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EDITORS' NOTES

Sentencing commissions benefit from the free and full exchange of ideas, information, and experiences, including both policy successes and failures. The National Association of Sentencing Commissions (NASC) has been engaged in that important work for many years, and is comprised of voices from approximately two dozen states and other interested parties. In 2012, NASC created an award to honor one of the sentencing world's leading lights: the long-time Director of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, Rick Kern. At every NASC Annual Meeting since then, the Richard P. Kern Memorial Award recipient has given a Keynote Address on pressing sentencing issues. *FSR* is pleased to print edited versions of the first four of those speeches in this Issue. The discussion in these pieces about the work of state sentencing commissions serves as an interesting contrast to the look at federal prosecutorial policies in the rest of this Issue. Working in partnership with NASC, *FSR* anticipates printing these remarks as an annual tradition that will continue to honor Rick Kern's memory and bring our readers important insights from sentencing commission leaders and observers.

Our next Issue, produced with the expert guidance of *FSR* Editor Michael O'Hear, will focus on sentencing in the heartland.



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Federal Sentencing Reporter (ISSN 1053-9867, e-ISSN 1533-8363) is published five times a year (February, April, June, October, December) by University of California Press, 155 Grand Avenue, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94612-3764 for the Vera Institute of Justice. Periodicals postage paid at Oakland, CA, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Federal Sentencing Reporter, University of California Press, 155 Grand Avenue, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94612-3764. E-mail: customerservice@ucpress.edu.

See <http://fsr.ucpress.edu/content/subscriptions-and-single-issues> for single issue and subscription orders, and claims information. Domestic claims for nonreceipt of issues should be made within 90 days of the mail date; overseas claims within 180 days. Mail dates can be checked at <http://www.ucpress.edu/journals.php?p=release>. University of California Press does not begin accepting claims for an issue until thirty (30) days after the mail date.

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Printed by The Sheridan Press, Hanover, PA.
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