

should the scope encompass other topics discussed at nonpublic meetings, provided that confidential, privileged, or personal information is strictly excluded from disclosure? If so, what topics of discussion should be included in such a public written record? Should the Commission rules require a comprehensive written record of all topics discussed in nonpublic meetings, while disclosing to the public only the sections pertinent to the Commission's priorities or amendment process?

The Commission further invites comment concerning the specific format, structure, and level of detail that written records of nonpublic meetings should assume. What should be the content of such records? For example, should they only include a summary of topics discussed and record of final voting on actions taken by the Commission? Should they also include wide-ranging items, such as other decisions made, tasks assigned, and follow-up actions agreed upon? To what extent should the written record of a nonpublic meeting differ from the conventional structure of the minutes of public meetings (*i.e.*, documents containing list of participants attending, actions items, topics discussed, voting results, and actions taken)? For example, should the Commission only release to the public a summary of the meeting, a list of topics discussed, or a detailed agenda?

3. The Commission requests comment on whether, rather than establishing a standard practice of preparing and publicly disclosing written records of all nonpublic meetings, it should limit public disclosure to records of specific action matters that may be taken at nonpublic meetings (such as decisions to publish reports or make recommendations to Congress) contingent upon an explicit request by a voting member of the Commission. Should the Commission instead amend the Rules to provide that the decisions on any such matter shall be made at a public meeting upon an explicit request by a voting member of the Commission?

(G) Clerical Changes

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: Part G of the proposed amendment would make several technical and clerical changes throughout the Rules. First, it would amend the general reference to Rule 3.3 (Nonpublic Meetings) in the first paragraph of Rule 3.2 (Public Meetings) to provide a more specific reference to the applicable provisions of Rule 3.3 relating to meeting with outside parties. Second, it would amend subdivision (1) of Rule 3.3 relating to actions on matters that do

not require a public meeting to clarify and reflect the longstanding practice of how Commission interacts with staff at nonpublic meetings. Finally, it would amend Rule 5.4 (Advisory Groups) to add the Sentence Impact Advisory Group to the list of the standing advisory groups and to reflect the change in name of the Victims' Rights Advisory Group.

Proposed Amendment

Rule 3.2 is amended by striking "Rule 3.3" and inserting "Rule 3.3(3)–(5)".

Rule 3.3 is amended by striking "To receive information from, and participate in discussions with, Commission staff or any person designated by an *ex officio* Commissioner as support staff for that Commissioner" and inserting "To meet with Commission staff or any person designated by an *ex officio* Commissioner as support staff for that Commissioner on any matter".

Rule 5.4 is amended by striking "the Practitioners Advisory Group, the Probation Officers Advisory Group, the Tribal Issues Advisory Group, and the Victims Advisory Group" and inserting "the Practitioners Advisory Group, the Probation Officers Advisory Group, the Sentence Impact Advisory Group, the Tribal Issues Advisory Group, and the Victims' Rights Advisory Group".

(H) Further Revisions to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure

Issue for Comment: The Commission is publishing this proposed amendment to inform its comprehensive review of the Rules of Practices and Procedure. The proposed amendment contains seven parts (Parts A through G) that would make specific changes throughout the Rules and provides issues for comment relating to those proposed changes.

The Commission seeks comment on whether it should further revise its Rules of Practice and Procedure. In particular, the Commission invites the public to propose additional or different amendments to the Rules that are appropriate to advance the Commission's statutory purposes, foster public engagement with the Commission, augment public comprehension of the Commission's work, and improve the Commission's practices and processes. Commenters are encouraged to identify specific rules that should be amended, provide precise text of proposed amendments to the Rules, recommend overarching structural reforms to the Rules, and suggest actionable measures to improve the operational efficiency and

transparency of the Commission's internal processes.

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UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

Requests for Applications; Practitioners Advisory Group

AGENCY: United States Sentencing Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In view of upcoming vacancies in the voting membership of the Practitioners Advisory Group, the United States Sentencing Commission hereby invites any individual who is eligible to be appointed to one of the vacancies to apply. The voting memberships covered by this notice are six circuit memberships (for the Fourth Circuit, the Seventh Circuit, the Eighth Circuit, the Ninth Circuit, the Eleventh Circuit, and the District of Columbia Circuit). An applicant for voting membership of the Practitioners Advisory Group should apply by sending a letter of interest and a resume to the Commission as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section below.

DATES: Application materials for voting membership of the Practitioners Advisory Group should be received not later than October 26, 2026.

ADDRESSES: An applicant for voting membership of the Practitioners Advisory Group should apply by sending a letter of interest and a resume to the Commission by electronic mail or regular mail. The email address is pubaffairs@ussc.gov. The regular mail address is United States Sentencing Commission, One Columbus Circle NE, Suite 2–500, South Lobby, Washington, DC 20002–8002, Attention: Public Affairs—PAG Membership.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Dukes, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, (202) 502–4597. More information about the Practitioners Advisory Group is available on the Commission's website at www.ussc.gov/advisory-groups.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of the United States Government. The Commission promulgates sentencing guidelines and policy statements for federal courts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(a). The Commission also periodically reviews and revises previously promulgated guidelines pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(o).

and submits guideline amendments to the Congress not later than the first day of May each year pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p).

