

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

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THURSDAY  
APRIL 16, 2026

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The Commission met via Videoconference,  
at 1:30 p.m. EDT, Carlton W. Reeves, Chair,  
presiding.

PRESENT

- CARLTON W. REEVES, Chair
- LAURA E. MATE, Vice Chair
- CLAIRE MURRAY, Vice Chair
- LUIS FELIPE RESTREPO, Vice Chair
- CANDICE C. WONG, Commissioner
- SCOTT A.C. MEISLER, Ex Officio Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

- KATHLEEN C. GRILLI, General Counsel
- KENNETH P. COHEN, Staff Director

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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

1:30 p.m.

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2 CHAIR REEVES: The meeting is called to  
3 order. Good afternoon. I'm the Chair of the  
4 United States Sentencing Commission, Carlton W.  
5 Reeves. And I welcome all of you to this public  
6 meeting. I thank each of you for joining us in  
7 person and via live stream on our [www.ussc.gov](http://www.ussc.gov).

8 I have the honor of opening the meeting  
9 with my fellow Commissioners. To my right, we  
10 have Vice Chair Luis Felipe Restrepo and  
11 Commissioner Candace Wong. To my left, we have  
12 Vice Chair Claire Murray, Vice Chair Laura Mate,  
13 and ex officio Commissioner Scott Meisler.

14 We're also joined by many of our  
15 Commission employees. Together, our staff have  
16 done the research. They've drafted the policies,  
17 and they have done so, so much more to make this  
18 meeting possible. And I thank each of you.

19 And on behalf of the Commissioners and  
20 the public, we thank you. We thank you all, all  
21 of our Agency staff, for the amazing work that you  
22

1 do every single day.

2 I also want to thank the many people  
3 outside of the Agency, out of these Agency's  
4 walls, who participated in the Commission's  
5 policymaking work this cycle, our advisory groups,  
6 members of the public, members of Congress,  
7 judges, probation officers, practitioners, and  
8 advocacy organizations and incarcerated  
9 individuals and their families and loved ones.  
10 Thank you.

11 These are the people who urged us to  
12 prioritize work on fixing pressing problems in  
13 federal sentencing. They gave us informative  
14 testimony in our hearings. They made persuasive  
15 arguments at our roundtables, and they gave us  
16 reams of data and evidence in public comment.

17 Today, the Commission may not fulfill the  
18 hopes of all those who helped us along the way  
19 this year. But regardless of what we five  
20 Commissioners vote to adopt today, regardless of  
21 what we do not adopt, know this: if you spoke to  
22 the Commission during this cycle, you were heard,

1 and you are deeply appreciated. And that's what  
2 I've always told you, and that's what I will  
3 always tell you.

4 Your input is valuable. It always will  
5 be valuable. Your input matters, so much. So I  
6 thank each of you who have contributed to our work  
7 during this cycle.

8 So now the first order of business is to  
9 vote to adopt the January 30th, 2026 public  
10 meeting minutes. Is there a motion to do so?

11 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

12 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER WONG: Second.

14 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on  
15 the motion? Let's vote on the motion by saying  
16 aye.

17 (Chorus of aye.)

18 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

19 Hearing no nays, the motion is adopted by  
20 voice vote of a majority of the members.

21 The next item of business is possible  
22 votes to promulgate proposed amendments. The

1 General Counsel, Kathleen Grilli, will advise the  
2 Commission on the first possible vote concerning a  
3 proposed drug offenses amendment.

4 MS. GRILLI: Thank you, Judge Reeves.  
5 The proposed amendment would amend 2D1.1 to  
6 address the enactment of the Halt All Lethal  
7 Trafficking of Fentanyl Act by amending the drug  
8 quantity table at 2D1.1(c) and the drug  
9 equivalency tables at Application Note 8(D) of the  
10 commentary and amending the enhancement at  
11 2D1.1(b)(13).

12 A motion to promulgate the proposed  
13 amendment with an effective date of November 1st,  
14 2026, and technical and conforming amendment  
15 authority to staff would be in order at this time.

