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July 14, 2008

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the United States Sentencing Commission, I welcome you to the Symposium on Alternatives to Incarceration. A distinguished faculty of judges, academics, and experienced practitioners will address you and dialog with you during the next two days. As experts from both the criminal justice and academic communities, they will engage you in their discussion of imprisonment rates in the United States and alternatives to incarceration.

In order to continue and deepen this discussion, extensive seminar materials are available to you on this CD. Although the Commission has exercised reasonable care to assure the accuracy and reliability of these materials, it does not make any such representation or warranty. Readers should check primary sources where appropriate and use traditional legal and scientific research techniques to make sure that information in these materials has not been affected or changed by recent developments.

This publication is designed to provide authoritative information about this timely and relevant subject matter. It is distributed with the understanding that its contributors are not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional advice or service.

The Commission appreciates your interest in this event and hopes that you enjoy the symposium.

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Judith Sheon Staff Director