

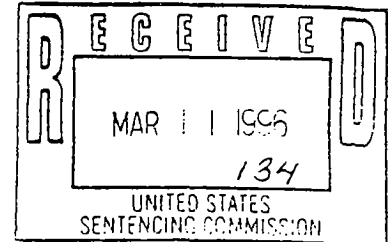
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March 7, 1996

Richard P. Conaboy, Chairman
United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, NE
Suite 2-500, South Lobby
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Dear Chairman Conaboy and Commissioners:

The North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers 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 Academy has also established a dialogue with your Practitioners Advisory Group and has studied the Group's responses to the amendments for this cycle.

The North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers fully endorses the positions taken on each of the proposed amendments by the Practitioners Advisory Group. The Academy especially urges the adoption of those amendments and modifications endorsed by the Practitioners Advisory Group in regards to money laundering and controlled substances.

With regard to crack cocaine, the Academy believes a five to one ratio is the best substitute for our preferred one to one ratio which was rejected by Congress last year. We endorse five to one because it is consistent with other ratios established in the drug table and would establish the same penalty for crack as currently exists for heroin, PCP and methamphetamine and their equivalents.

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