

Date/Time	Topic	Presenter(s)/Panelists
Monday, August 5		
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	<i>Informal Happy Hour for NASC Members & Guests</i>	North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission; NASC Executive Committee
Tuesday, August 6		
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	<i>Conference Welcome</i>	North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts Director Ryan Boyce
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<i>The Value of Long Service on Commissions</i> <i>This panel will focus on unpacking the perspective of members and staff who have served Commissions for years. This panel will feature a discussion of how things have changed (or not) and what advantages or challenges there are to continuity of service on Commissions.</i>	Judge Charlie Brown Mark Donatelli Gregory Link Kelly Mitchell Moderator: Steven Chanenson
4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	All States Update: Part I of II	Moderator: Michelle Hall
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	<i>Conference Reception</i>	Marriott
Wednesday, August 7		
7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	<i>Breakfast</i>	

Date/Time	Topic	Presenter(s)/Panelists
Wednesday, August 7 (cont'd)		
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">Plenary Session 1 Voices of Experience</p> <p><i>Judge Marvin Frankel first advocated for a “Commission on Sentencing” to include “lawyers, judges, penologists, and criminologists, ... sociologists, psychologists, businesspeople, artists, and, lastly for emphasis, former or present prison inmates.” Today, a growing number of jurisdictions have begun to heed his advice by including formerly incarcerated individuals as members of their Sentencing Commissions. For example, DC recently appointed its first formerly incarcerated sentencing commissioner and amended its criminal code to mandate that the Commission include at least one returning citizen in the future. This panel would explore the unique role of formerly incarcerated individuals on Sentencing Commissions and the benefits and challenges of their inclusion through the lens of the experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals who have served in such positions.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jeremiah Bourgeois Joel Castón Timothy Morin Moderator: Jasmine Tyler</p>
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<i>Morning Break</i>	
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<i>Breakout Sessions – Choose One</i>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">B1a/ Sentencing Data Legacy Apps</p> <p><i>In support of the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information, Sentencing Commissions often rely on home-grown applications. For Commissions that have legacy systems, the applications are often stale and rely upon outdated architectures, have limited scalability, and high maintenance costs. As Sentencing Commissions seek to leverage data analytics and advanced technologies to inform policy decisions, the need to develop new or modernize these legacy applications becomes increasingly pressing. This panel aims to explore the complexities and strategies involved in maintaining custom-developed applications and efforts to modernize them in four jurisdictions (District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia).</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kristie Bundro Jody Fridley David Soulé Taylor Tarnalicki</p>

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Wednesday, August 7 (cont'd)		
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<i>Breakout Sessions – Choose One (continued)</i>	
	<p align="center">B1b/ Criminal History Workshop</p> <p><i>A number of guideline states have made changes to the calculation of criminal history in recent years. This workshop will feature an interactive discussion and exploration of the impact of criminal history on sentencing, including a comparison of the elements and their effects on specific calculations within and across jurisdictions.</i></p>	Facilitator: James Markham
	<p align="center">B1c/ Structured Sanctions, Net Widening, and Racial Disparity</p> <p><i>This breakout lecture will describe research using a detailed data set from Kansas, finding that “the introduction of swift and certain sanctioning reforms is associated with a statistically significant increase in the overall rate of incarceration among probationers and a statistically significant decrease in racial disparities in incarceration. The overall increase in incarceration is driven by the imposition of new jail and prison sanctions introduced by the swift and certain reforms. The decrease in racial disparities appears to be driven by the narrowing of racial disparities associated with probation revocations.”</i></p>	Ryan Sakoda
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<i>Lunch & Rick Kern Memorial Keynote Speaker</i>	John Kramer
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<p align="center">Plenary Session 2 Degrees of Indeterminacy</p> <p><i>This session will describe the resources developed by the Robina Institute’s “Degrees of Indeterminacy” project. The project is a review of the discretionary powers that affect prison sentence length post-sentencing — both in statute and in practice — by analyzing parole eligibility and release formulas, good time allowances, mandatory-release ceilings, and other forms of “time-served authority” that engage after judicial sentencing. The research spans all 50 states to develop comparative measures of the “degree of indeterminacy” in each system.</i></p>	Kevin Reitz
2:00 pm – 2:15 p.m.	<i>Afternoon Break</i>	

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Wednesday, August 7 (cont'd)		
2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<i>Breakout Sessions – Choose One</i>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">B2a/ 30 Years in Sentencing</p> <p><i>In 1993, Texas had a short-term Sentencing Commission that rewrote the Penal Code and revised the punishment structure. Carl headed the staff and has been studying and working on sentencing issues off and on for the following 30 years, the lifetime of the NASC. This breakout lecture will describe what he has learned about sentencing structures, parole, stakeholders, legal issues, and data analysis.</i></p>	Carl Reynolds
	<p style="text-align: center;">B2b/ Can Sentencing Commissions play a role in Juvenile Justice?</p> <p><i>Currently there are 23 jurisdictions with Sentencing Commissions, but only four of them work with the juvenile justice system. This session will feature those four Commissions and the variety of statutorily mandated duties they have related to the juvenile justice system (New Mexico, North Carolina, Utah, and Washington). Using their duties as examples, panelists will discuss ways a Commission and its staff can be involved in juvenile justice research and policy development.</i></p>	Bob Cleavall William Lassiter Gregory Link Pamela Vickrey Moderator: LaToya Powell
	<p style="text-align: center;">B2c/ Strategies for Introducing and Communicating New Policies</p> <p><i>Sentencing Commissions regularly engage in formulating, adopting, evaluating, and assisting in the implementation of policy. When Commission’s adopt modifications, or wholesale revisions to existing sentencing guideline systems, staff are often responsible for informing/training key stakeholders of the changes. The process of implementation presents myriad challenges, including communicating often-complex changes to a diverse set of stakeholders, many of whom possess varying degrees of experience and knowledge, and balancing the varied goals of those involved in carrying out justice. This session will explore strategies for introducing and communicating the new policies and practices in two different states (Pennsylvania and Washington).</i></p>	Lauren Knoth-Peterson Robert Sisock Moderator: Ryan Meyers
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	All States Update: Part II of II	Moderator: Michelle Hall

