

# The Sentencing Guideline

A publication of the National Association of Sentencing Commissions

## Seattle Summer 2003

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SENTENCING  
COMMISSIONS CONFERENCE  
Seattle, Washington  
August 10-12, 2003**



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The 2003 National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference will be held August 10-12, 2003 at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle, Washington.

The theme of this tenth annual conference is “Sentencing at the Crossroads: Reconciling Budgetary Constraints and Policy.” The conference will focus on issues many jurisdictions must master due to limited budgets and burgeoning prison populations. Conference sessions include: Rational approaches to release and reintegration; the impact of community supervision violations on prison capacity; reconciling budgetary constraints and prison capacity; the status of the update of the Model Penal Code, modeling the impact of prison legislation and creative ideas for generating revenue.



**To register on line go to:** <http://www.sgc.wa.gov/>

### NASC Mission Statement

*"To facilitate the exchange of ideas, data and expertise among sentencing commissions and to educate and inform policymakers and the public on issues related to sentencing policies and sentencing commissions."*

## Message from the President

The National Association of Sentencing Commissions (NASC) will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Seattle, Washington on August 10 - 12, 2003. As the organization marks a decade of existence, it seems almost appropriate that NASC returns to the location of its first formal conference in 1994. The Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission's willingness to undertake the enormous task of hosting the annual conference for a second time is unparalleled in the history of NASC. Having served as a host state for the annual conference, I can personally attest to the tremendous amount of work and planning that must occur prior to the conference. Ida Leggett and the staff of the Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission should be commended for the extraordinary effort they have put forth on behalf of NASC. Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to have other NASC participant states seriously consider the possibility of hosting the 2004 annual conference. Although it does entail a lot of planning and work, the NASC Executive Board is very helpful in assisting the host state and providing guidance. Part of the success of NASC has been due to diversity and the interaction among its participant states. Next year will represent the 11<sup>th</sup> annual conference for NASC which has grown both in membership and in its role as a resource for policy makers in the area of sentencing. This would be a wonderful opportunity for a state that has not hosted an annual conference to contribute to the celebration of a decade of growth and success for the National Association of Sentencing Commissions. If you are interested or considering hosting the 2004 conference, please contact me or any NASC Executive Board member.

The theme of this year's conference is "Sentencing at the Crossroads: Reconciling Budgetary Constraints and Policy." As many of us have either finished or are still in the midst of a legislative session, the impact of a declining economy and limited state budgets is only too apparent. As state correctional populations continue to increase, many states are faced with increased financial obligations to pay for the cost of that incarceration. Given the seriousness and size of budget deficits, many states are re-examining sentencing and incarceration policy in an attempt to get through this difficult time. Mass early releases, repeal of mandatory sentences and more emphasis on community punishment options have surfaced over the past months as options.

Policy makers must face the difficult dilemma of deciding if resources should drive policy or should policy drive resource allocations? How do we develop sentencing policy that protects and ensures public safety without expending disproportionate amounts of limited resources that are also needed for education, health care and social services? Sentencing Commissions are often the resource that is given the task to find that balance between policy and budget constraints. This year's conference is designed to explore a number of approaches for attempting to achieve needed balance and for sharing the experiences and research on sentencing.

I believe the conference will be informative and timely as we continue to struggle with budgetary and policy issues. The Executive Board of NASC encourages readers of this newsletter to attend the conference in Seattle. Seattle is a great city and the content of the conference is exciting - so I look forward to seeing you there!

Kind Regards

Barb Tombs,  
Chair, NASC Executive Board

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## ALABAMA

### Sentencing Reform Legislation Enacted

By Lynda Flynt

Cited as “Nothing short of miraculous,” the Alabama Sentencing Commission achieved its goals with the enactment of the state’s first sentencing reform package. The reform bills attack Alabama’s prison overcrowding and antiquated sentencing system from three directions: The theft bill, raising the value amounts for theft and property crimes; the Community Punishment and Corrections Act of 2003; and the Sentencing Reform Act of 2003. The three bills, now signed into law by the governor, redefine felony theft; increase accountability of, and support for the initiation and continuation of community corrections programs for alternative sentencing; and establish timelines for the implementation of structured sentencing and truth-in-sentencing in Alabama.

