

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
701 East Broad Street, Suite 7310
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-3528

Chambers of
ROBERT E. PAYNE
Senior United States District Judge

(804) 916 2260

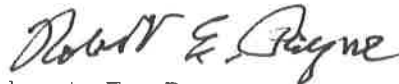
January 7, 2015

Honorable Patti B. Saris
Chairman, United States Sentencing
Commission
Thurgood Marshall Federal
Judiciary Building
One Columbus Circle, N.E., Room 2-500
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Dear Judge Saris:

I have the letter from James E. Felman, Esquire and Stephen A. Saltzberg, Esquire dated December 5, 2014 and the attached report. I, for one, do not believe that the Guidelines respecting economic crimes produce overly harsh sentences in most cases. Indeed, I can recall no case in which the sentence was overly harsh considering the ruinous results that such conduct produced in the lives of victims of the crimes involved. Moreover, I believe that, by providing stiff sentences for those who commit crimes of this sort, the Guidelines serve all of the purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). In any event, district judges have considerable discretion to depart or vary from the Guidelines, and that discretion can provide relief in cases in which the Guidelines' result would be greater than necessary to achieve those objectives.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Payne

/amh

cc: Honorable William H. Pryor, Jr.
James E. Felman, Esquire
Stephen A. Saltzburg, Esquire