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CONGRESS PASSES CRACK-COCAINE BILL!

Great news for crack-cocaine defendants! On August 2, 2010, President Obama signed the crack bill that significantly reduces the sentencing disparity between crack-cocaine and powder cocaine in federal cases and repeals the five year mandatory minimum associated with simple possession of crack cocaine. The bill, otherwise known as the *Fair Sentencing Act of 2010*, is now in effect.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Now that President Obama has signed the bill into law, the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines will be modified shortly. Once this occurs it will then be determined as to whether or not this amendment will be applied retroactively. This is a major step for this bill, as there are more than 20,000 inmates who are already serving crack-cocaine sentences. *NLPA is confident that the amendment will be held to be retroactive.* As with the 2007 crack guideline amendments, which were retroactively applied, it is hard to imagine this new amendment not being made retroactive when considering the significant impact it will have on thousands in the federal Bureau of Prisons and the precedent previously set in 2007.

ACTIVE CASES - If a defendant who has been charged in a crack-cocaine case is still awaiting trial, sentencing or is on appeal or timely post-conviction proceedings, this new law can be of tremendous help! NLPA can assist your counsel in raising this critical issue and any others to help you.

INACTIVE CASES - For who have already been through the trial, plea, sentencing, appeal and/or post-conviction stage or who are otherwise beyond time for the filing of any of these actions, relief may be available through what is known as a §3582 motion. NLPA can assist your counsel in the preparation of this motion.

WARNING: Unfortunately for thousands of defendants, in 2007 when the guidelines were amended and applied retroactively, a system was put in place which involved the Public Defender's Office filing a standard form on behalf of thousands of defendants - many of whom were not even aware of such action being taken. Most of these "forms" were simply denied. It is unclear if the courts will utilize a similar procedure for this new amendment so it is encouraged that you take action now to have NLPA assist your counsel in preparing this motion to reduce your sentence.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

For those involved in active cases, NLPA can offer its assistance to counsel at the pretrial, pre-sentencing, appellate and post-conviction stage. Please contact us for more information concerning our services, fees and financing options.

For those with inactive cases, NLPA can assist counsel in one of two ways:

- 1) §3582 Motion.....\$2,500.00
- 2) Evaluation of How New Crack Law Can Help You.....\$1,000.00

NLPA is proud of its winning track record. We have enjoyed success in having the reduced crack ratio applied already. Now we stand ready to have our team put to work in defending this matter to ensure that you or your client are fairly considered for this significant reduction. If you or your client are in need of assistance in this matter, please contact NLPA today. After all, the pursuit of justice is a team approach!

NLPA: We Care, We Listen, We Get Results!

NLPA is not a law firm and cannot represent defendants in court. NLPA cannot directly provide legal advice to defendants nor can NLPA offer its research services directly to defendants. NLPA's team of research attorneys and paralegals provide cutting edge research and consulting assistance to counsel to help provide counsel with the tools needed to help successfully represent their clients. In order to assist counsel, Bar Association Regulations require that counsel expressly authorize NLPA's research assistance before NLPA may provide case specific research and analysis of any case. Therefore, a defendant must be represented by counsel licensed to practice in the appropriate court and counsel must be willing to work with NLPA in order for us to be of assistance. If a defendant is in need of attorney representation, we are happy to refer a number of experienced criminal defense attorneys who often work with NLPA and offer significantly reduced fees.