



Charles E. Reasons: Professor

Dr. Reasons is a Professor in the Department of Law and Justice at Central Washington University. He grew up in a working class family in Bremerton and was a first generation college student. Upon graduating from East Bremerton High School, where he played football, wrestling and baseball, he was recruited by several colleges (including Central) to play football. He attended Olympic College on a football scholarship for financial (living at home) and personal (girlfriend/future wife was still in high school) reasons. At Olympic College he honed his study skills by applying the dedication and focus of his athletic experience to academic study. This is where he really got interested in the social sciences. He obtained his A.A. in 1965, receiving the Top Graduating Academic Athlete Award. He went to Linfield College on a football scholarship on the advice of his high school coach/mentor/teacher and graduated from Central Washington State College in 1967 with a B.A. in Sociology, minors in history and psychology. Given his experiences with the justice system as a youth, he focused on criminology. Subsequently, he received his M.A. in Sociology in 1968 from Ohio University and his Ph.D. in Sociology from Washington State University in 1972. He joined the Sociology Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1972 as an Assistant Professor and moved to the University of Calgary in 1974 as an Associate Professor. At age 34, he became the youngest Full Professor in the history of the University of Calgary. He resigned his professorship in 1989 to pursue a long time goal of obtaining a law degree. In 1992 Dr. Reasons obtained his J.D. from the University of British Columbia Law School, practicing Public Interest Law in Vancouver, British Columbia in the 1990's. In 1997 he assumed the position of Chair of Criminal Justice at Buffalo State College and in 1999 moved to CWU as Chair of the Law and Justice Department. His career has focused on social and legal issues and activism/social change. He has published 9 books and scores of articles and book chapters on social and legal problems in the United States and Canada, while teaching in both countries. He has authored works with both undergraduate and graduate students over his career. In 2000 he was inducted into the Olympic College Hall of Fame, while in 2010 he was inducted into the Linfield College Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2013 he received a Chief Supporter Award from the CWU student organization E.M.P.I.R.E. In 2018 Dr. Reasons was selected to receive the CWU Distinguished Professor-Service award, while also being chosen for the CWU Faculty Diversity award. Dr. Reasons, is one of only four public university faculty to receive the coveted Ormsby for Faculty Citizenship Award for his exemplary work in

civic engagement with CWU and the Ellensburg community. Reasons was nominated for the award because of his tireless efforts to work on behalf of students and underserved communities. His 30-year career has been focused on social and legal issues as well as activism and social change. His service and citizenship extend into the community. Reasons was a founding member and Chair of Central Washington Justice for Our Neighbors, an immigration law clinic to provide legal assistance to those in need in the Ellensburg area. He has worked with the Kittitas County Law and Justice Council on a variety of issues. His research with legal and social science scholars and practitioners was utilized in a report for change in the Washington State Criminal Justice to reduce discrimination based on race and ethnicity. He has four sons and 12 grandchildren, whom he quite enjoys.