

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF
THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

The meeting was called to order in the Deputy Attorney General's conference room in the United States Department of Justice at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29, 1985 by Chairman Wilkins. The following commissioners were present:

William W. Wilkins, Jr., Chairman
Michael K. Block
Stephen G. Breyer
Helen G. Corrothers
George E. MacKinnon
Ilene H. Nagel
Paul H. Robinson
Benjamin F. Baer (ex officio)
Ronald L. Gainer (ex officio)

At the request of the Chairman, William Eldridge, Director of Research at the Federal Judicial Center described two projects the Center had undertaken to aid the Commission's work. The first project involved compiling available data bases on sentences imposed, sentences served and sentencing factors. The second project involved collecting the available models for predicting the impact on prison populations of various sentencing practices. The Commission approved the effort of the Center and expressed its appreciation.

The Commission set the date of its next meeting for November 21, 1985.

The Commission delegated the authority to lease space for permanent quarters to a subcommittee consisting of Chairman Wilkins, Commissioner Nagel and Commissioner Robinson.

Commissioner Nagel reported on the effort to purchase furniture for the Commission. A response is expected from the Bureau of Prisons as to what furniture it might have available. Commissioner Nagel was delegated the authority to make decisions on furniture.

A discussion was held on personnel for the staffs of individual commissioners.

It was decided that the position of Staff Director would be filled as soon as possible. Announcements will be sent to a variety of places. Applications should be submitted by November 12, 1985. Applications will be screened by such commissioners as may be available. Interviews will be held on November 20 and 21.

Commissioner Nagel proposed that the Commission invite persons with experience in working on sentencing guidelines to present their views to the Commission. The proposal was agreed to and the dates of December 10th and 11th were set aside for this purpose.

Commissioner Robinson proposed that he begin research on general policy issues. The Commission agreed that it would be appropriate for him to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.