16 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to  
17 promulgate the proposed amendment as suggested by  
18 our General Counsel?

19 VICE CHAIR MURRAY: So moved.

20 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

21 VICE CHAIR MATE: Second.

22 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on

1 this motion?

2 Let's vote on the motion by saying aye.

3 (Chorus of aye.)

4 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

5 Hearing no nays, the motion is adopted.

6 And let the record reflect that at least four

7 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

8 The General Counsel will now advise the  
9 Commission on a possible vote concerning an  
10 inflationary adjustment amendment.

11 MS. GRILLI: The proposed inflationary  
12 adjustments amendment would amend the monetary  
13 tables in the guidelines to adjust for inflation  
14 using the same methodology the Commission used in  
15 2015.

16 In addition, the proposed amendment  
17 adjusts for inflation the monetary value and  
18 specific offense characteristics in other Chapter  
19 2 guidelines and includes conforming changes to  
20 the guidelines that refer to the monetary tables.

21 A motion to promulgate the amendment with  
22 an effective date of November 1st, 2026, and

1 technical and conforming amendment authority to  
2 staff would be appropriate at this time.

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

6 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

7 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

8 VICE CHAIR MURRAY: Second.

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

11 Let's vote on the motion by saying aye.

12 (Chorus of aye.)

13 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

14 The motion is adopted. And let the  
15 record reflect that at least four Commissioners  
16 voted in favor of the motion.

17 The General Counsel will now advise the  
18 Commission on a possible vote concerning a  
19 multiple-count amendment.

20 MS. GRILLI: This proposed amendment  
21 would amend the guidelines to simplify the  
22 procedure for determining the single offense level

1 for cases involving multiple counts. It would  
2 replace the five guidelines in Chapter 3, Part D,  
3 with a single guideline at 3D1.1 that provides all  
4 the steps necessary to determine the single  
5 offense level for multiple counts. The proposed  
6 amendment would also provide a revised  
7 introductory commentary.

8 A motion to promulgate the proposed  
9 amendment with an effective date of November 1st,  
10 2026, and technical and conforming amendment  
11 authority to staff would be in order at this time.

12 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to  
13 promulgate the proposed amendment as suggested by  
14 the General Counsel?

15 COMMISSIONER WONG: So moved.

16 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

17 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

18 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on  
19 this motion?

20 All right. Let's vote on the motion by  
21 saying aye.

22 (Chorus of aye.)

1 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

2 Hearing no nays, the motion is adopted,  
3 and let the record reflect that at least four  
4 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

5 The General Counsel will now advise the  
6 Commission on a possible vote concerning a  
7 simplification amendment.

8 MS. GRILLI: The proposed simplification  
9 amendment would delete 26 specific offense  
10 characteristics in various guidelines in the  
11 manual that courts did not apply at all in the  
12 last five fiscal years. These 26 specific offense  
13 characteristics applied a small number of times,  
14 if at all, using a 25-year look-back window.

15 A motion to promulgate the simplification  
16 amendment with an effective date of November 1st,  
17 2026, and technical and conforming amendment  
18 authority to staff would be in order at this time.

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

22 COMMISSIONER WONG: So moved.

1 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

2 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

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

5 Let's vote on the motion, then, by saying  
6 aye.

7 (Chorus of aye.)

8 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

9 The motion is adopted, and let the record  
10 reflect that at least four Commissioners voted in  
11 favor of the motion.

12 Our General Counsel will now advise the  
13 Commission on a possible vote concerning a  
14 sentencing options amendment.

15 MS. GRILLI: The proposed sentencing  
16 option amendment would generally amend Part A of  
17 Chapter 5 to add new introductory commentary to  
18 Part A of Chapter 5 and move the sentencing table  
19 into a new Guideline 5A1.1 that also contains  
20 provisions describing the structure and operation  
21 of the sentencing table.

22 A motion to promulgate the sentencing

1 options amendment with an effective date of  
2 November 1st, 2026, and technical and conforming  
3 amendment authority to staff would be in order at  
4 this time.

