MEASURING THE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF FEDERAL CRIME LEGISLATION

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The Federalist Society
Executive Summary

The Federalist Society commissioned a study to ascertain the current number of crimes in the United States Code, and to compare that figure against the number of federal criminal provisions in years past. The purpose of the study was to ascertain, as best as possible, the rate of growth in the enactment of federal crimes. We analyzed legislation enacted after 1996 and combined that data with the compilations of federal crimes assembled in several previous studies.

The study reaches several significant conclusions, all confirming the conventional assumption that the federal criminalization of legal disputes is on the rise:

- There are over 4,000 offenses that carry criminal penalties in the United States Code. This is a record number, and reflects a one-third increase since 1980.
- Previous studies conducted in 1989, 1996, and 1998 all reported “explosive” growth in the number of offenses created by Congress in the years since 1970. The rate of enactment has continued unabated since 1970.
- A review of Congressional enactments from the past seven years reveals that a very substantial number addresses environmental issues.
- The report does not attempt to document changes in the facial mens rea requirements for federal crimes. However, as documented elsewhere, there is uncertainty as to what state of mind various standards of intent actually require. Unclear mens rea requirements, combined with the “explosive” growth in the number of federal crimes enacted since 1970, create an environment of uncertainty and unpredictability over exactly what acts are criminal.

On December 28, 2003, the Associated Press syndicated an article by Jeff Donn entitled “Expanded fed role against common crime called ‘out of control.’” The title and the article quoted this author. The article estimated the number of federal crimes to be about 3,500. Mr. Donn based that number on several sources, including this author. At the time, we were collecting data for the present Report. Based on the rate of increases in the number of federal crimes, there had to be at least 3,500 federal crimes. With the completion of our research for this Report, it has become evident that there are many more than 3,500 federal crimes. For reasons discussed below, this author concludes that there are over 4,000 offenses carrying criminal penalties.

There are over 4,000 offenses that carry criminal penalties in the United States Code.

This Report cannot provide a complete count of federal crimes. That would require much more time and resources than were available. More importantly, even if those resources were available, rendering a complete and accurate account encounters serious obstacles. In the course of attempting to understand and explain these obstacles, it became clear that the inability to make an accurate count is the failure of federal law to identify clearly what is a crime as distinguished from a regulatory violation. The purpose of this Report regarding the number of crimes is two-fold: to determine 1) whether Congress continues to pass federal criminal laws at the same pace found by the ABA Report, as well as to offer some estimate of the total number of federal crimes; and 2) whether the statutes reflect that Congress more often than in the past dispenses with the mens rea requirement.
I. COUNTING FEDERAL CRIMES

Counting the number of federal crimes might seem to be a rather straightforward matter. Simply count all the statutes that are designated as crimes. Unlike state law, federal law has never had a common law of crimes. Locating purely common-law crimes requires consulting judicial opinions; even then determining what is and is not a common-law crime is problematic. Given that federal courts lack common-law jurisdiction over crimes, all federal crimes must be statutory. United States v. Hudson & Goodwin, 11 U.S.(7 Cranch) 32 (1812). So it would seem that counting statutes should be an easy task.

A. Obstacles to a Complete Count

Unfortunately, getting an accurate count is not as simple as counting the number of criminal statutes. As the American Bar Association’s Task Force on the Federalization of Crime stated: “So large is the present body of federal criminal law that there is no conveniently accessible, complete list of federal crimes.” Not only are the number of statutes large, the statutes are scattered and complex. The situation presents a two-fold challenge: 1) determining what statutes count as crimes and 2) differentiating whether, as to the different acts listed within a section or subsection, there is more than a single crime and, if so, how many.

The first difficulty is that federal law contains no general definition of the term “crime.” Title 18 of the U.S. Code is designated “Crimes and Criminal Procedure,” but it is not a comprehensive criminal code. Title 18 is simply a collection of statutes. It does not provide a definition of crime. Until repealed in 1984, however, Section 1 of Title 18 began by classifying offenses into felonies and misdemeanors, with a sub-class of misdemeanors denominated “petty offenses.” Later amendments re-introduced classifications elsewhere in Title 18. As discussed further below, however, the repeal and later amendments were tied to the creation of the United States Sentencing Commission. Its creation represented a new focus on sentencing. Unfortunately, as discussed below, the focus on sentencing has done nothing to solve, and probably has exacerbated, the problem of determining just what should be counted as “crimes.” That issue is particularly pertinent for offenses not listed in Title 18, which are more often regulatory or tort-like. Title 18 does contain many, but not all, of the federal crimes. Other crimes are distributed throughout the other forty-nine titles of the U.S. Code.

