

United States District Court

District of Nevada

Chambers of
Edward C. Reed, Jr.
Chief Judge

300 Booth Street, Suite 5147
Reno, Nevada 89509

October 24, 1990

United States Sentencing Commission
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1400
Washington, D.C. 20004

Attention: Communications Director

Dear Sir:

The idea of amending the guidelines and the subsidiary policy statements, etc., on an annual basis is not a good idea. Repeated amendments make the guidelines difficult to administer. Cases interpreting the guidelines may be quickly mooted by modifications; crimes committed in different years may be subject to different guidelines; and crimes which overlap several years become difficult to peg into the system.

Even though the guidelines may indicate that those in effect at the time of sentencing should be applied, it does not appear that the jurisprudence will permit that unless the most recently adopted guideline is more lenient than the previous guideline.

I urge the Commission to proceed carefully and to amend the guidelines only when and where needed.

Sincerely yours,



Edward C. Reed, Jr.
Chief Judge