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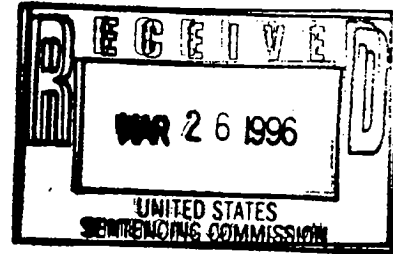
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March 8, 1996



Mr. Richard P. Conaboy, Chairman
United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, Northeast
Suite 2-500, South Lobby
WASHINGTON DC 20002-80002

Dear Chairman Conaboy and Commissioners:

The Executive Council of the Criminal Justice Section of the North Carolina Bar Association has carefully studied the proposed Amendments to the Guidelines, policy statements, and commentaries to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines published in the Federal Register for the 1996 Amendment Cycle. The Bar Association has also established a dialogue with your Practitioner's Advisory Group and has studied the group's responses to the Amendments for this cycle.

The North Carolina Bar Association fully endorses the positions taken on each of the proposed amendments by the Practitioner's Advisory Group. The Bar especially urges the adoption of those amendments and modifications endorsed by the Practitioner's Advisory Group in regards to money laundering and controlled substances.

With regards to crack cocaine, the Bar believes a 5 to 1 ratio is the best substitute for our preferred 1 to 1 ratio which was rejected by Congress last year. We endorse 5 to 1 because it is consistent with other ratios established in the drug tables and would establish the same penalty for crack as currently exists for heroine, PCP and methamphetamine and their equivalents.

The North Carolina Bar Association thanks the Sentencing Commission for this opportunity to express its views on the proposed amendments and remains available for future consultation on these and any other matters.

Sincerely yours,

D. Thomas Lambeth, Jr., Vice-Chair
Criminal Justice Section
North Carolina Bar Association

DTL,jr/kd

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