

Remarks by Chair Carlton W. Reeves

Public Hearing of the United States Sentencing Commission

**Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Center
March 8, 2023**

Good morning! I am the Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission, Carlton W. Reeves. I welcome you all to our fourth and final day of hearings on our current slate of proposed amendments to the sentencing guidelines. Some of you have been with us at each hearing. Others may be joining us for the first time. Regardless of which group you fall into, I thank each of you for joining us, whether you are with us in this room or attending via livestream.

I again have the honor of opening this hearing 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 *ex-officio* Commissioner Patricia Cushwa.

We are also joined by some of the Commission's staff. All of them – 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.

While our hearings may be ending today, our need for your input is not. We will continue to accept public comments until March 14th. Panelists, if you come away from today with more to say, please provide us with supplemental testimony before the deadline. I also urge members of the public to submit comments via our online portal at www.USSC.gov. However and whenever you speak to the Commission, you will be heard.

Yesterday, we heard testimony on proposed amendments regarding firearms offenses, drug offenses, and resolving conflicts among the courts of appeals. Today, we will be taking testimony on proposed amendments regarding the career offender guideline and how criminal history is addressed in the guidelines. While these are the last proposals discussed at our hearings, they are just as important as our other proposed amendments, as the testimony of today's esteemed panelists will make clear.

Panelists, thank you for being with us today. You will each have five minutes to speak. Know that 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 tomorrow and a limited time to hear from everyone.

For our audio system to work, you'll need make sure that your microphone is on before speaking. Look for a little green light. You'll also need to speak close to the microphone. And I mean close – inches, not feet!

When all panelists have finished speaking, Commissioners may ask you questions. I am certain they will do so. Thank you for joining us. I look forward to a very productive hearing.