

Notable Wins

Kudos to Lisa Lorish and Andrea Harris for First Step Act of 2018 Compassionate Release wins in April.

U.S. v. Steppe: Assistant Federal Public Defender Lisa Lorish secured a stacked 924c partial sentence reduction win in Demetrius Steppe's Compassionate Release case. On April 20, 2021, Judge Glen E. Conrad granted Steppe's Motion for Compassionate Release, reducing his sentence from 15 years to 10 years.

The court found compelling and extraordinary reasons to grant the sentence reduction. Judge Conrad rejected the government's argument that the reduction should not be granted because if Steppe were being sentenced now, they would have offered a different plea agreement and charged Steppe with three 924(c)'s. The court also noted Steppe's limited prison disciplinary record and completion of various coursework while in prison.

U.S. v. Roper: Assistant Federal Public Defender Andrea Harris' win in U.S. v. Roper was nearly two years in the making. On May 6, 2019, Andrea filed a Motion to Reduce Sentence- First Step Act of 2018 for Delante Roper in the Western District of Virginia.

Judge Conrad granted the motion on April 15, 2021, reducing Roper's sentence to time served. This sentence reduction came nearly 8 months after Judge Bailey in the Northern District of West Virginia, also reduced his sentence in that court to time served.

In the Western District of Virginia, Judge Conrad found compelling reasons to reduce Roper's sentence were his serious health conditions and his exceptional focus on personal development and education while he was incarcerated.