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

8 COMMISSIONER WONG: So moved.

9 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

10 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

11 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on  
12 this motion?

13 Let's then vote on the motion by saying  
14 aye.

15 (Chorus of aye.)

16 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

17 Hearing none, the motion is adopted, and  
18 let the record reflect that at least four  
19 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

20 Our General Counsel will now advise the  
21 Commission on a possible vote concerning a  
22 miscellaneous amendment.

1 MS. GRILLI: The miscellaneous amendment  
2 responds to recently enacted legislation. Part A  
3 responds to the Protecting Americans' Data from  
4 Foreign Adversaries Act by amending Appendix A and  
5 5H3.1. Part B responds to the Foreign Extortion  
6 Prevention Technical Correction Act by amending  
7 Appendix A and 2C1.1.

8 A motion to promulgate the miscellaneous  
9 amendment with an effective date of November 1st,  
10 2026, and technical and conforming amendment  
11 authority to staff would be in order at this time.

12 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a motion to  
13 promulgate the proposed amendment as suggested by  
14 our General Counsel?

15 COMMISSIONER WONG: So moved.

16 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

17 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

18 CHAIR REEVES: Is there any discussion on  
19 this motion? Whoa. Turning too many pages.

20 Let's then vote on the motion by saying  
21 aye.

22 (Chorus of aye.)

1 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

2 The motion is adopted, and let the record  
3 reflect that at least four Commissioners voted in  
4 favor of the motion.

5 Our General Counsel will now advise the  
6 Commission on a possible vote concerning a  
7 technical amendment.

8 MS. GRILLI: The technical amendment  
9 would make technical and other non-substantive  
10 changes to the Guideline Manual, including  
11 replacing references to the Bureau of Prisons with  
12 Federal Bureau of Prisons and making technical  
13 changes to update references to the Communications  
14 Act of 1934.

15 A motion to promulgate the technical  
16 amendment with an effective date of November 1st,  
17 2026, and technical and conforming amendment  
18 authority to staff would be in order at this time.

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

22 VICE CHAIR MATE: So moved.

1 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

2 VICE CHAIR MURRAY: Second.

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

5 Hearing none, let's vote on the motion by  
6 saying aye.

7 (Chorus of aye.)

8 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

9 Hearing none, the motion is adopted, and  
10 let the record reflect that at least four  
11 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

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

15 The General Counsel will advise the Commission on  
16 a possible vote concerning a proposed unmanned  
17 aircraft amendment.

18 MS. GRILLI: The Unmanned Aircraft  
19 Amendment responds to the directive in the Safer  
20 Skies Act of the National Defense Authorization  
21 Act for fiscal year 2026. The Act included a  
22 directive to the Commission to promulgate

1 guidelines or amendments to the guidelines that  
2 substantially increase the sentencing range for  
3 all offenses involving the use of an unmanned  
4 aircraft.

5 In response to the directive, the  
6 proposed amendment would create a new guideline at  
7 3B1.6 providing a tiered adjustment for offenses  
8 involving the use of an unmanned aircraft.

9 A motion to publish the proposed Unmanned  
10 Aircraft Amendment with an original comment period  
11 -- a comment period closing on June 18th, 2026,  
12 and technical and conforming amendment to staff  
13 would be in order at this time.

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

17 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: So moved.

18 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

19 VICE CHAIR MURRAY: Second.

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

22 Hearing none, let's then vote on the

1 motion by saying aye.

2 (Chorus of aye.)

3 CHAIR REEVES: Any nays?

4 Hearing no nays, the motion is adopted,  
5 and let the record reflect that at least three  
6 Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to  
7 publish.

8 Ladies and gentlemen, this almost wraps  
9 up this final -- well, this meeting for this  
10 cycle. But now I want to turn the cameras over to  
11 Ken Cohen, our Staff Director.

12 MR. COHEN: Thank you, Judge. I have a  
13 brief Staff Director's report to give. I don't  
14 usually give reports, but we have two important  
15 personnel items to make note of.

