

In Memoriam: Dr. Edward Latessa, 1954–2022



With profound sadness and respect, Development Services Group, Inc., and the *CrimeSolutions* team acknowledge the passing of a dedicated researcher, scholar, and giant in the corrections field, Ed Latessa.

Edward J. Latessa served as a Senior Researcher on the National Institute of Justice's *CrimeSolutions* program from its inception. DSG and all those who have worked on *CrimeSolutions* owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his contributions. He also nurtured countless new investigators and students along their career paths, many of whom would ultimately become noted scholars.

Dr. Latessa was a Professor and Director of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. As the Senior Researcher for the Courts and Corrections topic areas for *CrimeSolutions*, he oversaw the assessments of more than 280 program reviews and 40 practice reviews. He published more than 170 works in criminal justice, corrections, and juvenile justice and directed more than 195 funded research projects, including studies of day reporting centers, juvenile justice programs, drug courts, prison programs, intensive supervision programs, halfway houses, and drug programs.

He served as President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (1989–90). He received many awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rites of Passage (2018), the William T. Rossiter Award from the Forensic Mental Health Association of California (2017), the Marguerite Q. Warren and Ted B. Palmer Differential Intervention Award presented by the Division of Corrections and Sentencing of the American Society of Criminology (2010), the Community Hero Award presented by Community Resources for Justice (2010), and the Bruce Smith Award for outstanding contributions to criminal justice by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2010). The full list, much too long to present here, goes back into the previous century.

"I first met Ed shortly after I came to DSG in 2009," recalled DSG *CrimeSolutions* Project Director Rachel Stephenson. "When I was in graduate school, I had heard his name often, but when we were introduced he was down to earth – respectful, and not the least bit intimidating. Super-friendly. Only years later did I realize how fortunate I was to know someone like him – in the large field of criminal justice, one of the *top* people. His energy and generosity were amazing. I know he was ill the entire time he worked on *CrimeSolutions* – more than 10 years – but he always got back to me with an email the same day every time I needed him. If I'd realized how special he was in the beginning, I probably would have been intimidated to meet him."

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance in 2013 identified Dr. Latessa as one of the most innovative persons in criminal justice, in a national survey of criminal justice leaders.

Dr. Latessa's contribution to the cause of justice in the United States goes far beyond his work with *CrimeSolutions*. The legacy he leaves our field is rich and meaningful. His loss is felt deeply by many.