

Remarks by Chair Carlton W. Reeves

**Public Hearing of the United States Sentencing
Commission**

**Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Center
February 24, 2023**

Good morning! I am the Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission, Carlton W. Reeves, and I welcome you all to the second public hearing of my tenure as Chair. I thank each of you for joining us, whether you are in this room with us or attending via livestream. I have the honor of opening this second day of hearings with my fellow Commissioners. To my left, we have Vice Chair Claire Murray, Vice Chair Laura Mate, and Commissioner Candice Wong. To my right, we have Vice Chair Luis Felipe Restrepo, Commissioner Claria Horne Boom, and Commissioner John Gleeson. We are also joined by *ex-officio* Commissioner Jonathan Wroblewski.

And we are joined by some of the Commission's staff, all of whom – present in this room or working elsewhere – have worked tirelessly to make today possible. I want to thank them again before this audience for all the work they have done, are doing, and will continue to do. We appreciate you.

Among the many things our employees have done is launch our new online comment portal, which can be found at www.USSC.gov. I urge anyone who cares about our work to submit a comment through the portal before the March 14th deadline. We will take comments received through the portal just as seriously as the testimony received during these hearings.

Yesterday's hearing allowed us to hear from a range of perspectives on our proposed amendment regarding Compassionate Release. I was struck by the diversity of the panelists who spoke to us. Their breadth of their knowledge. The depth of their lived experience. And their shared

commitment to ensuring this Commission issues the right policy, the informed policy, the *just* policy. I assured those panelists, just as I will assure those who speak today: your travels and your testimony will be worth it. When you speak to the Commission, you will be heard.

Today, our esteemed panelists will be speaking on two of our proposed amendments. The first amendment addresses the offense of Sex Abuse of a Ward. The second proposed amendment addresses how acquitted conduct is considered in sentencing. In reviewing the biographies and testimony of our panelists, I know that today's hearing will be as illuminating and useful as yesterday's. I know the same is true of the hearings we will hold in March to receive testimony on our other proposed amendments.

Panelists, you will each have five minutes to speak. We have read your written submissions. Your time will begin when this light turns green. You have one minute left when it turns

yellow, and no time left when it turns red. If I cut you off, please understand I am not being rude as we have so much to cover today and a limited time to hear from everyone.

For our audio system to work, you'll need to speak closely into the microphones. And always presume those microphones are "hot" . . . so be warned . . .

When all panelists have finished speaking, Commissioners may ask you questions. I am certain they will do so. I look forward to a hearing as productive as yesterday's.