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**EDITORS' NOTES**

FSR dedicates this issue to the life and professional legacy of Dr. Richard P. Kern, the long-serving Director of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission. In December 2011, we lost Rick after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Rick never let his disease define him. Rather, Rick focused on his family and his important work. Rick Kern was a true pioneer in gathering and using data—especially about risk—to inform criminal justice and sentencing policy. We are all richer for having had him in our lives.

This issue also addresses two other key aspects of the sentencing universe. First, Caleb Mason and David Bjerck explore inter-judge sentencing disparity through the lens of drug smuggling cases filed from 2007 to 2010 in the Southern District of California. Finally, we are pleased to reprint an important paper on performance incentive funding authored by Alison Shames, the Associate Director of the Center on Sentencing and Corrections at our publisher, the Vera Institute of Justice.



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