Act No 2003-355 raises the felony threshold for second degree theft and related offenses from \$250 to \$500 and raises the threshold for first degree theft and related offenses from property valued at over \$1,000 to property valued over \$2,500. Changes in four offenses alone, theft of property in the first and second degrees and receiving stolen property in the first and second degrees, are projected to save the state around 3,000 prison beds in the next five years and to reduce the projected prison population by at least 1,000 offenders.

Act No. 2003-353 implements changes in Alabama’s Community Corrections Act to ensure accountability and to encourage the growth of local community corrections programs as alternatives to prison incarceration. These changes recognized that state appropriations for community corrections can be used as start-up grants for local programs as well as the operation of continuing programs and authorizes counties to establish community correction programs by passage of resolution, rather than establishing non-profit authorities. The other key initiatives in this Act are the creation of a separate community corrections division in the Department of Corrections with a full-time director and support staff and the creation of the State-County Community Partnership Fund. Monies appropriated to this Fund are earmarked solely for community corrections. Another major provision of this Act was the appropriation of \$5.5 million for community corrections programs.

Act No.2003-354, entitled “The Sentencing Reform Act of 2003,” requires the Sentencing Commission to draft a structured sentencing program for Alabama con-

sisting of voluntary, non-appealable sentencing standards based on historical time-imposed patterns adjusted to reflect reality. The program will be implemented over a 3-year period. This Legislation represents the true beginning of sentencing reform for our state.

The Alabama Sentencing Commission is very appreciative of the assistance of many NASC members and the Vera Institute for Justice, for technical support and assistance throughout the process of building sentence reform in Alabama. You have encouraged us and provided us with the enthusiasm and commitment to move boldly and confidently into the future.

## ALASKA

### Alcohol Excise Tax to Raise Funding for Substance Abuse Programs

By: Teri Carns

During Alaska’s first legislative session (January - May) presided over by new governor, Frank Murkowski there were few changes in criminal justice legislation. One major change enacted last year, however, resulted in an increased alcohol excise tax. This tax increase provided limited new funding for alcohol and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs.

The legislature and new executive branch continue to focus on the state’s budget gap, looking for revenue sources.

On June 12, Governor Murkowski vetoed certain social services (including treatment for substance abuse) and capital budget provisions, leaving most justice system costs untouched for this year.

## ARKANSAS

### Controlled Substance Felonies Eligible For Community Corrections Facilities

By: Sally Allen

The Arkansas Sentencing Commission, due to the invaluable assistance of State Representative Michael Lamoureux, recently celebrated the passage of Act 245 which adds Class A and B controlled substance felonies to the definition of a target group that permits persons convicted of those offenses to be eligible for placement in a Community Correction Facility. This

legislation marks the first instance where class A and B felonies, the most serious offenses and substance abuse offenses within these classes, are eligible for placement in a Community Correction facility. The Community Correction Facilities provide intensive treatment programs and have been recognized by legislators and criminal justice constituents as a crucial step in reducing drug related crimes.

The Sentencing Commission is also involved in conducting very popular Continuing Legal Education classes. These classes provide credit for one hour of legal ethics. Credit is also earned for a two hour tour of the Regional Community Correction Facility. Those attorneys taking the tour come away with a greater understanding of the treatment programs that are provided at the facilities and have expressed enthusiasm about what they learned on the tour. In addition to the tour and the ethics sections of the seminars, representatives from the Department of Correction, the Department of Community Correction and the Post Prison Transfer Board teach segments relating to their areas of expertise. A total of 5 hours of credit is given for the class.

In May, Governor Mike Huckabee appointed State Senator Jim Luker, Vice Chair of the Senate Judiciary to the Sentencing Commission. Welcome, Senator Luker.

