

## Questions to be Addressed at “Tips from the Bench”

How do you prepare for a sentencing?

What types of information might be more helpful in the PSR? For example, should there be more information in the PSR on co-defendant’s role in the offense or the actual sentence—to fully understand the role your defendant played in the offense. For example, is the defendant the least culpable or most culpable defendant in the conspiracy?

Do you think probation officers should be recommending more departures or variances?

Are the probation officer's recommendations for sentencing released to the parties in your district?

Do you meet individually with probation officers?

Under what circumstances should a probation officer or counsel ask for a continuance?

How can counsel be more effective in arguing for a departure or a variance? What information should counsel provide a judge to support a sentence outside the range?

Are sentencing memos useful and if so, are there certain things you wish the parties focused more attention on?

Do you find character letters useful? If so, how much detail should the letters include? Are form letters useful?

Do you accept binding pleas under 11(c)(1)(c)? If not, why not? Do you accept appeal waivers?

Are there too many conditions imposed on supervised release?