

April 28, 2025

Dear Colleague,

As many of you know, the U.S. Sentencing Commission routinely calls upon advisory groups to assist in its work. While many of these groups provide advice to the Commission in discharging its statutory duties to periodically review and revise the federal sentencing guidelines, from time to time the Commission has employed advisory groups for other purposes.

Recently, the Commission voted to establish an ad hoc advisory group on research and data practices (RDPAG). The purpose of the RDPAG is to study the best practices of other government agencies and non-government organizations relating to the collection, maintenance, use, analysis, and dissemination of data relevant to the mission of such agencies and organizations, and the development and execution of research agendas. I am writing to invite you to share this information with your colleagues, and to encourage persons to apply whom you believe might wish to contribute to the work of this advisory group.

The Commission intends to appoint up to 15 persons to the RDPAG. Members of the advisory group will have knowledge, expertise, or experience in social science research (whether criminal justice or other disciplines), including social science research design, data collection and maintenance, conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis of data, and the public dissemination of social science research. The RDPAG will study these issues for a period of approximately 18 months before making a final report to the Commission, at which time the advisory group will conclude its work and disband.

The Commission is currently soliciting applications to serve on the RDPAG. To apply, interested persons may send a letter of interest and résumé to the Commission not later than June 6, 2025. Applications may be sent by electronic mail to pubaffairs@ussc.gov or by regular mail to United States Sentencing Commission, One Columbus Circle NE, Suite 2-500, South Lobby, Washington, DC 20002-8002, Attention: Public Affairs – RDPAG Membership. For more information about the RDPAG, you can read its charter at <https://www.ussc.gov/about/who-we-are/advisory-groups>.

Membership on the RDPAG would be a unique opportunity to help inform and enhance the data collection and social science research conducted at the Commission. If you or your colleagues have any questions about the purpose of the RDPAG, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss them. Thank you for supporting the work of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Glenn R. Schmitt
Director
Office of Research and Data