

# Resource Guide: Data & Advocacy Tools for Federal Sentencing

## 1. Data & Statistics (U.S. Sentencing Commission)

Use these tools to move beyond anecdotal arguments and provide the court with empirical data regarding national and district sentencing trends.

- **Interactive Data Analyzer (IDA)**
    - *Link:* <https://ida.ussc.gov/>
    - *Use:* Filter sentencing outcomes by the **Sixth Circuit** or **S.D. Ohio** to establish a "baseline" for variances.
  - **Judiciary Sentencing Information (JSIN)**
    - *Link:* <https://jsin.ussc.gov/>
    - *Use:* Access the same data platform used by district judges to view the sentencing distributions of "similarly situated" defendants.
  - **Quick Facts Infographics**
    - *Link:* <https://www.ussc.gov/research/quick-facts>
    - *Use:* Downloadable PDFs summarizing data on specific offenses (e.g., Section 922(g) firearms or Fentanyl trafficking).
  - **The Guidelines Manual (Current & Archives)**
    - *Link:* <https://www.ussc.gov/guidelines>
    - *Use:* Direct access to the 2025-2026 Manual and historical archives to track changes in departure policy.
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## 2. Defense-Specific Strategy (Sentencing Resource Counsel)

These resources are curated by the Federal Public Defender's office to help practitioners challenge the empirical validity of certain Guidelines.

- **Sentencing Resource Counsel (SRC) Home**
    - *Link:* <https://src.fd.org/>
    - *Use:* The primary hub for "litigation packets" and strategic defense perspectives on sentencing reform.
  - **Guideline Deconstruction Materials**
    - *Link:* <https://src.fd.org/guideline-deconstruction>
    - *Use:* Resources to argue that specific Guidelines (like Career Offender or Child Pornography) are not based on empirical data and should be given less weight under 3553(a).
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### 3. Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Policy & Programs

Effective advocacy requires understanding where a client will be housed and what programming they can access during their term.

- **BOP Program Statements (Full List)**
    - *Link:* [https://www.bop.gov/resources/policy\\_and\\_forms.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/resources/policy_and_forms.jsp)
    - *Use:* Research specific policies, such as **P5330.11** (Psychology Treatment Programs/RDAP) to argue for specific judicial recommendations.
  - **BOP Facility Locator & Search**
    - *Link:* <https://www.bop.gov/locations/list.jsp>
    - *Use:* Identify the security levels and specialized medical capabilities of facilities like FMC Lexington or FMC Devens.
  - **First Step Act (FSA) Resources**
    - *Link:* <https://www.bop.gov/inmates/fsa/index.jsp>
    - *Use:* Information on evidence-based recidivism reduction (EBRR) programs and earned time credits.
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### 4. Judicial Perspectives & Local Rules

Understand the procedural "script" the court follows and the specific rules for our district.

- **FJC Benchbook for U.S. District Court Judges**
  - *Link:* <https://www.fjc.gov/library/publications/benchbook-united-states-district-court-judges-sixth-edition>
  - *Use:* See Chapter 2 (Sentencing) to understand the procedural requirements the judge must satisfy on the record.
- **Sixth Circuit Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions**
  - *Link:* <https://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/pattern-jury-instructions>
  - *Use:* Provides authoritative definitions of "role in the offense" or "relevant conduct" useful for Chapter 3 adjustment arguments.
- **Southern District of Ohio Local Rules**
  - *Link:* <https://www.ohsd.uscourts.gov/local-rules>