## DELAWARE

**Legislative Initiative Revises Probation Procedures**  
By: Gail Riblett Rohm

Delaware's Sentencing Accountability Commission (SENTAC), members drafted two landmark pieces of legislation during this legislative session. In the first piece of legislation, the use of probation in Delaware was substantially altered. The legislature noted that in the past 15 years, the number of defendants on probation increased by 75% resulting in a substantial increase in the number of defendants incarcerated for violations of probation. Probation violators are now the largest admission cohort to Delaware's prison system, representing approximately one-third of all inmates, and a substantial portion of the more than 19,000 individuals on probation and parole. In Delaware over 38% of the probation population is under intensive supervision, as compared with 3% nationally.

On order to reserve Delaware's prison space for violent and repeat offenders, the legislation sought to abolish the use of long periods of probation as punishment. Probation, except where necessary to ensure public safety or effective substance abuse treatment, is now strictly limited. With the number of probationers set to decrease, it is anticipated that those incarcerated for violations of probation will decrease.

SENTAC, was charged with devising new sentencing guidelines to avoid the excessive use of probation, as well as with evaluating the success of the revised probation procedures. The legislation allows judges to consolidate multiple pending violations of probation involving one defendant regardless of the court or county of origin. This provision will simplify sentences and conserve scarce judicial resources. The Department of Corrections also has the authority to temporarily reclassify offenders to Level IV for a short period of time, as well as to reclassify probationers between the various levels of probation. This probation reform legislation became effective in the state of Delaware on May 30, 2003

The second piece of legislation which was drafted and supported by SENTAC members incorporates wide-ranging statutory changes. One major point of the legislation is to increase the minimum weight for the crime of Trafficking in Cocaine from 5 grams to 10 grams.

The legislation also allows any offender serving a prison sentence for any drug offense to be moved to Level IV during the last 6 months of their sentence thereby allowing the offender to receive drug treatment.

The next section of the legislation authorizes offenders convicted of most traffic offenses, except those involving injury or intoxication, to be held at Level IV, which falls within the quasi-incarceration position on the grid. This section does not include motor vehicle cases involving death who are sentenced to incarceration.

The final portion of this legislation transfers original jurisdiction over juveniles charged with Robbery First Degree and Assault First Degree from the Family Court to the Superior Court. The Superior Court, which is the adult trial court, now has the discretion to either retain jurisdiction over the juvenile cases or to transfer the case back to the Family Court. The goal of this provision is to provide a strong deterrent to armed violent crimes by juveniles. This provision also establishes a one year mandatory commitment to the custody of the Department for Children, Youth and Their Families for any juvenile adjudicated delinquent in the Family Court

for acts constituting the felonies of Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony or Robbery in the First Degree (where either a deadly weapon is displayed or serious physical injury is caused to the victim).

This legislation passed in the House of Representatives and is expected to pass the Senate and be signed into law.

## KANSAS

### New Drug Sentencing Reforms Enacted

By: Barbara Tombs

Over the past two and a half years, the Kansas Sentencing Commission focused the majority of its time and energy on developing an alternative sentencing policy for drug offenders that mandated substance abuse treatment in lieu of incarceration for a specific target population of the state's drug offenders. The proposed sentencing policy (SB 123) was introduced during the 2003 legislative session.

The alternative sentencing policy was fashioned, in part, after California's Proposition 36 and Arizona's Proposition 200, which were both enacted into law through public referendum. The Sentencing Commission studied both pieces of legislation extensively and reviewed various proposed drug reform legislation throughout the country and drafted legislation based on the goal of providing community punishment and the opportunity for meaningful treatment to non-violent offenders with drug abuse problems in order to more effectively address the revolving door of drug addictions through the state prisons, which should be reserved for serious and violent offenders.

Kansas was at a pivotal point with regards to prison capacity. The state prison population was projected to exceed current capacity within a year. State policy makers faced the difficult task of deciding whether to allocate funds for the construction of new prison cells or to enact and adequately fund a sentencing policy change that addressed the growing number of offenders admitted to state correctional facilities. The state had to face the reality that there was no "get of jail free card" at this point.

