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EDITORS' NOTES

Just before the end of 2010, the U.S. Senate finally confirmed President Barack Obama's nominee for Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, U.S. District Judge Patti B. Saris. New to the Commission, Judge Saris joins an agency on which now two thirds of the members began their service after the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Booker* transformed the Guidelines from mandatory to advisory. To welcome the new Chair, the editors of *Federal Sentencing Reporter* decided to create a special forum issue to invite judges, lawyers and other sentencing practitioners, legal academics, sentencing researchers, and others to share their advice for the U.S. Sentencing Commissioners. *FSR* urged all individuals with interest in federal sentencing laws to contribute short commentaries—ranging from a few paragraphs to a few pages—on topics of their choosing to advise the Commissioners.

With the Justice Department having recently expressed concern that “federal sentencing practice is fragmenting into . . . dichotomous regimes” (*Letter to the U.S.S.C. Chair, Honorable William K. Sessions III, from Jonathan J. Wroblewski*, included in this issue), with some judges regularly following and some judges regularly disregarding the Guidelines—and with Congress recently reworking drug sentencing through the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act—the new Chair and her fellow Commissioners surely have a sense of the challenges that lie ahead. We hope that this special issue of *FSR* can provide the Commissioners with helpful ideas and proposals for how they should tackle old and new challenges and how they can best approach their responsibilities. In the pages that follow, commentaries discuss both big structural issues and smaller technical concerns, covering a range of topics that should interest and engage anyone who closely follows modern federal sentencing policy and practice.



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