

Academy Leadership and Innovation Award

The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2026.

Nominations sent to: Francis Boateng, fboateng@olemiss.edu

Copy nomination to: Kimberly D. Dodson, dodsonk@uhcl.edu

The Academy Leadership and Innovation Award is to recognize a practitioner whose work has had a direct, positive, and significant effect on the criminal justice system, with a commitment to improving the criminal justice system. Contributions may include program development, policy implementation, education, training, direct services, research, and legislative action.

Practitioners are individuals employed in a professional capacity in the criminal justice system, related and ancillary programs, services, and agencies such as victim services, juvenile justice, case management and treatment, drug/alcohol and mental health services, and community coalitions, as well as research, government, or public service.

Award criteria: To be eligible for this award, the candidate shall have:

1. Served as an outstanding leader and innovator in a professional capacity in research, education, government or public service.
2. Demonstrated commitment to improving the criminal justice system.
3. Contributed to criminal justice or related programs, relevant policies, or community development.
4. Provided exemplary professional service to his or her organization.

Nomination requirements:

1. Prior recipients of the ACJS Leadership and Innovation Award are not eligible.
2. Nominees need not be current members of ACJS.
3. Self-nominations are not accepted.
4. Priority should be given to practitioners working in the region where the annual meeting is held.
5. The nominator could be either a Regional Trustee or an ACJS member in good standing.
6. The nomination should include the official nomination letter, CV of the nominee, and the nominee's full contact information. The nomination letter should provide specific information about how the nominee fits the award criteria.

Selection criteria:

1. Recognition for outstanding professional service and contributions to criminal justice or related system.
2. Demonstration of leadership in the administration of criminal justice or related system in a manner which reflects the highest standards of integrity and performance.
3. Acknowledgment for distinguished accomplishments and exceptional professionalism.

ACJS will recognize the Awardee at its annual ceremony during the ACJS Annual Meeting. The Awardee will receive a plaque, a \$600 monetary award, and one year membership in ACJS. The Award recipient is expected to attend the ACJS Annual Meeting to receive the Award.