The Law & Practice of Criminal Sentencing  
Prof. Frank Bowman  
Spring 2018  

FIRST READING

There is no required text for this class. We will use materials from a great many sources. To gain access to many of those sources, you will need to enroll in the course on LexisNexis Blackboard. Those of you who have had me before will know how. If you haven’t had me before, it may be unfamiliar because few other professors use this platform. However, there is a link to the site on the Course Bulletin Board, as well as instructions in the Syllabus posted on Bulletin Board.

Wed, Jan 17  

Why and How Should We “Sentence”? A Refresher on the Philosophy of Crime and Punishment

READING:  
JOSHUA DRESSLER & STEPHEN P. GARVEY, CASES & MATERIALS ON CRIMINAL LAW, 7th Ed., pp. 31-50, 73-75

[This is NOT the required text for this course, but is the book you used in first year Criminal Law. If you still have it, use it for this reading. If not, the relevant excerpts from the previous edition are posted on Blackboard under “Course Materials / First Reading”]

CLASSROOM EXERCISE: Read the descriptive material on the California state court case posted on Blackboard under “Course Materials / Front End Sentencing Choices: Introductory Exercises.” Decide what you think the proper sentence for the defendant should be, and why. Be prepared to discuss your conclusions and your reasoning using the justifications for punishment discussed in the reading.

1) People v. Du (Cal. 1992)

NOTE: Remember that we are visiting the state prison in Jefferson City on Monday, January 22. We will be leaving the law school about 12:30 pm, and returning around 4:00 pm. Please try to arrange your schedule accordingly. Please send me your full name, date of birth, and either Social Security Number or MO driver’s license number ASAP to obtain clearance to enter the prison. I need this information no later than Thurs, Jan 11. Also, we’ll need several people to drive in order to get everyone down and back. Volunteers appreciated.