

RECEIVED

NOV 14 2017

gordon & saunders

Dear Ms. Gordon,

Hello, my name is Matthew Leon [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am now aware that you are a member of the sentencing guidelines commission, I would like to offer something that I hope might be helpful as you consider the upcoming changes to the SRA that your committee will be recommending to the legislature.

Obviously your task is not a small one, and getting lost in the layers of minutiae will not be something that is easily avoided. So, with that in mind, I thought that devising an agreeable starting point--or foundation--might jumpstart the process and help you avoid hours upon hours of subjective analysis and discussion about particular punishments for crimes that have yet to be committed. Instead of trying to determine the "appropriate punishment" for these crimes (which we all know can have nearly unlimited variables to them), I would purpose that those conversations be saved for the judges, prosecutors, victims, and defendants in each individual case. Moving forward, I think we should try to provide judges with a loose framework and then allow them to exercise their discretion based upon the facts of each case that comes before them. To that end, and if simplification is the true goal here, then why not simplify the sentencing grid--first & foremost--then figure out the rest? It seems logical to me, and so I tried to create something that is both simple to understand and no longer leaves judges feeling so hamstrung when it comes to sentencing.

All that being said, I have provided a graphic of a sentencing grid that I believe can be utilized as a starting point. Also included are several possible provisions that would answer some of the pertinent questions that will undoubtedly be asked. I am excited about the work that you are doing and I hope that my contribution is appreciated and not seen as presumptuous on my part.

Sincerely,

Matt Leon

Possible Provisions For New Sentencing Grid

- > "Exceptional sentences" may bump one box (horizontally) (e.g. use of a firearm, sexually motivated, heinousness, etc.)
- > Other current convictions still counted as criminal history (prosecutors can utilize to "bump" horizontally)
- > No consecutive sentences (unless new crime occurs after sentencing)
- > No other enhancements (e.g. schoolzone) as these are being abused by prosecutors
- > Statewide scoring sheet and J&S mandated
- > Good time is 1/3 across the board (simplifies for DOC)
- > Calculation of DOSA/SOSA/FOSA good conduct time should be simplified so that it is in line with the rest

These very simple measures will serve both judicial economy and the state's interest in finality (as appellate courts will no longer be flooded with appeals & petitions regarding sentencing issues that arise from current SRA's ever-changing complexities).

Like I said, the grid is just an idea for a starting point. It lets them still see a grid, while also simplifying it dramatically. There is no need to reclassify any crimes or try to put together some new convoluted scheme. I hope you like my ideas and I wish you the best of luck with the SGC.

0-3 4-6 7-9

CLASS A

0-120	121-240	241-?
-------	---------	-------

CLASS B

0-40	41-80	81-120
------	-------	--------

CLASS C

0-20	21-40	41-60
------	-------	-------