The second problem is that, whether contained in Title 18 or some other title, one statute does not necessarily equal one crime. Often, a single statute contains several crimes. Determining the number of crimes contained within a single statute involves a matter of judgment. Different people may make different judgments about the number of crimes contained in each statute, depending on the criteria used. In the absence of a definition of crime, it is incumbent on the compiler to explain the criteria employed to determine the count. Not intending to reinvent the criteria, we have looked to previous attempts to count the number of federal crimes.

The most comprehensive effort to count the number of federal crimes was conducted by the Office of Legal Policy (“OLP”) in the U.S. Department of Justice during the early 1980s, in connection with the effort to pass a comprehensive federal criminal code. A person who oversaw the effort, Mr. Ronald Gainer, later published an article entitled, “Report to the Attorney General on Federal Criminal Code Reform,” 1 Crim. L. Forum 99 (1989). That article cited the figure “approximately 3,000 federal crimes,” id. at 110, a number that has been much cited since. In a later article, “Federal
In 1998, a Task Force of the American Bar Association, on which this author served, issued a report, referred to above, entitled The Federalization of Criminal Law (Hereafter “ABA Report”). This report was concerned with the growth in federal criminal law and thus had to identify the number of federal crimes enacted over periods of time. The Task Force decided, however, not to “undertake a section by section review of every printed federal statutory section,” which was too “massive” for its “limited purpose.” Id. at 92. As previously noted, that would have meant reviewing 27,000 pages of statutes.10 At the same time, the ABA Report noted that the 3,000 number was “surely outdated by the large number of new federal crimes enacted in the 16 or so years since its estimation.” Id. at 94. As described below, the count in the ABA Report was less comprehensive than the OLP count, but it was more up-to-date in terms of the criteria employed.

Lacking even the limited time and resources available to the ABA Task Force, this Report could not conduct a comprehensive count on the scale of the OLP count, nor even update the OLP count since it was done in the early 1980s. This Report, therefore, begins with the section and subsection counts through 1996 used in the ABA Report as a base and, using the same methodology, updates that count for the years 1997 through 2003. Based on these findings, the Report provides an updated estimate of the OLP count. As discussed below, the ABA count is far from comprehensive. Even the OLP count, the most complete count for the period covered, is still something of an estimate; it employs certain judgments about how many crimes are contained in a particular statute. To demonstrate the problem, the Appendix counts the crimes contained in the statutes enacted since 1996. The count in the Appendix lays out the criteria upon which judgments were made.

B. Ways of Counting Federal Crimes

The period of time considered (7 years) by itself was too short to make the kind of dramatic statements in the ABA Report, which observed:

The Task Force’s research reveals a startling fact about the explosive growth of federal criminal law: More than 40% of the federal provisions enacted since the Civil War have been enacted since 1970.11

As reflected in a chart in the ABA Report,12 the number of new criminal sections added per year varied significantly from one year to the next. If the numbers for the three years 1997 through 1999 are added to those in the ABA Report for 1990 through 1996, however, the total would be virtually the same for the last decade of the century as for the prior two decades.13

Congress passed many more completely new criminal sections in all the three election years (’98, ‘00, and ‘02) than it did in any of the non-election years.
Crime Report

As explained below, following the ABA methodology greatly undercounts the actual number of federal crimes. Even though the data are therefore unavoidably incomplete, a year-by-year look at the numbers confirms one fact which is hardly surprising: Congress passed many more completely new criminal sections in all the three election years ('98, '00, and '02) than it did in any of the non-election years.

1) The Methodology Employed in Various Counts

Coverage: The count in the 1998 ABA Report runs through 1996. The present Report covers statutes enacted from 1997 through 2003. Like the ABA Report, this Report considers only statutes, not regulations. As the ABA Report noted, if regulations are included, that would have added, as of the end of 1996, possibly 10,000 more crimes. According to another estimate from the early 1990s, however, “there are over 300,000 federal regulations that may be enforced criminally.”

OLP did a complete hand count of federal crimes, which meant reading through the many thousands of pages in the U.S. Code. Without doing that, obtaining a complete count of the crimes in the Code—regardless of other obstacles—is practically impossible. The ABA Report, for its more limited purposes, instead conducted a Westlaw search of the statutes “using the key words ‘fine’ and ‘imprison’ (including any variations of those words, such as ‘imprisonment.’).” For continuity purposes, our Report also did a Westlaw search using the same terms.

