

1 UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

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3 PUBLIC MEETING

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5 FRIDAY

6 DECEMBER 12, 2025

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8 The Commission met in the Commissioners'
9 Conference Room in the Thurgood Marshall Federal
10 Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle NE,
Washington, D.C. at 11:00 a.m., Carlton W. Reeves,
Chair, presiding.

11 PRESENT

12 CARLTON W. REEVES, Chair

13 LAURA E. MATE, Vice Chair

14 CLAIRE MURRAY, Vice Chair

15 LUIS FELIPE RESTREPO, Vice Chair

16 CANDICE C. WONG, Commissioner

17 SCOTT A.C. MEISLER, Ex Officio, Office of the
18 Attorney General

19 ALSO PRESENT

20 KATHLEEN C. GRILLI, General Counsel
21
22

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

11:05 a.m.

CHAIR REEVES: The meeting is now called to order.

Good morning, I am the Chair of the United States Citizen Commission, Carlton W. Reeves, and I welcome you all to this hearing. I thank each of you for joining us, whether you're in this room or you're attending via live stream.

I have the honor of opening this meeting with my fellow Commissioners.

To my right we have Vice Chair Louie Felipe Restrepo and Commissioner Candice Wong.

To my left, Vice Chair Laura Mate and Ex Officio Commissioner Scott Meisler.

And via telephone, the person who usually sits to my left is Vice Chair Claire Murray.

VICE CHAIR MURRAY: Hello.

CHAIR REEVES: Okay, hello, she ways.

We are also joined by Commission employees, some of whom are in this room, many of whom are not.

1 They've done the research. They've given
2 us guidance. They've drafted policies. They've
3 set up this room. They've done much more.

4 Like other government agencies, we were
5 impacted by the shutdown, but we were not impeded
6 in the work that we had to do.

7 The staff worked laboriously. The staff
8 worked tremendously. The staff got the job done.

9 And we could never, ever -- well, we probably could
10 ask for more, but we will get the same results and
11 I appreciate each member of the United States
12 Citizen Commission.

13 We did our annual recognition of our
14 service awards, and there are many employees
15 throughout this agency -- throughout this agency
16 who've been in government service for 30 years, for
17 25, for 20 years, public servants.

18 Public servants doing the business of the
19 people, and I cannot thank each of you enough.

20 So, on behalf of the Commissioners and the
21 public, I want to thank all our agency staff for
22 the amazing work that you do every single day.

1 I also want to thank the Commission's
2 advisory groups. They help us so much in all the
3 work that we do and they give us advice. They give
4 us input. And that input, that advice has always
5 and is always so very helpful.

6 Some of the members of those groups are
7 ending their terms of service this month. And I
8 want to give a shout out.

9 For our Practitioners Advisory Group, we
10 will be losing many remarkable members, Susan Lynn,
11 our Third Circuit Representative, Steve Nolder from
12 the Sixth Circuit, Lynn Panagakos, I hope I
13 pronounced that right, from the Ninth Circuit,
14 Pleasant Brodnax from the D.C. Circuit, and the
15 group's Chair, Natasha Sin.

16 These people have brought us comments.
17 These people have brought us testimony. These
18 people have informed us on the work from the
19 perspective of our Practitioners Advisory Group.

20 Finally, our Tribal Issues Advisory Group
21 will be losing its longtime Chair. He's a dear
22 colleague of mine and many others throughout the

1 judiciary, throughout the federal judiciary.

2 That's our friend, Judge Ralph Erickson.

3 The Commission is so grateful for the work
4 of those persons I just mentioned, as well as those
5 persons who continue to serve on our advisory
6 groups, not just the Practitioners Advisory Group,
7 not just the Tribal Issues Advisory Group, but all
8 of our advisory groups.

9 Again, the Commission is so very grateful
10 for the service of these individuals, and we hope
11 and we know that their service to us, that is the
12 public in general, is not ended because their terms
13 might have come to an end.

14 I know each of these individuals will find
15 ways to aid and to support the work that we do and
16 the work that all government employees do for the
17 betterment of our country.

18 So, having said all of that, we do have
19 business to tend to this morning.

20 The first order of business is a vote to
21 adopt the August 6th, 2025 public meeting minutes.

22 Is there a motion to do so?

1 VICE CHAIR MATE: So moved.

2 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

3 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

4 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
5 the motion?

