

SEARCH Board Selects Noted Criminologist Dr. Alfred Blumstein for the 2021 O.J. Hawkins Award

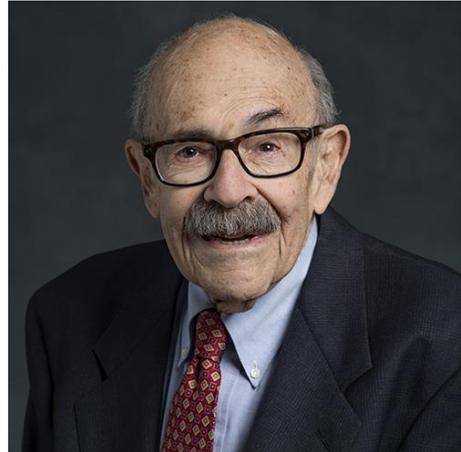
SEARCH is pleased to announce that Dr. **Alfred Blumstein**, an internationally renowned criminologist whose career spans more than five decades, will receive the organization's highest honor, the *O.J. Hawkins Award*, for 2021.

Dr. Blumstein is J. Erik Jonsson University Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research, Emeritus, at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie-Mellon University. He has served as a Member of SEARCH for over 35 years, first as a Member representing Pennsylvania, as an At-Large Member since 1991, and multiple terms on the SEARCH Board of Directors.

The SEARCH Board of Directors unanimously selected Dr. Blumstein for the O.J. Hawkins Award to formally recognize his many outstanding contributions to improve the justice system's ability to use and develop information through public safety communications, criminal justice information systems, and policy development.

"From understanding the nature of crime, the technologies and policies influencing criminal justice operations, and groundbreaking research on redemption, the impact and importance of Dr. Blumstein's work is truly unparalleled," said Board Chair Ms. **Leslie Moore**, Kansas Bureau of Investigation. "His work has influenced criminal justice policies and practices in 21st century America, ranging from crime trends to sentencing guidelines and more."

In selecting Dr. Blumstein for the Hawkins Award, the SEARCH Board cited his long and generously productive career, which has influenced every level of government and every criminal justice discipline.



O.J. Hawkins Award for Innovative Leadership and Outstanding Contributions in Criminal Justice Information Systems, Policy, and Statistics in the United States

Recognizes: Extraordinary leadership that improves the criminal justice community's ability to develop and use criminal justice information

Named for: Orville J. (Bud) Hawkins, SEARCH's first Chair and Executive Director

Bestowed since 1985, the O.J. Hawkins Award is the only nationally recognized honor for leadership in the field of criminal justice information management

Past Recipients: Then-U.S. Sen. (now President) Joseph R. Biden, Jr., D-DE; members of Congress; agency directors (FBI, U.S. DOJ); and national and state justice system leaders.

- His research over the past two decades has covered many aspects of criminal justice phenomena and policy, including crime measurement, criminal careers, sentencing, deterrence and incapacitation, prison populations, flow through the system, demographic trends, juvenile violence, and drug-enforcement policy. Few in the nation possess his understanding of the links between violence, public health, and criminology.
- Dr. Blumstein's pioneering research into the development of criminal behavior was recognized by the Swedish Ministry of Justice, which awarded him the prestigious [Stockholm Prize in Criminology](#) in 2007, and cited the "global impact on justice policies and practices" of his work.
- He served as Director of Science and Technology for the 1967 President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, and led production of the [Task Force Report: Science and Technology](#) which included the [flowchart](#) which illustrated the sequence of events in the criminal justice system. Dr. Blumstein contributed to the Commission's report, [The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society](#), a landmark report that guided our understanding of the criminal justice system and its operations for many years and shaped and advanced technology development in material respects.
- Dr. Blumstein served on and chaired the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Research on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice (1975–1986) and served as a member of the Academy's Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (1994–2000). Under his leadership, the National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR), a multi-university initiative funded by the National Science Foundation, created a unique framework for research on violence.
- At the state level, he served as Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Commonwealth's criminal justice planning agency (1979–1990) and as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing (1986–1996).
- Dr. Blumstein served as a member of the SEARCH/Bureau of Justice Statistics [National Task Force on the Criminal Record Backgrounding of America](#), which made recommendations to the U.S. Attorney General on improving, standardizing, and consolidating programs and procedures for noncriminal justice background checks.
- Dr. Blumstein is a treasured advisor and friend to countless colleagues, policymakers and researchers who have benefited directly from his insights. Former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh called Dr. Blumstein "a true champion of the value of solid research in the development of sound policy."

SEARCH will formally recognize Dr. Blumstein's prolific contributions at an awards ceremony Tuesday, July 19, being held in conjunction with the SEARCH 2022 [Annual Membership Group Meeting](#) at the Grand Hyatt Denver in Denver, CO. In addition to recognizing Dr. Blumstein as the 2021 recipient of the Hawkins Award, the ceremony will also recognize noted privacy expert Mr. **Robert R. Belair** as the 2022 recipient of the O.J. Hawkins Award.