In order to understand the limits of the search terms employed by the ABA Report, however, the researcher for this Report, Ms. Ellerbe, ran a search employing more terms (fine! or imprison! or crim! or illegal! or culp!). The search for just one year produced hundreds of documents. The search was too broad to be efficient; that is to say, if one were to do that extensive a search, it would be just as well and more accurate to do a complete hand-count. Nevertheless, a partial search of the documents from the one year produced a number of crimes not yielded by the search using only “fine” and “imprison” (including the variations on those words). It confirmed that the ABA had good reason not to attempt a broad computer search of all the titles in the U.S. Code.

The Unit of Measure: This is the hard part. The ABA Report focuses on statutory sections and (sometimes) subsections. So in its two charts, the ABA Report refers to 1,020 “statutory sections.” That number excludes the 414 sections added in 1948 as part of the Title 18 recodification. The ABA Report acknowledges that it had thereby excluded some sections from existing law. Including the recodification would have distorted the picture presented by the charts which graph the growth of federal crimes from year to year (ABA Chart 1) and from decade to decade (ABA Chart 2). Thus, the statements in the ABA Report about the growth of crime from 1970 through 1996 chart the year-to-year numbers, and the decade-to-decade percentages are based on this number of 1,020.

The ABA Report also includes a grid in its Appendix C, which lists and describes 1,582 statute section numbers. That number is more than 50% higher than the number 1,020. It separately counts some subsections which are not broken out in the number 1,020. “The grid… contains all the statute section numbers representing federal crime provisions on the Sentencing Commission’s selective list at the time the list was obtained, complimented by the non-duplicative sections located through the computer search, with the exception of those statutes which have been repealed.” Thus, this list includes 184 entries which represent a different subsection of a statute identified in a listing. Eliminating those 184 duplicates reduces the sections in Appendix C to 1,398.
Thus, the decade of the 1990s, according to the search terms used, reflected that Congress was enacting new federal criminal legislation at virtually the same pace it had been doing for the previous two decades, which, as the ABA Report noted, reflects “explosive growth” since 1970.

Whether it is 1,020, 1,398, or 1,582, the numbers in the ABA Report are a long way from the 3,000 in the OLP count from the early 1980s. Yet, as previously noted, the ABA Report stated that the 3,000 number was “surely outdated” and that the present number was “unquestionably higher.” The ABA Report generally avoided making the more detailed analysis and debatable judgments of how many crimes were really contained in individual sections and subsections. But it did not avoid the judgments altogether. Although in its charts it only considered statutory sections, the inclusion of 158 separate entries for additional subsections in Appendix C reflected the judgment that the subsections included discrete crimes.

In doing its count, OLP made more judgments about how many crimes were included within a single statute. As explained to this author by Mr. Ronald Gainer,21 who was responsible for the OLP count, statutes containing more than one act corresponding to a common-law crime were determined to have as many crimes as there were common law crimes. On the other hand, OLP counted a statute as having only one crime, even though it contained multiple acts, if those acts did not constitute common law crimes.

Our Count for 1997 through 2003: The Appendix to this Report lists all the federal statutes located using the same search terms as those used by the ABA Report. Our search identified 164 new and amended statutes. The ABA Report, however, does not include amended statutes. Eliminating the amendments leaves 79 new sections and subsections. That number reflects the same criteria for the number 1,582 in Appendix C of the ABA Report. Eliminating “duplicates” leaves 67, which number reflects the same criteria used for the number 1,020.

The number 67 breaks down by year as follows: 1 for ’97; 18 for ’98; 3 for ’99; 18 for ’00; 6 for ’01; 18 for ’02; 6 for ’03. As mentioned above, the numbers for the election years significantly surpass the numbers for non-election years. Of course, this may be attributable to the two-year cycle in Congress and the time it takes to pass a bill. On the other hand, work done on legislation in a previous Congress need not be completely duplicated when proposals are re-introduced in a new Congress.

The total for the years 1997 through 1999 is 22 (1, 18, and 3). From Chart 2 of the ABA Report,21 12% of the 1,020 sections or roughly 122 sections were adopted during the period of 1990 through 1996. Adding the 122 and the 22 in order to complete the decade equals 144. By comparison, the decade of 1970–1979 produced 14% of the 1020 sections or approximately 143 and the decade of 1980–1989 produced 15% of the 1020 or approximately 153. Thus, the decade of the 1990s, according to the search terms used, reflected that Congress was enacting new federal criminal legislation at virtually the same pace it had been doing for the previous two decades, which, as the ABA Report noted, reflects “explosive growth” since 1970.

