
EDITORS' NOTES

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Everyone knows that Congress eliminated federal parole, but there has been surprisingly little discussion about the new sanction of supervised release, its closest apparent successor. S/R is an enormously important topic.

Congress originally crafted this sanction in 1984 to provide for a period of post-imprisonment rehabilitation, to be prescribed in the discretion of the sentencing judge at the time of imposing a prison term. At the outset, Congress did not provide for revocation of S/R: new crimes, if sufficiently serious, would have to be prosecuted and punished separately.

The idea of a sanction that could not be used for punishment or community protection, and which did not include a revocation power, met with skepticism from probation officers and prosecutors familiar with parole. In 1986 and 1988 Congress expanded S/R's purposes, and added the revocation power, before its rehabilitative model had a chance to succeed in its original, unfamiliar form.

The excellent S/R articles in this Issue are the product of the vision of guest editor Harold Wooten. We are indebted to him for suggesting the topic, and for orchestrating its development.

RACE AND SENTENCING

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has released an important new study of racial bias in guideline sentencing by Douglas McDonald and Kenneth Carlson. The authors summarize their research in this Issue, followed by two powerful commentaries by Charles Ogletree, and by Richard Berk and Alec Campbell.

FSR ADVISORY BOARD CHANGES

FSR relies on many advisors, official and unofficial. Our Advisory Board members serve as consultants, critics, authors and guest editors. From time to time membership on the Board rotates. We deeply appreciate the wise support and contributions of departing Board members Judge Samuel Alito, Judge Robert Sweet, Professor Ruth Wedgwood, and defense attorney Benson Weintraub.

We are now pleased to welcome five new Board members. All have been FSR contributors or guest editors in the past. They are Minnesota Law Professor Richard Frase, FJC Researcher Paul Hofer, Federal Defender Thomas Hutchison, Abt Associates Analyst Dale Parent, and SDNY District Judge Kimba Wood.

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Federal Sentencing Reporter (ISSN 1053-9867) is published six times a year (August, October, December, February, April, and June) by the University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA, 94720, for the Vera Institute of Justice. Subscription rates per year are \$108 for individuals and institutions, \$70 for academics; additional postage charges are \$6 per year outside the U.S. Single copy/back issue price is \$21. Postage paid at Berkeley, CA, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to Federal Sentencing Reporter, University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA, 94720.

Send editorial correspondence to:
Federal Sentencing Reporter
377 Broadway
New York, New York 10013
Phone: (212) 334-1300
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35mm microfilm, 16mm microfilm, 105mm microfiche, article reprints and issue copies are available through University Microfilms, Inc. 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

The Reporter appreciates Lexis services provided by Mead Data Central to support this project.