

Fall / Winter 2024, Issue 10

THE COMMISSION CHRONICLE

D.C. Sentencing Commission Biannual Newsletter

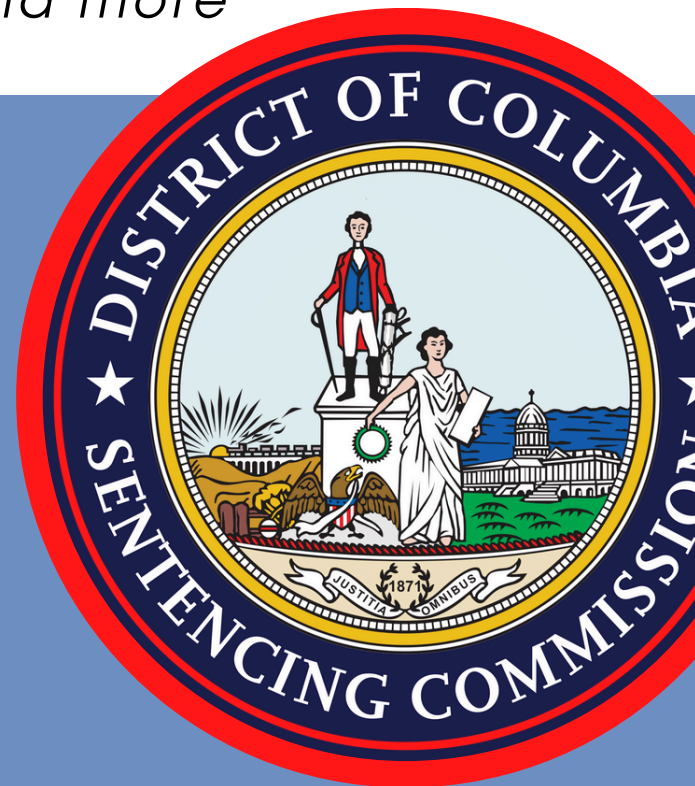



This newsletter highlights new publications and publication release dates, community outreach, Commission's upcoming logo competition, and more

COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Learn more about the recent activity of the Commission.

[LEARN MORE](#)



A close-up photograph of a spiral-bound calendar on a wooden desk. A red pushpin is pinned to the calendar page. A pen is visible in the bottom left corner. The calendar shows the days of the week (sun, mon, wed) and the numbers 7, 1, 8, 14, 2. The text is overlaid on a red background in the top left corner.

New 2025 D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual Release Date

The 2025 D.C. Sentencing Guidelines Manual will be published in March and go into effect on April 1, 2025. Starting in 2026, the Commission will endeavor to publish new Guidelines Manuals in December with an effective date of January 1st.

If you have questions about the new Guidelines Manual or the release schedule, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission by phone at 202-727-8822 or by email at scdc@dc.gov.

COMMISSION STAFF SHOWCASE EXPERTISE AT NASC 2025 CONFERENCE

During the summer months, the Commission staff had the pleasure of attending and presenting during the National Association of Sentencing Commissions' 2024 Annual Conference. The Commission's staff members, Taylor Tarnalicki and Brittany Bunch, participated in two panel discussions.

The first panel was titled "Sentencing Data Legacy Apps." Panelists, including Taylor Tarnalicki, discussed the intricacies and methods involved in conserving a customized data system. Panelists from District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia also discussed the efforts required to maintain such data systems.

The second panel was titled "Education and Outreach," and was moderated by Taylor Tarnalicki. Panelists, including Brittany Bunch, discussed their experience using varying engagement methods, achievements of commissions that have effectively executed a community outreach program, and lessons learned from outreach along the way. This session featured a Q&A session for audience members that looked to expand the outreach and education efforts of their agency.





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Hon. Danya Dayson
Chairperson

Linden Fry
Executive Director

D.C. Sentencing Commission Logo Competition

The D.C. Sentencing Commission is excited to deepen its community connections through fresh, engaging initiatives. One of the Commission's key goals is to connect with emerging adults, using the arts as a unique medium to share knowledge about the Commission's work and mission.