The Practitioners Advisory Group is a standing advisory group of the United States Sentencing Commission established pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 995 and Rule 5.4 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Under the charter for the advisory group, the purpose of the advisory group is (1) to assist the Commission in carrying out its statutory responsibilities under 28 U.S.C. 994(o); (2) to provide to the Commission its views on the Commission's activities and work, including proposed priorities and amendments; (3) to disseminate to defense attorneys, and to other professionals in the defense community, information regarding federal sentencing issues; and (4) to perform other related functions as the Commission requests. The advisory group consists of not more than 17 voting members, each of whom may serve not more than two consecutive three-year terms. Of those 17 voting members, one shall be Chair, one shall be Vice Chair, 12 shall be circuit members (one for each federal judicial circuit other than the Federal Circuit), and three shall be at-large members.

To be eligible to serve as a voting member, an individual must be an attorney who (1) devotes a substantial portion of his or her professional work to advocating the interests of privately-represented individuals, or of individuals represented by private practitioners through appointment under the Criminal Justice Act of 1964, within the federal criminal justice system; (2) has significant experience with federal sentencing or post-conviction issues related to criminal sentences; and (3) is in good standing of the highest court of the jurisdiction or jurisdictions in which he or she is admitted to practice. Additionally, to be eligible to serve as a circuit member, the individual's primary place of business or a substantial portion of his or her practice must be in the circuit concerned. Each voting member is appointed by the Commission.

In view of the upcoming vacancies in the voting membership of the Practitioners Advisory Group, the Commission invites any individual who is eligible to be appointed to a voting membership covered by this notice to apply by sending a letter of interest and a resume to the Commission as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section above. The voting memberships covered by this notice are six circuit memberships (for the Fourth Circuit, the

Seventh Circuit, the Eighth Circuit, the Ninth Circuit, the Eleventh Circuit, and the District of Columbia Circuit).

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 994(a), (o), (p), 995; USSC Rules of Practice and Procedure 2.2(c), 5.4.

Carlton W. Reeves,

Chair.

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UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

Final Priorities for Amendment Cycle

AGENCY: United States Sentencing Commission.

ACTION: Notice of final priorities.

SUMMARY: In June 2026, the Commission published a notice of proposed policy priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2027. After reviewing public comment received pursuant to the notice of proposed priorities, the Commission has identified its policy priorities for the upcoming amendment cycle and hereby gives notice of these policy priorities.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Dukes, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, (202) 502-4597.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of the United States Government. The Commission promulgates sentencing guidelines and policy statements for federal courts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(a). The Commission also periodically reviews and revises previously promulgated guidelines pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(o) and submits guideline amendments to Congress not later than the first day of May each year pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p).

As part of its statutory authority and responsibility to analyze sentencing issues, including operation of the federal sentencing guidelines, the Commission has identified its policy priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2027. Other factors, such as legislation requiring Commission action, may affect the Commission's ability to complete work on any or all identified priorities by May 1, 2027. Accordingly, the Commission may continue work on any or all identified priorities after that date or may decide not to pursue one or more identified priorities. The Commission previously published a notice of proposed policy priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2027. *See* 91 FR 35802 (June 12, 2026).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(g), the Commission intends to consider the issue of reducing costs of incarceration and overcapacity of prisons, to the extent it is relevant to any identified priority.

The Commission has identified the following priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2027:

(1) In anticipation of the 40th anniversary of the *Guidelines Manual* and two decades of experience with advisory guidelines, the Commission intends to undertake an evaluation of the guidelines and federal sentencing practices in light of the Commission's mission set forth in the Sentencing Reform Act, the statutory purposes of sentencing in 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(2), and relevant legal developments that have occurred in the past four decades. As part of this priority, the Commission may use regional public hearings, symposiums, roundtable discussions, conferences, and other tools to solicit input on the Commission's work from various stakeholders, including judges, Congress, the Executive Branch, Federal Public Defenders, victims, sentenced individuals, and others.

(2) In anticipation of the 30th anniversary of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission expects to undertake a comprehensive review of the Rules and consider whether any amendments to such Rules may be appropriate to further the agency's statutory purposes and enhance public engagement with and understanding of the Commission's work. As part of the priority, the Commission expects to review current practices and consider possible changes regarding: (a) what Commission work is conducted in public; (b) what Commission policymaking materials should be made public; (c) how stakeholder and public involvement is structured, including through rules about ex parte communications; and (d) what analyses supporting agency policymaking are conducted and released publicly.

(3) Consideration of any amendments that may be warranted in response to any legislation or case law developments.

(4) Resolution of circuit conflicts as warranted, pursuant to the Commission's authority under 28 U.S.C. 991(b)(1)(B) and *Braxton v. United States*, 500 U.S. 344 (1991).

(5) Consideration of other miscellaneous issues coming to the Commission's attention.