SB 123 clearly defines and targets a limited number of non-violent offenders convicted of drug possession and mandated that these offenders be sentenced to up to 18 months of substance abuse treatment while under com-

munity supervision by Community Corrections. Every offender is uniformly assessed for the risk of re-offending and level of substance abuse. The bill also contains offender accountability provisions such as sanctions for violations, including jail time; drug testing; and requirement to serve the entire underlying prison sentence with no credit for time spent in drug treatment if the offender voluntarily quits or is dismissed from treatment by a judicial finding. Acknowledging the complexity of substance abuse recovery, the legislation also addresses condition violations that are related to recovery and relapse by responding with modified or intensified levels of treatment rather than dismissal from treatment or revocation to prison.

The education process related to this bill was critical. It involved a rare joint caucus meeting of the Senate, meetings with the Governor, as well as individual caucus meeting in the House of Representatives. The House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice devoted an entire week of hearing to this bill.

In addition to policy issues contained in the bill, was the crucial aspect of funding. The bill projected a prison bed savings of between 200 and 500 per year over a ten year forecast period. However, if substance abuse treatment wasn't adequately funded the effectiveness of the policy would be negated. Treatment was estimated to cost \$6.5 million for the target population of this bill. For a state facing serious fiscal problems, funding potential was skeptical at best.

As the process continued, a shift in focus evolved from a proposed sentencing policy change to address saving prison beds, into a focus upon the realization that the current sentencing practice of incarceration without treatment was simply not working. The recycling of drug offenders through our correctional system was not benefiting the offender, their families, their communities or the state. As one senator stated during a floor debate, "the meaning of insanity is doing what you know doesn't work over and over again."

The bill, H Sub for SB 123, finally passed both houses by sizeable margins and was signed into law by the Governor on April 21, 2003. The importance of adequate funding for successful implementation of the bill was taken seriously and the bill was funded at \$5.7 million in state general funds, slightly less than requested. The Sentencing Commission is currently developing the implementation plan for the bill which becomes effective for offenders sentenced on or after November 1, 2003.

The passage of H Sub for SB 123 clearly demonstrates the quality and dedication of the members of the Kansas Sentencing Commission, for which I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve as Executive Director for the past eight years. Their integrity, interactions as a group and courage to address the difficult issues is unsurpassed. As of August 1<sup>st</sup> I will be leaving my position as Executive Director of the Kansas Sentencing Commission to assume the position as Executive Director of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission. As I look forward to my new position and new challenges, I will always be thankful for the friendships, experiences, and opportunities given to me by the Kansas Sentencing Commission.

## MARYLAND

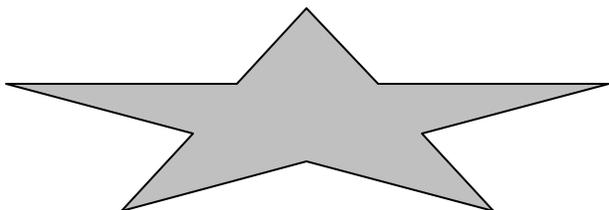
### Examining Adjustments To Sentence Ranges

By: Kristi Waits

While the work of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) is frequently driven by pressing policy issues and concerns that develop on short timeframes, the MSCCSP has fulfilled many items on its agenda over the past several months. The Sentencing Guidelines Subcommittee continues to examine possible adjustments to the sentence ranges in the cell of each guidelines matrix, as well as considering inclusion of correctional options into the matrices. Also, the MSCCSP prepared various data reports on new items added to the sentencing guidelines worksheet, such as additional victim information and data on reporting of time to be served before parole consideration for violent offenses.

New reports on sentencing-related issues and concerns are now available on the Commission's web site ([www.msccsp.org](http://www.msccsp.org)). This site may be used by the public and state policymakers, and includes more "Sentencing FAX" reports and reports on the future effect of technological change on sentencing practices in Maryland and across the nation.

The MSCCSP staff continues to develop its training exercises and materials aimed at easing and promoting the use of the guidelines in all circuit courts and oversee implementation of the worksheet process on-line.



## MINNESOTA

### New Sentencing Commission Appointments

By: Anne Wall

There have been few policy changes in Minnesota during the past year.

