Washington replicated elsewhere?

**BF:** An important question. Yes, they were. Floyd Feeney, at the University of California, Davis, found remarkably similar results for California, which had data comparable to PROMIS from California. ([Arrests Without Conviction: How Often They Occur and Why](#), 1983) And just about everything we found for Washington was found in other PROMIS jurisdictions throughout the nation– in Los Angeles County, Manhattan, Atlanta, Indianapolis, Detroit, Seattle, New Orleans, and elsewhere. Kathleen Brosi did these cross-jurisdictional comparisons for the 1970s, and then

Barbara Boland did the same with more jurisdictions throughout the 1980s. One significant difference stood out across jurisdictions -- the ratio of pleas to trials. ([The Prosecution of Felony Arrests](#), selected years) The ratio was as low as five pleas per trial in Washington DC, and as high as 24 to one in Manhattan. Nationwide the ratio was found to be about ten pleas per trial, but these differences revealed a powerful source of prosecutorial discretion – whether to aim for high quality convictions and fewer pleas, or more convictions with fewer adjudicated in trial. Unfortunately, the Bureau of Justice Statistics ended this cross-jurisdictional data collection and research project in 1992. A tragic consequence is that we have less systematic evidence about prosecution today than we did 30 years ago.

**RW:** Would you care to offer some thoughts on the state of criminal justice today and advice for the ACJS audience?

**BF:** I feel fortunate to have worked in an environment in which opportunities to make a difference were abundant, in which facts and research mattered, curiosity was rewarded, and education valued. Developments of recent years are moving us ominously away from that enlightened and enlightening era. Politics are becoming increasingly polarized, effective government action increasingly more difficult, and education increasingly fractious, bureaucratic, and unappreciated by the general public. Policing – where the criminal justice system is in most direct, daily contact with the public – is especially under the strain of conflicting political pressures. This could all get worse -- possibly much worse -- before it gets better. But just how deep and pervasive these negative forces grow is in our hands. We don’t have to take it lying down. Each of us can still make a difference, to end the madness. It will be essential to do so in collaboration and with the support of others, to achieve power in numbers. You can leverage your influence by seeking and finding your own Hans Zeisels, and then listening to what they say.



## Criminal Justice Cardinal View: The Scales of Justice and The Gavel

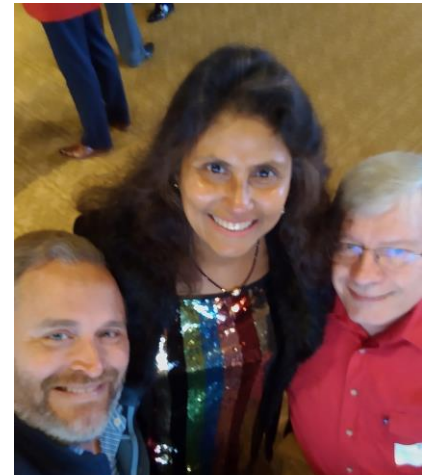
The towering 10-foot Gavel and the 12-foot Scales of Justice were built by Ms. Karen Roebuck for the Homecoming Float - for 2021 and were later used at Cardinal View.

*Top: President Jaimie Taylor and First Lady Stacey Taylor with Criminal Justice Faculty Members Ms. Karen Roebuck, Dr. Vidisha Barua Worley, Mr. Mark Broome, and Dr. Cheng Hsien Lin.*



*Middle and Bottom: Criminal Justice students actively participating in the Cardinal View wearing Halloween costumes and having a blast!*





**The Department's, The Dean's, and The President's Holiday Parties**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022 FROM THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**