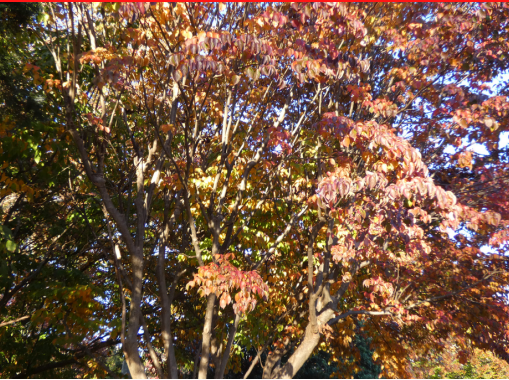


Fall/ Winter 2023, Issue 8

THE COMMISSION CHRONICLE

D.C. Sentencing Commission Biannual Newsletter



This newsletter will provide a review of the Commission's recent outreach to District community members and legal practitioners.

COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the new "Commission Member Highlight" as well as the agency's recent activities.

LEARN MORE



Commitment to the Community

The Commission is focused on educating the public on how the Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines (Guidelines) operate. The agency has participated in a variety of in-person and virtual events to provide information and gather feedback from the public. Some of the events include:

- Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) "National Night Out" and "Beat the Streets" events;
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) and MPD Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) community meetings;
- Collaborating with D.C. Public Library, ANC 7F, MPD's PSA 702 Outreach Team, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) for community centered events and presentations; and
- Working with American University and Dunbar High School's Law and Policy Program to educate students on how the adult felony sentencing process works in the District.

The agency hosted its first virtual community event that provided the public with an overview of the adult felony sentencing process. This event also provided attendees with the opportunity to ask the Commission staff questions. The Commission will be hosting more events like this over the next year.

How to Book : If you would like the Commission to host a presentation or participate in a community event, email us at scdc@dc.gov.



**September 27
at 6pm**

Join CSOSA, the US Attorney's Office for DC, and the DC Sentencing Commission to learn about what these agencies do and how they work within the District's criminal justice system.

Join us via Zoom

Meeting ID: **160 113 4461**

Passcode: **CJAN**



For more information, contact:

Elba Gonzalez (202) 220-5480
elba.gonzalez@csosa.gov

Valana Mulheron (202) 585-7668
valana.mulheron@csosa.gov

Christine Barron (202) 220-5315
christine.barron@csosa.gov

D.C. SENTENCING COMMISSION
PRESENTS



D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Training

Learn more about the Guidelines and get your questions answered in a relaxed virtual setting.

Hosted by the Commission's Attorney Advisors
Maeghan Buckley & Nicholas McGuire

Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 at 1 PM

Email scdc@dc.gov for more information.



D.C. SENTENCING COMMISSION

GUIDELINES 101 LAW CLERK TRAINING

Learn more about the Guidelines and get your questions answered in a relaxed virtual setting.

HOSTED BY THE COMMISSION'S
ATTORNEY ADVISOR MAEGHAN BUCKLEY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
1 PM - 2 PM
VIA WEBEX

Email scdc@dc.gov for more information.

Re-Envisioning Our Connection With Practitioners

The Commission has made major strides in expanding the agency's outreach to meet the educational needs of public safety and criminal justice practitioners who utilize the Guidelines on a regular basis. To accomplish this, the Commission has begun creating and advertising trainings to criminal justice and legal agencies and organizations who may be interested in learning more about the Sentencing Commission and the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines.

In October, the Commission hosted its first Citywide D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Training open to criminal justice and public safety practitioners. In the coming year, the Commission looks to host similar events.

How to Book: If you would like the Commission to host a training for your organization or agency, email us at scdc@dc.gov. You can also visit the agency's website (www.sentencing.dc.gov) and fill out the "Request Training on the Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines" form on the "Training" page under the "Services" Tab that is located on the website's navigation bar.



Commission Member Highlight Erika McJimpsey

HOW LONG HAVE YOU SERVED ON THE COMMISSION?

I have been a member of the Commission since July 2023

What is one of the most difficult criminal justice issues you have faced in your career?

Addressing the denial of access to justice that many homeless individuals face when they are charged, and or convicted of criminal offenses.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy traveling with my family.

What led to your decision to pursue law as a career

I had the desire to become a lawyer since the age of 7. I spent a lot of my youth watching my family members participate in local politics and serve in my community. Their service and commitment to helping others inspired me to pursue this career path.

What is your favorite part about being on the Commission?

I am passionate about pursuing policies and programs that promote access to justice. I get an opportunity, through my role on the Commission, to make recommendations that impact access to justice for those who are impacted by criminal justice. When fairness is at the forefront of decision making everyone benefits

If you could wave a magic wand, what change (if any) would you like to see in the criminal justice community?

I would increase the number of restorative justice programs that address the root causes of criminal behavior and recidivism, particularly among the youth. I would also recreate communities, like the ones that I grew up in, where neighbors were more like families rather than strangers. Most youth violence is centered in communities where youth live. I would create more positive and sustainable changes where youth, who are "at-risk", live.

Overview of Recent Commission Monthly Meetings

During the Commission's recent meetings the following topics were discussed:

- The approval of the 2023 D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual;
- The ranking of the felony offenses contained in the "Prioritizing Public Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2023"; and
 - For more information, view the "Guidelines Alerts" section of the Commission's website.
- The agency's recent publications and methods of social media outreach to District residents.

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 5 PM. To view previous meeting agendas, minutes, and recordings, visit the Commission's website and click "Commission Meetings" under the "Information" tab.

New Resource Page Dedicated to Practitioners

Are you a practitioner who uses the Guidelines? The Commission has created a new Guidelines Resources Page that allows practitioners quick access to pertinent D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines tools. Visit the Commission's website and click the "Guidelines Resource Page" tab.

Recent Publications

Over the past couple of months, the Commission has released a multitude of publications. These include:

- Fast Facts on Robbery Arrest to Sentencing Trends;
- Fast Facts on FY2023 Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Pleas;
- Fast Facts on Felony Drug Offenses;
- Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Plea Quarterly Reports;
- Issue Paper on Arrest to Sentencing Trends by Ward;
- The 2023 D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual; and
- A Past Data Response on 15+ Year Sentences.

To view these reports and others, visit the Commission's website and click "Publications" under the "Information" tab.

Guidelines Feedback Is Always Welcomed!

The D.C. Sentencing Commission welcomes feedback regarding the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines and its application. Visit our website and leave your feedback on our anonymous digital feedback form.