

**FIRST CIRCUIT JUDICIAL COUNCIL
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING COMMITTEE CHARTER, MISSION STATEMENT, AND
COMPOSITION**

SEPTEMBER 2022

In recognition of the useful role that alternative sentencing courts can play in reducing incarceration and supervised release, they have become increasingly prevalent across the federal judiciary in recent years. See [United States Sentencing Commission, *Federal Alternative-to-Incarceration Court Programs* \(2017\)](#), at p 1. Each of the district courts in the First Circuit currently has or recently has had at least one alternative sentencing court. There is significant variation in the structure and practices of these programs both across the First Circuit and throughout the judiciary. Recognizing the opportunity for the district and magistrate judges of the First Circuit to benefit from each other's experiences and insights in establishing and running alternative sentencing courts, Chief Judge Barron, as Chair of the First Circuit Judicial Council, has established a First Circuit Judicial Council Alternative Sentencing Committee (Committee). The Committee is charged with exploring the alternative sentencing programs throughout the circuit, and nationally, and with developing recommendations for potential improvement in their structure, scope, and implementation. In doing so, the Committee will explore topics that may include, but are not limited to: whether and to what extent each district court in the First Circuit should strive to offer each major type of alternative sentencing program (i.e., front-end alternative to incarceration programs and back-end reentry programs¹), as well as a diversion program; methods and tools to measure the efficacy of alternative sentencing programs; the appropriate role of restorative justice in alternative sentencing programs; and methods of scaling alternative sentencing programs, including the potential for scalable, less formal programs or mechanisms through which courts can accomplish the goals and achieve the outcomes of formal alternative sentencing courts. The Committee is asked to develop best practices or other similar documents compiling its findings and recommendations in these areas.

The Committee shall report directly to the Judicial Council of the First Circuit. The Chief Circuit Judge shall appoint the Committee Chairs who will appoint the other Committee members.

¹ "Front-end" alternative-to-incarceration court programs "are for defendants who likely would otherwise face a sentence of imprisonment but for a reduction in their sentencing guideline ranges resulting from their successful participation in an alternative-to-incarceration program." The "more common 'back-end' federal reentry court programs . . . necessarily involve offenders who were imprisoned, typically for a lengthy period, before 'reentering' the community." See [United States Sentencing Commission, *Federal Alternative-to-Incarceration Court Programs* \(2017\)](#), at pp. 6-7 (citations omitted).