

“Sentencing Factors”

18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)

Congress has instructed courts to impose a sentence sufficient, but not greater than necessary to meet the following purposes:

- (1) to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment for the offense;
- (2) to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct;
- (3) to protect the public from further crimes of the defendant; and
- (4) to provide the defendant with needed educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner;

Congress has instructed courts to consider the following factors in imposing a reasonable sentence:

- (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant;
- (2) the kinds of sentences available;
- (3) the kinds of sentence and the sentencing range established by the United States Sentencing Guidelines (attached Guideline table);
- (4) any pertinent policy statements issued by the United States Sentencing Commission;
- (5) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and
- (6) the need to provide restitution to any victims of the offense.