16 The first is that Christine Kitchens will  
17 be retiring from our Office of Research and Data.

18 She's a Senior Research Associate. After 31  
19 years of federal service, all 31 years here at the  
20 Commission, she will be retiring at the end of  
21 May.

22 And if you know Christine, nothing gets

1 in the way of her work. She's in her office now  
2 working and watching us on the stream. Christine  
3 does all of our most complicated sentencing,  
4 prison, and retroactive activity impact analyses.

5 And so, if you're a member of the public and have  
6 looked at those on our website, [www.ussc.gov](http://www.ussc.gov), you  
7 have read her work. So congratulations and thank  
8 you to Christine.

9 We also have another retirement to mark.

10 The young lady to my left, Kathleen Grilli, will  
11 be retiring from being General Counsel, also at  
12 the end of May. So, this is her last public  
13 meeting.

14 Kathleen has been working in the federal  
15 government for only 29 years, 22 of which have  
16 been here at the Commission. When she retires at  
17 the end of May, she will be our longest-serving  
18 General Counsel. 4,619 days she's been our  
19 General Counsel.

20 MS. GRILLI: Nobody's counting.

21 MR. COHEN: Nobody's counting. She's  
22 been our General Counsel since 2013, and she will

1 have beat John Steer, who then went on to become  
2 one of our Vice Chairs, by six days.

3 Before that, she also served as my Deputy  
4 General Counsel for six years when I was General  
5 Counsel. And so, we've really worked side by  
6 side, first as law partners and then she as my  
7 legal advisor, for 20 years. And so, while I know  
8 the Commission, all of you, will miss her, I will  
9 miss her a lot more.

10 Thank you and congratulations, Kathleen.

11 MS. GRILLI: Thank you.

12 CHAIR REEVES: Kathleen, I thought he was  
13 going to break those days into hours.

14 MR. COHEN: Or an hourly rate.

15 MS. GRILLI: Time flies when you're  
16 having fun, Judge.

17 CHAIR REEVES: And we've had so much fun  
18 with you.

19 MS. GRILLI: Thank you.

20 CHAIR REEVES: Thank you so very much  
21 from the slate of Commissioners who were confirmed  
22 in 2022. I'm speaking on behalf of them as well,

1 but in particular, the five who remain with us  
2 today. We thank you so very much for all the  
3 advice and consultation, the scripts that -- the  
4 things that you tell me to say and the things that  
5 you accosted me about not saying.

6 I appreciate everything that you've done  
7 for the Agency, everything that you've done for  
8 the public. We're deeply indebted to you. And I  
9 hope you have another 31, 45, 60 years. I put it  
10 all together between you and Christine. It's 60  
11 years, which surpasses the age of everybody on  
12 this panel except for two.

13 Thank you, Kathleen. Thank you,  
14 Christine. We so very much appreciate the two of  
15 you and all of our staff, but thank you, Kathleen,  
16 for all that you've done.

17 MS. GRILLI: It's been an honor and a  
18 privilege.

19 CHAIR REEVES: So, on that note, is there  
20 any further business before the Commission?

21 Hearing none, then is there a motion to  
22 adjourn this meeting in honor of Kathleen Grilli?

1 VICE CHAIR MURRAY: So moved.

2 CHAIR REEVES: Is there a second?

3 VICE CHAIR RESTREPO: Second.

4 CHAIR REEVES: Let's vote on this motion  
5 by saying aye.

6 (Chorus of aye.)

7 CHAIR REEVES: All -- well, all in -- see  
8 Kathleen. All in favor, let's say aye.

9 (Chorus of aye.)

10 CHAIR REEVES: Any opposed?

11 No. The motion is adopted by voice vote,  
12 and this meeting, ladies and gentlemen, is now  
13 adjourned. Thank you so much.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
15 went off the record at 1:50 p.m.)

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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  
10 parties nor counsel employed by the parties, and I  
11 am not financially or otherwise interested in the  
12 outcome of the action.

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19 Shresta Belede

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