



W. Ken Katsaris

W. Ken Katsaris was in his early 20s when Tallahassee Junior College's first president, Fred Turner, tapped him to start a criminal justice education program at the new college in 1966. In the years that followed, Ken built the program from scratch, sending many students on to Florida State University and other universities and into law enforcement departments throughout the South.

Ken chaired the criminal justice program until 1977. While in that role, he set up the region's first teaching crime lab, which was based at TCC and used by police agencies for preliminary analysis. He even served as campus security director. Ken left the program in 1977 after being elected sheriff of Leon County.

Currently Ken teaches basic recruits at the Florida Public Service Institute at TCC. He has been at it since 1999, and shows no sign of leaving the classroom any time soon.

Ken is the only person in the U.S. who has been retained as a police litigation consultant in all 50 states. He also leads seminars for law enforcement professionals on topics such as street survival and critical incident response. He also trains experienced law enforcement professionals to serve as instructors themselves. Throughout the extensive travel and high-profile cases, Ken has retained his passion for teaching basic recruits who have just been hired as officers or are looking for their first job. "They really want to learn, and that makes a big difference. That's the motivating force for me."