

FILED  
JOHN P. HEHMAN  
CLERK

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

2014 SEP 12 PM 12:52

GENERAL ORDER NO. 14 - 4

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DIST. OHIO  
EAST. DIV. COLUMBUS

**IN RE:  
PROCEDURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE RETROACTIVE AMENDMENT TO THE SENTENCING  
GUIDELINES REGARDING DRUG SENTENCES**

**I. Background**

The United States Sentencing Commission voted on April 30, 2014 and July 18, 2014 to amend and modify United States Sentencing Guidelines 1B1.10, 2D1.1 and 2D1.11. The effective date of such amendments is November 1, 2014, provided Congress does not veto implementation prior to that date. The modifications are to apply retroactively. Consequently, a significant number of defendants sentenced under the former sentencing applicable to drug offenses may be resentenced. Further, while orders reducing drug sentences may be issued after November 1, 2014, such orders may not direct a release from imprisonment date prior to November 1, 2015. See U.S.S.C. §1B1.10(e).

Under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2), a district court, under these circumstances, may reduce a defendant's term of imprisonment after considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) to the extent that they are applicable, if such a reduction is consistent with the amended guidelines and applicable policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission.

The Probation Office of this District, in a preliminary review of many of the previously imposed sentences in drug cases, has estimated that there are numerous cases in which a previously sentenced defendant may be eligible to receive the benefit of this change in the

sentencing guidelines. The purpose of this General Order is to set forth the procedures that this Court intends to follow in order to comply with 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2), 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10, and to resolve these cases in an expeditious and just manner.

## **II. The Appointment of Counsel**

The Federal Public Defender has been appointed to represent the interests of all federal prisoners previously sentenced in this District who may be eligible for sentence reductions pursuant to the amended retroactive sentencing guidelines. See General Order No. 14 - 2 .

## **III. The Facilitation of Case Review**

The Federal Public Defender's Office, attorney for the defendants who may be eligible for sentence reduction, and United States Attorney's Office, with the assistance of the Probation Office, will commence a preliminary review of cases involving defendants who may be eligible for a sentence reduction. This review will include, but is not limited to, the previously computed imprisonment range, the current projected release date, and the newly computed imprisonment range. Application of the factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and in the supplement to § 1B1.10 shall also be considered. After the preliminary review of all cases is completed, the Parties will work to identify those cases in which there is no dispute.

In order to facilitate the Court's review of all cases to determine whether the defendants are, in fact, entitled to reduced sentences, the Parties shall place each case in one of two categories: (1) agreed disposition cases and (2) disputed disposition cases.

### **A. Agreed Disposition Cases**

If the Parties agree regarding a defendant's eligibility for a reduced sentence and the extent of the reduction that they will recommend to the Court, the defendant shall file in the

original case an unopposed motion for reduction of the defendant's sentence. If, after an independent review of the case, the Court agrees with the recommended new sentence set forth in the motion, the Court will enter an appropriate order reducing the defendant's sentence. An agreed disposition case may be placed on the Expedited Action Docket after this time if warranted under the provisions of that Docket, as described in Section IV of this Order. If the Court does not agree with the recommendation set forth in the motion, the Court may decide the merits of the issues in question at that time or may refer the case to the Probation Office in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section III.B of this Order.

If the Parties agree that the defendant is not eligible for a reduced sentence, the Federal Public Defender shall so advise the defendant and provide the defendant with the reasons for this determination.

**B. Disputed Disposition Cases**

If the Parties do not agree regarding the defendant's eligibility for a reduced sentence or, if eligible, do not agree regarding the extent of a reduction, the disagreement shall be referred to the Probation Office. A Probation Officer shall provide to the sentencing judge a copy of the Presentence Investigation Report, together with an Addendum to the Presentence Investigation Report. The Addendum shall contain an analysis of the defendant's eligibility to receive a sentence reduction and, if eligible, an application of the factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the factors listed in the supplement to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10, the post-sentencing conduct of the defendant, a newly computed imprisonment range, a response to the disputed issues referred to the Probation Office, and a recommendation of the Probation Officer regarding any reduced sentence. The Probation Office shall provide one copy of the Presentence Investigation

Report and the Addendum to the United States Attorney or his designee and shall provide two copies of those documents to the Federal Public Defender or his designee, or to another defense attorney if one has been appointed or retained. The Addendum shall be sealed and disclosed to no person other than the designated attorneys and the defendant.

Any objection to the Addendum or recommendation must be submitted to the sentencing judge by the objecting party within 10 days from the date the objecting party receives the Addendum. Any response by the other party to the objection must be submitted to the sentencing judge within 10 days from the date of the receipt of the objection. These time periods may be changed by the sentencing judge *sua sponte* or on motion by one or both of the parties. The sentencing judge also may request memoranda from the parties, oral arguments, or additional information from the Probation Officer if the judge is of the opinion that such information would be helpful to the Court.

