

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

H. E. Widener, Jr.
Circuit Judge

October 8, 1990

Judge Wilkins

Re: United States Sentencing Commission

Dear Billy:

I have your letter of October 1st with respect to the Sentencing Commission's work.

I happen to be one of the minority who thinks that the guidelines have worked out better than I had anticipated and that the Sentencing Commission, all in all, has done a pretty good job.

My principal objection at the time the system was inaugurated was that it did not give enough, if any, leeway to account for local conditions, and I have been looking at the decisions to ascertain if that could ever be undone. I see no solution to the problem, however, which comes to mind at this time, so I will wait.

I note the Sentencing Commission opposed Congressional enactment of minimum sentences. From the outside looking in, this might appear to some to be an objection to discretionary jurisdiction which Congress has a right to exercise. What I have said about Congressional enactment of minimum sentences, however, should not detract from the fact that I think you are doing a good job.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "H. E. Widener, Jr.", written in a cursive style.