6 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

7 CHAIR REEVES: Hearing nothing, vote --
8 let's vote on the motion by saying aye.

9 (CHORUS OF AYES)

10 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

11 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

12 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted by
13 voice vote.

14 The next item of business is a possible
15 vote to publish in the Federal Register proposed
16 guideline amendments and issues for public comment.

17 The General Counsel will advise the
18 Commission on the first possible vote concerning
19 a proposed Drug Offenses Amendment.

20 Did I skip over something?

21 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

22 CHAIR REEVES: Okay, thank you.

1 MS. GRILLI: Thank you, Judge Reeves.

2 The first amendment before you, labeled
3 drug offenses, is a multi-part amendment, three
4 parts.

5 The Commission is considering whether to
6 promulgate any and all of the parts, as they are
7 not mutually exclusive.

8 Part A of the proposed amendment sets forth
9 two options for amending 2D1.1 to address the purity
10 distinction between different forms of
11 methamphetamine.

12 Part B of the proposed amendment would
13 amend 2D1.1 to address the enactment of the Halt
14 All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act.

15 Part C would amend 2D1.1 to add new
16 enhancements for offenses involving fentanyl and
17 fentanyl analogs.

18 Issues for comment are also provided for
19 each part.

20 A motion to publish the amendment with an
21 original public comment period closing on February
22 10th, 2026, and technical and conforming amendment

1 authority to staff is appropriate at this time.

2 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to
3 publish the proposed amendment as suggested by our
4 General Counsel?

5 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

6 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

7 VICE CHAIR MATE: Second.

8 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
9 the motion?

10 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote then on the
12 motion by saying aye.

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

15 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and
17 let the record reflect that at least three
18 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to
19 publish.

20 The General Counsel will now advise the
21 Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed
22 Inflationary Adjustments Amendment.

1 MS. GRILLI: The Proposed Inflationary
2 Adjustment Amendment would adjust monetary tables
3 and values in the guidelines using a specific
4 multiplier derived from the Bureau of Labor
5 Statistics Consumer Price Index and would then round
6 the amounts in those tables using a set of rules
7 extrapolated from the provisions for adjusting
8 monetary penalties for inflation set forth in
9 Section 5A of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation
10 Adjustment Act of 1990.

11 This is a similar -- the same methodology
12 the Commission used in 2015, the last time it
13 adjusted for inflation.

14 In addition, the proposed amendment
15 adjusts for inflation the monetary value and
16 specific offense characteristics in other Chapter
17 2 guidelines and includes conforming changes.

18 Issues for comment are also provided in
19 this amendment.

20 Motion to publish the amendment with an
21 original public comment period closing on February
22 10th, 2026, and technical and conforming amendment

1 authority to staff is appropriate at this time.

2 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to publish
3 the proposed amendment as suggested by the General
4 Counsel?

5 VICE CHAIR MATE: So moved.

6 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

7 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

8 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
9 the motion?

10 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on the motion
12 by saying aye.

13 Are there any nays?

14 Oh, let's vote on the motion by saying aye.

15 (CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIR REEVES: All right.

17 Are there any nays?

18 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

19 CHAIR REEVES: All right, thank you.

20 The motion is adopted, and let the record
21 reflect that at least three Commissioners voted in
22 favor of the motion to publish.

1 The General Counsel will now advise the
2 Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed
3 Economic Crimes Amendment.

4 MS. GRILLI: The Economic Crimes
5 Amendment contains two parts.

6 The Commission is considering whether to
7 promulgate either or both of these parts, as they
8 are not mutually exclusive.

9 Part A of the proposed amendment would
10 restructure the loss table at 2B1.1(b)(1) to
11 simplify application of the table.

12 Part B of the proposed amendment would
13 amend existing specific offense characteristics and
14 add new specific offense characteristics to 2B1.1
15 to reflect the culpability of individual and harm
16 to the victim.

17 Issues for comment are also provided for
18 each part.

19 A motion to publish the proposed Economic
20 Crimes Amendment with an original comment period
21 closing on February 10th, 2026, and technical and
22 conforming amendment authority to staff would be

1 in order at this time.

2 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to
3 publish the proposed amendment as suggested by our
4 General Counsel?

5 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

6 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

7 VICE CHAIR MATE: Second.

8 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
9 the motion?

10 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

11 CHAIR REEVES: Let's then vote on the
12 motion by saying aye.

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays?