#### **IV. The Prioritization of Cases**

In order to ensure that eligible defendants receive the full benefit of any applicable sentence reduction, the Parties, in light of their preliminary review described in Section III of this Order, shall place all cases on either (1) the Expedited Action Docket or (2) the Standard Action Docket.

##### **A. The Expedited Action Docket**

If, in any disputed disposition case or in any agreed disposition case, a decision must be made expeditiously in order to give the defendant the full benefit of a warranted reduced sentence prior to the defendant's current release date, the Parties shall place the case on the

Expedited Action Docket of the sentencing judge and immediately call such a case to the attention of that judge.

**B. The Standard Action Docket**

Cases not required to be placed on the Expedited Action Docket shall be placed on the Standard Action Docket for consideration by the sentencing judge as his or her schedule permits. A party may move to have a case transferred to the Expedited Action Docket if there are unusual circumstances that would warrant such a transfer.

**V. Letters from Defendants**

The Court anticipates that it may receive numerous letters from defendants requesting reductions in their sentences pursuant to the retroactive amendment. The Court intends to treat these letters as motions for a reduced sentence. The Court will inform the defendant that the Federal Public Defender's Office has been appointed to represent the defendant. The Court will forward copies of such letters to Counsel for their consideration in the facilitation of case review process described in Section III of this General Order.

**VI. Sentencing Hearing and Presence of the Defendant**

As a general rule, sentencing hearings will not be held. The sentencing judge, however, may schedule a hearing if, in the opinion of the judge, such a hearing is needed. If the judge determines that a hearing is needed, the judge will determine whether the defendant needs to be present at the hearing and, if so, whether the appearance will be in person or by videoconferencing.

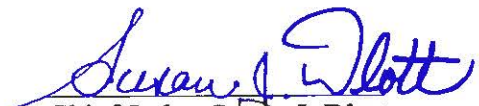
**VII. Amended Judgment**

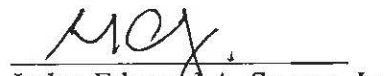
Following the entry of an Order granting a motion for reduction of sentence, the sentencing judge will file an Amended Judgment reducing a defendant's sentence in accordance with the Order.

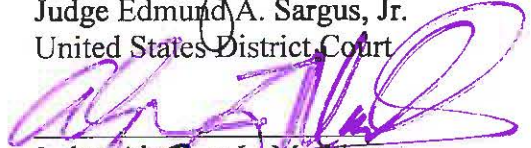
**VIII. Cases of Judges No Longer Available**

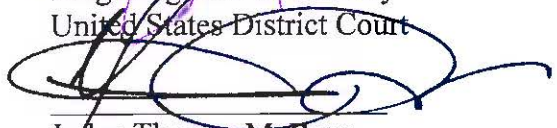
If the sentencing judge is deceased or is no longer an active or senior judge of this Court and the case has not been previously reassigned to another judge, the drug offense cases of the judge no longer available shall be assigned to the active and senior judges of this Court by the Clerk under the random draw procedures used by this Court.


**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

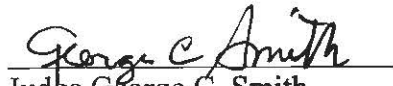
  
Chief Judge Susan J. Dlott  
United States District Court


  
Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.  
United States District Court

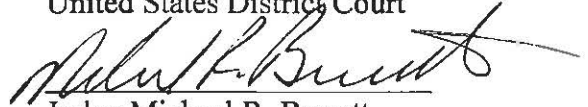
  
Judge Alphon L. Marbley  
United States District Court


  
Judge Thomas M. Rose  
United States District Court


  
Judge Gregory L. Frost  
United States District Court

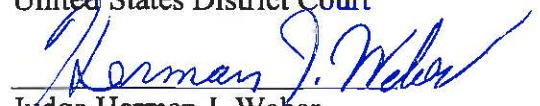
  
Judge George C. Smith  
United States District Court


  
Judge Michael H. Watson  
United States District Court

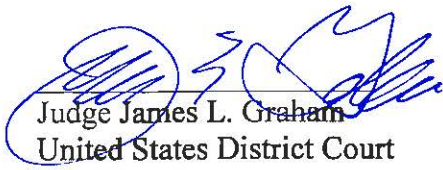
  
Judge Michael R. Barrett  
United States District Court


  
Judge Timothy S. Black  
United States District Court


  
Judge S. Arthur Spiegel  
United States District Court

  
Judge Herman J. Weber  
United States District Court

  
Judge Walter H. Rice  
United States District Court

  
Judge James L. Graham  
United States District Court

  
Judge Sandra S. Beckwith  
United States District Court

  
Judge Peter C. Economus  
United States District Court