

United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Chambers of
John F. Grady
Judge

September 28, 1990

Telephone
312-435-5600
FCS 387-5600

Hon. William W. Wilkins, Jr.
Chairman
United States Sentencing Commission
Suite 1400
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

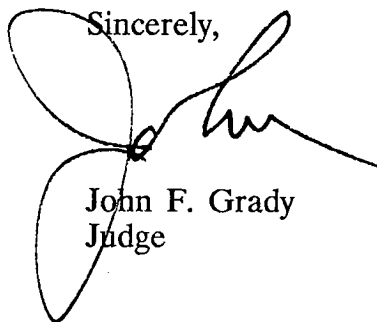
Dear Billy:

I have been out of the sentencing business ever since the guidelines took effect, due to the fact that in this district the chief judge does not handle criminal cases. I am, therefore, not able to offer any informed suggestions in response to your letter of September 12. I ceased being chief judge on July 1, and will begin working with the guidelines in the next few months. The next time you call for comments I hope to have enough experience to offer something useful.

I am impressed by the statement in your letter that the rate of guilty pleas has not diminished under the guidelines. The anecdotal evidence I get on this is remarkably inconsistent. Defense attorneys have told me, with considerable relish, that there is no longer any incentive to plead and that they take everything to trial. Some of my colleagues have told me that that is their impression of what is happening. Other judges of this district have told me that they take just as many pleas now as they did before the guidelines. I am interested to see what my experience will be.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JF Grady', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

John F. Grady
Judge

sas