Our Executive Director, Scott Swanson, left in October to take a position with St. Thomas University's Law School. Minnesota elected a new governor in November. That resulted in new appointments to the Commission in April. The Commission is now becoming active again following the Governor's new appointments. Barbara Tombs, current Director of the Kansas Sentencing Commission, has accepted an offer to become the Director of the Minnesota Commission and will start work here in August. The legislature did mandate the commission to make recommendations on sentencing policies for drug offenders before the next legislative session.

## OKLAHOMA

### Electronic Monitoring Could Have Saved State Millions

By Ray Carter Journal Record (used by permission)

Sen. Dick Wilkerson, D-Atwood, said the use of electronic monitoring of prisoners could save the state millions in housing costs and that lawmakers who rejected the proposal this year did not understand the issue.

"What I am suggesting to you is we can do a better job of monitoring these people with less money and put that money where it will be of more value," he said.

Speaking to members of the Oklahoma Sentencing Commission on Thursday, Wilkerson said the cost of electronic monitoring of convicts can run as low as \$4 per day per convict. At that price, he said the state can track prisoners' movements, although not in "real time." But Wilkerson said the technology would allow law enforcement officials to catch convicts who commit subsequent crimes even without real-time tracking.

"If Toby's house is burglarized at 2 a.m. last night and we look on (a prisoner's) chart and see that this guy

was at Toby's house last night about 2 a.m., well, that's what we used to call in criminal investigations a clue," Wilkerson said.

He said real-time electronic monitoring that allows law enforcement to track a convict's movements "at any given second" costs \$15 per day. Officials said the cost of incarceration runs more than \$40 per day.

Wilkerson noted that many low-security prisoners are allowed to leave the prison and work in the public, returning to the prison each night. Many of those convicts are on the work crew at the state Capitol, he noted.

The cost of maintaining housing for those inmates and the administrative staff involved is higher than the cost of electronic monitoring, Wilkerson said.

"We could save an entire correctional facility, do just as adequate a job with no more risk to society than exists right now because these people are working in the Capitol," he said.

Senate Bill 803, by Sen. Ben Robinson, D-Muskegon, and Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, would have allowed the use of electronic monitoring of allegedly nonviolent prisoners. Officials originally estimated that up to 1,600 inmates would qualify for the program, but the bill was later rewritten so that only 800 would qualify.

However, versions of the bill repeatedly failed passage in the state House of Representatives and officials eventually gave up on the proposal.

Some lawmakers said electronic monitoring amounted to an early release program, although Wilkerson argued that the program was a "different level of custody."

Those who saw the program as an early release program suggested it undermined the constitutional role of the governor and the state Pardon and Parole Board in choosing early release participants. That view has been supported by some court rulings.

Wilkerson said electronic monitoring should also be considered to keep track of violent prisoners. He noted that the average age of a convict released from state prison is 35, and most of those offenders are "still menaces" until they reach their 70s.

"I like the idea of real-time electronic monitoring for predators, because they're going to get out,"

Wilkerson said. "They are going to get out, and right now we just turn them loose. And we have no way (of tracking them), and I assure you, the bad guys are going to re-offend real quick and with real-time electronic monitoring we might: 1) prevent some of that and 2) if they do re-offend, we'll catch them."

In spite of the potential savings offered by the use of electronic monitoring, Wilkerson said the 2004 elections may weigh heavily on legislators next year and make passage of any major sentencing reform unlikely.

"I look for nothing to happen next year," he said.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Sentencing Commission Commemorates Its 25th Anniversary

By: Mark Bergstrom

Similar to many other jurisdictions, July 1 represents the start of a new fiscal year in Pennsylvania. FY2003/2004, however, holds special significance for the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, because it marks the 25th Anniversary of its creation. The Commission was established on November 26, 1978 (Act 319) and was organized in April 1979. The first set of proposed sentencing guidelines was submitted to the Pennsylvania General Assembly on January 24, 1981, but was rejected by both chambers, viewed as too lenient to deter crime and too constraining on judicial authority to give tougher sentences. A revised set of proposed sentencing guidelines was submitted on January 23, 1982, and took effect July 22, 1983.

