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**EDITORS' NOTES**

Professor Michael O'Hear of Marquette University Law School has frequently ensured that the *Federal Sentencing Reporter* gives sustained and thoughtful attention to the policies, practices, and reforms in state sentencing systems. This issue of *FSR* provides yet another example of his talents for soliciting and assembling terrific commentary on state sentencing, with the focus this time on "sentencing in the Heartland." Professor O'Hear reached out to front-line participants and commentators involved with a number of Midwestern sentencing systems to encourage them to share their perspectives and insights with *FSR*. The diversity of state reform stories and the diversity of authors to be found in this issue provide an extraordinary view of the vibrancy of so-called laboratories of democracy experimenting in the always-challenging arena of sentencing policy and practice.

Especially at a time when many reformers are urging federal sentencing laws to be reformed in ways similar to successful state-level reforms, we expect that this Issue not only provides a useful review of dynamic state sentencing developments, but also helps inform the continued evolution of the federal sentencing system. In addition, as is always the case, the editors welcome and encourage our readership to report on other significant state developments not covered in this *FSR* Issue.



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