



Dear Public Defense Community:

We are pleased to announce the release of an important new primer on criminal justice issues for the next administration and Congress. In a unique collaborative effort, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association, The Constitution Project and more than 25 national criminal justice experts worked together to draft *Smart on Crime: Recommendations for the New Administration and Congress*. It is available online or as PDFs of the complete document or each separate section at www.2009transition.org/criminaljustice/

Smart on Crime addresses 15 issue areas, incorporates a diversity of philosophical and professional points of view and provides recommendations that assess both the substantive and political viability of each proposal. As noted in each policy discussion, these recommendations are supported by a wide range of criminal justice experts and advocates from across the ideological spectrum.

Smart on Crime covers the following subjects:

1. Overcriminalization of Conduct, Overfederalization of Criminal Law and the Exercise of Enforcement Discretion
2. Federal Law Enforcement Reform – Improve Investigative Techniques, Including Eyewitness Identification, Incentives to Testify and Interrogation
3. Forensic Science Reform – Federal Oversight and Standards
4. Federal Grand Jury Reform
5. Federal Sentencing Reform
6. Asset Forfeiture Reform
7. Innocence Issues
8. Prison Reform
9. Pardon Power/Executive Clemency – Breathe New Life into the Pardon Power
10. Re-entry – Ensure Successful Reintegration After Incarceration
11. Public Defense Reforms – Make our Communities Safer by Supporting Quality Public Defense Systems
12. Death Penalty/Habeas Corpus Reform
13. Juvenile Justice Reforms
14. Fixing Medellin: Compliance with International Law and Protecting Consular Access
15. Victim Issues and Restorative Justice

Changes in the administration and Congress afford us a unique opportunity to seek federal support for the right to counsel. We especially hope that you will forward the public defense section of *Smart on Crime* to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and others who may find it helpful. Please use this opportunity to talk to your congressional representatives about the need for their help and use *Smart on Crime* to make public defense reform into the federal issue that our offices and clients need it to be. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Richard C. Goemann, director of NLADA Defender Legal Services at r.goemann@nlada.org.

National Legal Aid & Defender Association