Eight subsequent revisions to the guidelines have been submitted to and approved by the General Assembly, the most recent in June 1997. Last month, following two years of discussion by the Commission's Policy Committee and the solicitation and review of comments from practitioners regarding the current (1997) guidelines, a Guidelines Revision Subcommittee was formed. Chaired by District Attorney and Commission Vice Chair Ted McKnight, the subcommittee will formally propose modifications and draft language to be considered by the full Policy Committee and the Commission over the course of the next year.

The Commission is planning several events to commemorate the 25th Anniversary milestone, including gatherings to recognize the support and involvement of former members, of current state officials, and of faculty and administrators of The Pennsylvania State University, where the Commission has been based since

1981. The Commission also will publish a special report highlighting the research conducted by the Commission during its quarter century of work, and including abstracts of other academic articles relating to the Commission.

## UTAH

### New DUI Best Sentencing Guidebook Completed

By Ron Gordon

The Utah Sentencing Commission recently completed a DUI Best Sentencing Practices Guidebook, aimed at judges, prosecutors, probation providers, and law enforcement officers. The Commission initiated the DUI Guidebook project at the request of the Governor's Council on Driving Under the Influence as it concluded its two-year study on DUI issues in Utah. In order to establish the best practices, the Commission formed a subcommittee that focused exclusively on the DUI Guidebook. The membership of the subcommittee included a justice court judge, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a probation case manager, a jail commander, a treatment provider, a victim representative, the director of the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council, two researchers, and the director of the Utah Sentencing Commission. After one year of research, discussion, and fine-tuning, the subcommittee produced the DUI Best Sentencing Practices Guidebook, which has been approved by the full Utah Sentencing Commission.

The primary purpose of the DUI Guidebook is simply to provide the best information available concerning sanctions and interventions for DUI offenders. Many professionals have requested information concerning the effectiveness of various DUI sanctions and interventions. The DUI Guidebook seeks to provide exactly that information in an effort to enhance the discretion and compliment the experience of criminal justice professionals. The Utah Sentencing Commission recognizes that no set of best practices or guidelines can replace the discretion and experience of those who encounter DUI offenders in their professional lives. The Commission also recognizes that the DUI Guidebook will not answer every conceivable question regarding the sentencing of DUI offenders, nor should it as the Guidebook itself advocates an individualized sentencing approach. Instead, the DUI Guidebook will act as tool to those who work with and sentence DUI offenders.

The preliminary stages of the subcommittee's work

focused primarily on research. The subcommittee began by reviewing a federal publication titled "A Guide to Sentencing DUI Offenders." The Sentencing Commission research team then conducted a detailed review of the research cited within that publication as well as over 60 other research pieces on DUI sanctions and interventions. That process allowed the research team to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of various DUI sanctions and interventions in reducing DUI recidivism and alcohol-related crashes. The research team presented those conclusions to the subcommittee, which, after considerable discussion, fine-tuned the recommendations and, in some cases, supplemented the recommendations. The literature review ensures that the best practices within the DUI Guidebook are research-based while the experience of the professionals on the subcommittee ensures that the best practices are practical and relevant to Utah.

The DUI Guidebook offers best practices in several different areas: law enforcement, general sentencing, incarceration, probation, fines, compensatory work service, electronic monitoring, ignition interlock, screening and assessment, education and treatment, license and vehicle actions; and victim impact panels. Also included in the DUI Guidebook are: a detailed discussion of current Utah DUI laws, a DUI sentencing matrix, and DUI-related statistics.

The Utah Sentencing Commission will commence distribution of and training on the DUI Guidebook in July and will continue these efforts through the fall. Commission staff will deliver presentations to prosecutors, judges, probation officers, and others. The full text of the DUI Guidebook will be available in July on the Commission's web page at [www.sentencing.utah.gov](http://www.sentencing.utah.gov).

