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**EDITOR'S NOTES**

Sentencing and the execution of sentences continue to face fiscal challenges and remain subject to close scrutiny on the part of many stakeholders around the country. More changes appear likely, though their magnitude and impact remain uncertain. This Issue continues a conversation about the non-incarcerative component of sentences and new forms of supervision.

Alternative courts in the federal system, the role of the judge, and the changes in the training and outlook of federal probation officers are at the heart of this Issue, which includes recommendations that would lead to a substantial philosophical shift and the overhaul of sentencing and supervision in the federal system. Going forward, evidence-based practices and a focus on recidivism will dominate the discourse about how to decrease the prison population.

Much remains unknown about probation, parole, and supervision, as many authors in this Issue remind us. Better data collection would be a first step toward devising and implementing programs that could keep offenders out of prison, in the short and the long term—and help save money. Detailed analysis of programs in different states—and outside the United States—could assist us in avoiding false starts.



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