In alignment with this goal, the agency is inviting young creatives to participate in a design contest to create the Commission's new logo. This contest offers young graphic artists a platform to showcase their skills while helping to visually express the Commission's mission. Each submitted logo should capture the essence of the D.C. Sentencing Commission and incorporate elements that reflect the spirit of Washington, D.C., such as notable symbols like the D.C. flag, cherry blossoms, or iconic monuments (e.g., the Capitol or the Washington Monument). The color scheme should reflect D.C.'s identity, ideally drawing from the red, white, and blue palette seen in the D.C. flag, while also allowing for creativity in tone and hue selection that aligns with the Commission's professional image.

The winning designer will have the opportunity to present their logo at an upcoming D.C. Sentencing Commission meeting. Their design could become the official logo of the Commission and be featured on the cover of a future Annual Report, as well as in publications. The Commission will also promote the winning design on the agency's social media platforms, with the artist's permission and proper credit given.

Submission Guidelines:

- Eligibility: Open to individuals aged 13-22 who reside in D.C.
- Deadline: Submit digital logo designs (preferably in vector format) by email to scdc@dc.gov or via the submission link by 11:59 PM EST on Monday, March 17, 2025.
- Email Subject Line: "D.C. Sentencing Commission Youth Logo Competition – [Your Name/Team Name]"
- Submission Limit: Up to three unique logo designs per participant.
- Design Description: Each submission should include a brief explanation (maximum 200 words) of the design concept and how it represents both the D.C. Sentencing Commission and Washington, D.C.

Submissions will be evaluated on creativity, originality, relevance to the D.C. Sentencing Commission's mission, aesthetics, and adaptability for various uses.

The Commission reserves the right to make modifications to the winning design as needed or develop its own logo.

For more details or questions about the D.C. Sentencing Commission Youth Logo Contest, please email scdc@dc.gov.

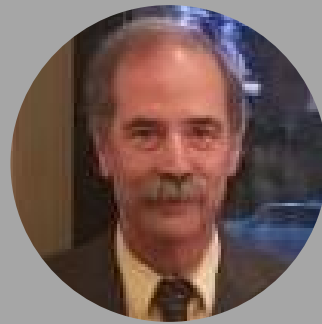
**Fairwell to
Dave Rosenthal**

&

Chief Judge Milton Lee Jr.



Chief Judge Milton Lee Jr.



Dave Rosenthal

The Commission says farewell to its longest serving Commission member Dave Rosenthal and former Chairperson Chief Judge Milton Lee Jr. We wish them all the best on their future endeavors.

Recap Recent Commission Monthly Meetings

Since the previous Commission Chronicle, members have discussed a wealth of topics specific to data system projects, recent publications, and community outreach. Notably, the members were alerted to budget cuts to its fiscal year 2025 and potential budget cuts to fiscal year 2026. During this timeframe, the agency welcomed a new IT Specialist, Ramleen Kaur. Members have also voted on the ranking of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as well as voted to approve the 2025 D.C. Sentencing Guidelines Manual

In coming meetings, the agency looks to discuss the final edits for the 2024 Annual Report, the agency's Logo Competition, and other upcoming publications.

For the link to view previous meetings as well as the link to attend the 2025 Monthly Commission Meetings, visit the agency's website under the "Commission Meeting" page under the Events tab.

We Are Here To Support

The Commission is dedicated to supporting our community and criminal justice practitioners. If you're interested in having us host a training session or would like us to participate in an upcoming community event, please reach out at scdc@dc.gov. We're here to help!

We Welcome Your Feedback

Your insights matter! The D.C. Sentencing Commission invites feedback on the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines and their application. Share your thoughts anonymously through our digital feedback form on our website. We value your input!

Recent Publications

Over the past few months, the Commission has released a wealth of publications. See the full list below:

- Issue Paper "Domestic Violence Arrest to Sentencing Trends in the District of Columbia"
- Issue Paper "Short Split Sentences and Time Served: A Review of Sentencing Trends and Data Limitations"
- Issue Paper "An Examination of Sentencing Trends by Defendant Race"
- Past Data Response "Title 16 Sentencing Trends: 2013 – 2023"
- Brochure "Ranking of Adult Felony Offenses"
- Past Data Response "Robbery Offenses – Sentencing Trends"
- FY2024 Quarter 3 Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Plea Agreement Report
- FY2024 Quarter 4 Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Plea Agreement Report
- FY2024 Yearly Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Plea Agreement Report