## WASHINGTON

### Hosting the 2003 NASC Conference

By: Terry Travis

During the legislative session concluded in June, the Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission worked on two major legislative changes effecting sentencing and prison populations. The first bill directs the SGC to draft a plan for establishing a pilot regional correctional facility. In drafting the plan, the commission has been asked to address the treatment needs and risks of offenders with 60 days to 24 months remaining to be served; to propose a plan for increasing space available in local jails for pre-trial detainees and to de-

scribe proposed provisions for shared state and local jurisdictions over regional facilities. The regional centers are expected to save or at least aid in the more efficient use of both state and local resources.

The second piece of legislation actually originated as a budget rather than as a policy change and increases the level of available earned release time from one third off the original sentence to one half. Sex offenders will not be eligible for this reduction. Though this legislation is not without controversy it is anticipated the cost savings to the Department of Corrections will be substantial. Some local law enforcement agencies anticipate a marked increase in crime when the law became effective July 1. Although three hundred fifty offenders were released on the effective date of the legislation, it remains to be seen whether and to what extent the release of offenders into a job market already plagued by high unemployment will impact law enforcement. The SGC will examine recidivism rates before the law's sunset in ten years.

The Washington Sentencing Guidelines Commission staff is hard at work preparing for the NSCA conference in August. Our goal is that NASC members will have a meaningful conference and an enjoyable experience in Seattle. See you there.

**REGISTER TODAY FOR THE  
10TH Anniversary NASC  
Conference, Seattle  
August 10-12, 2003**

[http://www.sgc.wa.gov/2003Conference/  
conferenceHome.htm](http://www.sgc.wa.gov/2003Conference/conferenceHome.htm)



Seattle Arial View

## NASC Conference Agenda

<p><b>August 10, 2003-Sunday</b></p> <p><b>5:00-6:00</b> Registration <b>6:00</b> Reception</p> <p><b>August 11, 2003-Monday</b></p> <p><b>8:30-9:00</b> Continental Breakfast <b>9:00-10:15</b> Plenary Session Evolution of Guidelines</p> <p><b>10:15-10:30</b> Morning Break</p> <p><b>10:30-12:00</b> Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Policy, Budget &amp; Research Tracks)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Re-examining Drug Sentencing Laws</li> <li>2. Establishing and Maintaining Sentencing Commissions</li> <li>3. Best Practices--Annual Reporting</li> </ol> <p><b>12:00-1:00</b> LUNCH</p> <p><b>1:00-2:30</b> Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Policy, Budget &amp; Research Tracks)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rational Approaches to Release and Reintegration</li> <li>2. Impact of Violations of Community Supervision on Prison Capacity</li> <li>3. Methodology for Ranking/Measuring Serious Levels of Crime</li> </ol> <p><b>2:30-2:45</b> Afternoon Break</p> <p><b>2:45-4:00</b> Plenary Session Impact of Sentencing--- Different Perspectives?</p>	<p><b>August 12, 2003-Tuesday</b></p> <p><b>8:30-9:00</b> Continental Breakfast <b>9:00-10:30</b> Plenary Session Reconciling Sentencing Policy, Budgetary Constraints and Prison Capacity</p> <p><b>10:30-10:45</b> Morning Break</p> <p><b>10:45-12:00</b> Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Policy, Budget &amp; Research Tracks)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sentencing by Emotions and Headlines</li> <li>2. Dealing With Legislator on Budgetary Issues</li> <li>3. Modeling Prison Impact of Legislation</li> </ol> <p><b>12:00-1:30</b> LUNCH (Business Meeting)</p> <p><b>1:30-2:30</b> Concurrent Breakout Sessions (Budget &amp; Research Tracks)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creative Ideas for Generating Additional Revenue</li> <li>2. Effect of Incapacitation on Criminal Conduct</li> <li>3. American Law Institute Sentencing Project Update</li> </ol> <p><b>2:30-2:45</b> Afternoon Break</p> <p><b>2:45-4:00</b> Plenary Session  Limiting Downward Departures from Sentencing Guidelines  Farewell--Kevin Blackwell, NASC VP</p>
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Is information about your state's sentencing commission conspicuously absent? Let your peers in other states know about your current programs, services and projects. Submit an article to the Sentencing Guidelines newsletter for the next edition. Send copies to Terry Travis, editor at [terryt@sgc.wa.gov](mailto:terryt@sgc.wa.gov).

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