Date/Time	Topic	Presenter(s)/Panelists
Wednesday, August 7 (cont'd)		
4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p align="center">Annual Membership Meeting Executive Committee Member Elections, Financial Report, other NASC Business</p>	NASC Executive Committee
6:00 p.m.	<i>Dinner on your own</i>	
Thursday, August 8		
7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	<i>Breakfast</i>	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<i>NASC Executive Committee meeting</i>	NASC Executive Committee
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<p align="center">Plenary Session 3 What can guideline states learn from non-guideline states?</p> <p><i>Much of the scholarly research and writing about sentencing focuses on states with sentencing guidelines and Sentencing Commissions which routinely collect systematic annual data for study. These enquiries focus on the role that guidelines and Commissions can play in enhancing consistency, proportionality, and fairness in sentencing, with an outsized focus on sentencing in a small handful of jurisdictions including Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and the federal system. Yet only about 20 jurisdictions operate under sentencing guidelines. Since most non-guideline states do not collect data to inform research, how sentencing works in non-guideline states remain less well known. This panel hopes to shed light on the understudied world of non-guideline sentencing through an examination of sentencing practices in Hawaii, Illinois, and South Carolina. The panelists will explore topics including how sentencing policy is created and monitored; what data is collected and leveraged in their jurisdictions; the process for developing projections for policy changes (specifically, correction populations); how racial and ethnic disparities are assessed; what information is provided to judges prior to sentencing; and others. The panel will highlight ways these jurisdictions promote common goals of fairness and equity in sentencing, even in the absence of guidelines with some policy ideas that could be exported, including to guideline jurisdictions.</i></p>	<p align="center">Victoria Gonzalez Erin Harbinson Rhys Hester Moderator: Matthew Kleiman</p>

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Thursday, August 8 (cont'd)		
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Morning Break	
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Breakout Sessions – Choose One	
	<p>B3a/ Studying Sentencing Practices <i>Much research has focused on how sentencing guidelines can reduce, but not necessarily eliminate, disparity. This session will focus on jurisdictions that have recently published studies examining possible disparity in sentencing. Panelists will discuss and compare recent and/or ongoing efforts to study and understand possible disparities within different sentencing systems.</i></p>	<p>Ryan Cotter Ginny Hevener Lauren Knoth-Peterson David Soulé Moderator: Clare Strange</p>
	<p>B3b/ Education and Outreach <i>This breakout session would showcase community outreach and education as one of the evolving roles of Sentencing Commissions and highlight the importance of increasing the general public’s understanding of the sentencing process. Panelists will discuss the advantages and challenges associated with various engagement tools, accomplishments of Commissions that have successfully implemented a community outreach program, and touch on some of the pitfalls they experienced along the way. This session will include a general discussion among panelists about their experience with community engagement and will also feature a Q&A session with audience members that are looking to expand the outreach and education efforts of their agency.</i></p>	<p>Brittany Bunch Jody Fridley Representative Rick Krajewski Moderator: Taylor Tarnalicki</p>

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Thursday, August 8 (cont'd)		
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<i>Breakout Sessions – Choose One (continued)</i>	
	<p>B3c/ Drug Policy in Oregon: From Decriminalization to Recriminalization</p> <p><i>Since 2017, significant changes have been made to the ways that Oregon addresses substance use and abuse within the state. Most reforms and statutory changes have applied to possession of controlled substances. In 2017, many instances of possession were de-felonized. Three years later in 2020, possession of user amounts of substances was decriminalized entirely via a statewide ballot measure. During this same period, a case decision by the Oregon Court of Appeals led to a significant change in the legal standard required to prove that an individual is guilty of delivery of controlled substances. This legal decision led to plummeting numbers of convictions for delivery. In response to these changes, as well as the emergence of the west-coast fentanyl crisis and public outrage about public drug use, the Oregon Legislature recriminalized possession of user amounts of controlled substances and made significant reforms to the legal standard concerning delivery of controlled substances via House Bill 4002 in 2024. This presentation will discuss the journey taken by Oregon over the past seven years with a focus on the impacts of these various policy changes along with a discussion of lessons learned and what the future landscape will look like in the state.</i></p>	Ken Sanchagrin
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch & Presentation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Using Technology to Improve Presentence Investigations</p> <p><i>In this session, Recidiviz will present its approach, learnings, and discuss the opportunities to leverage data and technology to make sentencing decisions more consistent, equitable, and outcome-oriented—starting with the PSI process.</i></p>	Serena Chang Nora Grossman
1:30 p.m.	<i>Adjourn</i>	
2:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">Post Conference Activity</p> <p><i>Guided tour of the historic North Carolina State Capitol building (free)</i></p>	North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission & NASC Executive Committee