

# Using Scholarship to Advance Criminal Justice Reform

By Shon Hopwood

I. Congress passes, and the President signs, the First Step Act into law, which fundamentally changed the process and criteria for those in federal prison seeking early release through a motion for compassionate release under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A).

II. I wrote an essay entitled *Second Looks & Second Chances* in which I argued that federal judges should use compassionate release as a mechanism to provide a second look for those federal prisoners who received long sentences and who possess demonstrated records of rehabilitation inside federal prisons.

III. I briefed and argued several cases for compassionate release, one of which led to a circuit conflict and a petition for writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A. Adam Clausen's case for compassionate release.

B. Thomas Bryant Jr.'s case for compassionate release.

IV. After the Supreme Court denied review, the advocacy will now take place before the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

## Bibliography:

Shon Hopwood, *Second Looks & Second Chances*, 41 CARDOZO L. REV. 101 (2019)

FAMM, COMPASSIONATE RELEASE AND THE FIRST STEP ACT: THEN AND NOW (2019)