



San Francisco Sentencing Commission Summer 2015

The newsletter of the San Francisco Sentencing Commission is produced with technical assistance from the [National Council on Crime and Delinquency](#). It is for the sole purpose of informing commission members on topics relevant to the commission and made available to the public [here](#). The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the [San Francisco Sentencing Commission](#).

American Bar Association Annual Meeting

Marc Mauer, executive director of The Sentencing Project, will speak at a session on “Mass Incarceration: A Nation Behind Bars” at the American Bar Association’s annual meeting in Chicago. Other panelists include James Cole, Sherrilyn Ifill, and John Hagan. More information available [here](#).

Changes to California Employment Law

State contractors performing onsite construction-related services must certify that they will not ask job applicants to disclose information concerning criminal history at the time of an initial employment application. Read more [here](#).

California Released 2,700 Prisoners

Following approval of California Proposition 47, which reduced some felonies to misdemeanors, the state released 2,700 prisoners. The ballot measure passed in November 2014. Read more [here](#).

California Expands Definition of Unfair Immigration-Related Practices

AB 2751 builds off of AB 263 and SB 666, both enacted in 2014 to protect immigrant workers against unlawful retaliation. AB 2751 authorizes civil action for equitable relief and damages and expands the definition of “unfair practice” to include threatening to file or filing complaints with any state or federal agency. Read more [here](#).

CJCJ Report: Marijuana Laws

A report by the Center on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CJCJ) shows that marijuana reforms are gaining traction across the nation, generating debate over which strategies best reduce the harms of prohibition. Read more [here](#).



REDEEM Act Reintroduced

Reintroduced by US Senators Cory Booker and Rand Paul, the REDEEM Act would repeal the felony drug ban for some people convicted of non-violent drug offenses, allow for the sealing of criminal records, and improve the accuracy of FBI background checks. It would change how youth are treated in the juvenile justice system and remove barriers to reentry (e.g., lifting the lifetime ban on SNAP and TANF for non-violent drug offenders). Read more [here](#).

The Safe, Accountable, Fair, and Effective (SAFE) Justice Act

A comprehensive, bipartisan criminal justice reform bill is getting a lot of attention for its support from both sides of the criminal justice reform movement. The SAFE Justice Act combines a list of smaller reforms with the potential to make a large impact on the size of the US prison population. The legislation suggests curtailing overcriminalization, increasing use of evidence-based sentencing alternatives, concentrating prison space on violent and career criminals, reducing recidivism, and increasing government transparency and accountability. Read more [here](#).

Florida: No More Life Sentences of Juveniles

Florida's Supreme Court ruled that juveniles convicted of murder must be retroactively resentenced under Florida's 2014 law, passed to conform with Miller v. Alabama. This [report](#) gives a snapshot of juvenile life sentences across the nation, focusing specifically on juveniles found guilty of murder. This [article](#) focuses specifically on the retroactive ruling.

New Legislation by Rep. Bobby Scott

Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia introduced four sentencing reform bills that build off the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 and would have a large impact on federal sentencing and the Bureau of Prisons. Read more [here](#).

Prisoner Incentive Act: Fixing a Long-Time Technical Error

Due to a technical error in the writing of the "good time statute" for federal prisoners, prisoners earn only 47 of the 54 days of good time credit allowed by law. Families Against Mandatory Minimums urges Congress to fix this technical error and supports all reform efforts that would help prisoners to earn time that shortens their sentences. Read more [here](#).

Special Event Announcement

2015 NASC Annual Conference

The 2015 National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference will be held August 16 to 18, 2015, at The Hotel Alyeska in Girdwood, Alaska. The conference features presentations on the role of sentencing commissions in helping to promote policy change through data-driven decision making. More information available [here](#).

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Encouraging the development of criminal sentencing strategies that reduce recidivism, prioritizing public safety and victim protection, emphasizing fairness, employing evidence-based best practices, and efficiently utilizing San Francisco's criminal justice resources.