

**Department of Criminal Justice**  
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Dear Dr. Smith and Members of the Award Committee,

I am writing to nominate Associate Professor Michael Cavanaugh, Director of the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of Arkansas Little Rock, for the Felix Fabian Award. As an active and devoted member of SWACJ for over ten years, Michael has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership and made significant contributions to the organization and the criminal justice profession.

Michael's involvement in SWACJ is extensive and spans many roles. Early in his membership, he contributed as a member of the audit committee and the student paper competition committees. His exemplary work in these capacities led to his election to the executive board in 2016, where he served in leadership roles as second vice-president, first vice-president, president, and immediate past president. In these positions, Michael played a pivotal role in guiding the organization through one of its most challenging periods, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. His leadership ensured the survival of SWACJ during this time, providing stability and a vision for the future when it was most needed.

Michael's contributions to SWACJ are numerous and profound. Notably, he oversaw the revision of the organization's constitution, an essential task that helped modernize and strengthen SWACJ's governance structure. He also successfully navigated leadership challenges within the organization, serving as a stabilizing force during transition and uncertainty. Additionally, under his guidance, SWACJ experienced substantial growth, with new members joining and regional associations reinvigorated. These efforts have positioned SWACJ as a thriving and dynamic organization today.

In recognition of his steady hand, fair-minded nature, and commitment to the organization, Michael was appointed as the first-ever Ombudsman of SWACJ in 2018, a role in which he continues to provide guidance and support to both leadership and members. His thoughtful and collaborative approach has made him a trusted resource for many within SWACJ, as well as for his students and colleagues at the University of Arkansas Little Rock.

Beyond his contributions to SWACJ, Michael has been actively involved in criminal justice education and research for over five years. His dedication to fostering the next generation of criminal justice professionals is reflected in his mentorship of students and his efforts to enhance educational programs at his university. He is a solid researcher and an excellent teacher.

In summary, Michael Cavanaugh embodies the qualities the Felix Fabian Award seeks to recognize. His commitment to service, his leadership through challenging times, and his unwavering support of SWACJ have left a lasting impact on the organization and criminal justice field. I can think of no one who deserves this prestigious award more. I, like so many others in the organization, am proud to call Michael a friend, mentor, and colleague. I am forever grateful for the personal investment that he puts into the organization and for developing the next generation of leaders.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination. If you need any further information or materials to consider his nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jon Maskály', with a stylized, scribbled appearance.

Jon Maskály, Ph..D.  
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