15 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and
17 let the record reflect that at least three
18 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to
19 publish.

20 Our General Counsel will now advise the
21 Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed
22 Post-offense Rehabilitation Adjustment Amendment.

1 MS. GRILLI: The Post-offense
2 Rehabilitation Adjustment Amendment would add a new
3 Chapter 3 adjustment at 3E1.2 for post-offense
4 rehabilitation, providing a reduction if the
5 defendant demonstrates positive post-offense
6 behavior or rehabilitative efforts.

7 The proposed amendment sets forth two
8 options for the adjustment and includes issues for
9 comment.

10 A motion to publish the amendment with an
11 original comment period closing on February 10th,
12 2026, and technical and conforming amendment
13 authority to staff would be in order at this time.

14 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to
15 publish the proposed amendment as suggested by the
16 General Counsel?

17 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

18 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

19 VICE CHAIR MATE: Second.

20 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
21 the motion?

22 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

1 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on the motion
2 by saying aye.

3 (CHORUS OF AYES)

4 CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays?

5 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

6 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and
7 let the record reflect that at least three
8 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to
9 publish.

10 The General Counsel will now advise the
11 Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed
12 Multiple Counts Amendment.

13 MS. GRILLI: The Multiple Counts Amendment
14 addresses the multiple count rules contained in
15 Chapter 3, Part D of the guidelines manual.

16 The Commission is considering
17 simplification of the existing multiple count
18 rules, and the proposed amendment sets forth the
19 option for simplification.

20 Issues for comment are also provided in
21 the proposed amendment.

22 A motion to publish the proposed amendment

1 with a public comment period closing February 10th,
2 2026, and technical and conforming amendment
3 authority to staff would be in order at this time.

4 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to
5 publish the proposed amendment as suggested by our
6 General Counsel?

7 COMMISSIONER WONG: So moved.

8 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

9 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

10 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
11 the motion?

12 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

13 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on the motion
14 by saying aye.

15 (CHORUS OF AYES)

16 CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays?

17 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

18 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and
19 let the record reflect that at least three
20 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to
21 publish.

22 Our General Counsel will now advise the

1 Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed
2 Simplification Amendment.

3 MS. GRILLI: The proposed Simplification
4 Amendment is considering deleting 26 specific
5 offense characteristics found throughout Chapter
6 2 of the manual that courts did not apply at all
7 in the last five fiscal years.

8 These 26 specific offense characteristics
9 have applied a small number of times, if at all,
10 using a 25-year look back.

11 The proposed amendment shows the
12 strikeouts of each of the amendments in their
13 specific guideline and includes an issue for
14 comment.

15 A motion to publish the proposed
16 Simplification Amendment with a public comment
17 period closing on February 10th, 2026, and technical
18 and conforming amendment to staff is in order at
19 this time.

20 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to publish
21 the proposed amendment as suggested by our General
22 Counsel?

1 COMMISSIONER WONG: Motion.

2 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

3 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

4 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
5 this motion?

6 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

7 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on the motion
8 by saying aye.

9 (CHORUS OF AYES)

10 CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays?

11 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

12 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and
13 let the record reflect that at least three
14 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to
15 publish.

16 The General Counsel will now advise the
17 Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed
18 Sophisticated Means Amendment.

19 MS. GRILLI: The current guideline manual
20 includes five guidelines that contain specific
21 offense characteristics that expressly address
22 sophisticated conduct.

1 The Commission has received public comment
2 expressing concerns about those specific offense
3 characteristics and how they've been applied.

4 To address these concerns, the proposed
5 amendment would set forth two options.

6 Option 1 would create a new Chapter 3
7 adjustment at 3C1.5.

8 Option 2 would amend 2B11, 2S11, 2T11 2T14,
9 and 2T31 to provide updated uniform guidance
10 relating to sophisticated conduct.

11 Issues for comment are also included in
12 the proposed amendment.

13 A motion to publish the proposed
14 Sophisticated Means Amendment with a comment period
15 closing February 10th, 2026, and technical and
16 conforming amendment authority to staff would be
17 in order at this time.

18 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to
19 publish the proposed amendment as suggested by our
20 General Counsel?

21 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

22 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

1 VICE CHAIR MATE: Second.

2 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
3 the motion?

4 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

5 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on the motion
6 by saying aye.

7 (CHORUS OF AYES)

8 CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays?

9 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

10 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and
11 let the record reflect that at least three
12 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to
13 publish.

14 The General Counsel will now advise the
15 Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed
16 Miscellaneous Amendment.

17 MS. GRILLI: The Miscellaneous Amendment
18 contains five parts, Parts A through E.

19 The Commission is considering whether to
20 promulgate any and all of these parts, as they are
21 not mutually exclusive.

22 Part A responds to the Tools to Address

1 Known Exploitation by Immobilizing Technological
2 Deepfakes on Websites and Networks Act by amending
3 Appendix A and the commentary to 2A6.1.

4 Part B responds to the Fentanyl
5 Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence of Fentanyl
6 Act by amending Appendix A and 2S1.3.

7 Part C responds to the Protecting
8 Americans Data from Foreign Adversaries Act by
9 amending Appendix A and 2H3.1.

10 Part D responds to the Foreign Extortion
11 Prevention Technical Corrections Act by amending
12 Appendix A and 2C1.1.

13 Part E would amend Appendix A reference
14 for 18 United States Code Section 1348 by
15 referencing the statute to 2B1.4 while also
16 maintaining the current reference to 2B1.1. Issues
17 for comment are included as to each part.

18 A motion to publish the proposed
19 Miscellaneous Amendment with a comment period
20 closing on February 10th, 2026, and technical and
21 conforming amendment authority to staff would be
22 in order at this time.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to publish the proposed amendment as suggested by our General Counsel?

VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

VICE CHAIR MATE: Second.

CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on the motion?

(NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

CHAIR REEVES: Now then, let's vote on the motion by saying aye.

(CHORUS OF AYES)

CHAIR REEVES: Okay, are there any nays?

(NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and let the record reflect that at least three Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to publish.

Our General Counsel will now advise the Commission on a possible vote concerning a proposed Technical Amendment.

MS. GRILLI: The proposed amendment would

1 make technical and other non-substantive changes
2 to the guidelines manual.

3 The Technical Amendment an order -- a
4 motion to publish would be in order at this time
5 with a public comment period closing February 10th,
6 2026, and technical and conforming amendment
7 authority to staff.

8 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to publish
9 the proposed amendment as suggested by our General
10 Counsel?

11 VICE CHAIR MATE: So moved.

12 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

13 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

14 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on
15 the motion?

16 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

17 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on the motion
18 by saying aye.

19 (CHORUS OF AYES)

20 CHAIR REEVES: Are there any nays?

21 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

22 CHAIR REEVES: The motion is adopted, and

1 let the record reflect that at least three
2 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to
3 publish.

4 Is there any further business before the
5 Commission?

6 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

7 CHAIR REEVES: They know I always go off
8 script.

9 (LAUGHTER)

10 CHAIR REEVES: Happy holidays, everyone.

11 It'll be the end of 2025 before I see you
12 again, the public, it will be 2026.

13 Please have a great holiday season, and
14 we are going to welcome in the New Year with a bang.

15 And we're going to continue to do the work of the
16 people, for the people, and by the people. We are
17 going to do our best to continue to do the work that
18 we've been authorized to do by our government.

19 I thank each of you for tuning in. I thank
20 each of you for being with us, and we do have more
21 work to do to enhance and to make better our criminal
22 sentencing apparatus.

1 So, thank you all so much for being with
2 us today.

3 Hearing no other business, I will receive
4 and accept a motion to adjourn.

5 VICE CHAIR MURRAY: I move.

6 CHAIR REEVES: All right.

7 (LAUGHTER)

8 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

9 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

10 CHAIR REEVES: All right.

11 Let's all vote on the motion to adjourn
12 by saying aye.

13 (CHORUS OF AYES)

14 CHAIR REEVES: Anyone opposed?

15 (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

16 CHAIR REEVES: Well, hearing none, the
17 motion is adopted by voice vote, and this meeting
18 of the Commission for December 12th, 2025, is now
19 adjourned.

20 Thank you.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 11:27 a.m.)

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 This is to certify that the foregoing transcript
3 was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
4 my direction; further, that said transcript is a
5 true and accurate record of the proceedings; and
6 that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor
7 employed by any of the parties to this action in
8 which this matter was taken; and further that I am
9 not a relative nor an employee of any of the parties
10 nor counsel employed by the parties, and I am not
11 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome
12 of the action.

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18 _____
19 Lauren Fridley
20
21
22