2) Evaluation and Estimation of the Number of Federal Crimes

Conservatively speaking, the U.S. Code contains at least 3,500 offenses which carry criminal penalties. More realistically, the number exceeds 4,000. Any number put forward admittedly rests on a series of judgments. The estimate of over 4,000 rests on an evaluation of the information already covered about the counts conducted by OLP, the University of Buffalo, the ABA, and the Appendix to this Report.

None of the counts considers it sufficient simply to tally the number of sections in the U.S. Code which contain at least one criminal offense and to count each of these sections as only one crime. The ABA Report used such an approach to measure growth rates only. It recognized, however, that the actual number of crimes was much higher than the 1,020 sections. Moreover,
its Appendix C counted subsections separately for a number of sections in the Code.

When going beyond counting sections and/or subsections, the compiler necessarily makes judgments about the different acts listed in the statute. Unfortunately, the criteria employed in the OLP and the University of Buffalo studies were not published. In fact, the counts themselves were not published; these totals were referred to in more general articles about a possible federal criminal code. Mr. Gainer, however, has graciously provided the author with information about the criteria used in the OLP count. Mr. Gainer cannot speak with the same authority about the University of Buffalo count.

The University of Buffalo counted, as of early 1998, approximately 3,300 criminal offenses in the U.S. Code. Although more than 3,000, that number was produced approximately 16 years after the OLP count. During that sixteen-year period, there was significant growth—regardless of how that is measured—in the number of federal crimes. Apparently, the criteria used by the University of Buffalo were somewhat more conservative than the OLP count. Still, six years have elapsed since the University of Buffalo count. During that period, the number of federal crimes, as measured by sections, has increased at least 6.6%. Adding 6.6% of 3,300 to that number for a total of 3,517 produced the conservative estimate of at least 3,500 crimes.

The better number to update, however, is the 3,000 count given by OLP in the early 1980s. Since the OLP count in the early 1980s, the number of federal crimes has increased by over one-third. That is to say, per the ABA Report, during a sixteen-year period from 1980 through 1996, Congress enacted more than 25% of all the sections in the U.S. Code. A figure that is 25% of a total represents a 33% or one-third increase over the number that represents 75% of the total.

It is not clear exactly when the OLP count was completed in the early 1980s. Nevertheless, the ABA Report states and shows in a chart that, as of the end of 1996, over one-quarter of all federal crimes enacted since the Civil War were passed in the sixteen-year period from 1980–1996. As shown above, the rate of new crimes during the entire decade of the 1990s was essentially the same as for the 1980s. So at whatever point the OLP count was completed in the early 1980s, (presumably prior to 1984), the number would have increased by one-third over roughly the next sixteen years. Thus, by 2000, the 33% increase of the 3,000 crimes would have produced a number of 4,000 crimes.

Since 2000, Congress has not stopped enacting new federal crimes. So the current number, using the OLP criteria, would be beyond 4,000. Just how much greater cannot be confidently estimated with the information available.

To further flesh out the elusive total for federal crimes, the researcher, Ms. Ellerbe, did her own count of crimes within the statutes. The criteria for that count, also stated in the Appendix, were the following:
• Each traditional or common-law crime (e.g., theft, burglary, fraud, etc.) is counted separately as one crime. Thus, multiple crimes may be listed in a single statute.
• Multiple forms of non-traditional crimes or elaborations on traditional crimes (e.g., theft by fraud, misrepresentation, forgery) are counted as one crime only, if listed together in one section or subsection.
• If the same or similar non-traditional crimes are listed in separate sections or subsections, each section or subsection is counted as a separate crime.
• An explanation is provided for each section or subsection.
• A few of the sections or subsections have a “?” indicating uncertainty as to number of crimes or the mental elements.
• The number of crimes listed for each section or subsection indicates the number added that year by a statute or amendment, not necessarily the total number of crimes in the section or subsection.

Since the OLP count in the early 1980s, the number of federal crimes has increased by over one-third.

Of the 164 statutes identified in the search, 36 include no new crimes. That leaves 128 sections and subsections. According to the criteria used, these 128 provisions contain over 600 crimes. The actual count is put at 600. Three sections, however, have a “?” for the number of crimes because it seemed debatable whether two of the sections did or did not include any new crimes and just how to count the numerous potential crimes in a third section. Whatever the exact number over 600, the count in the Appendix produces approximately 4.69 crimes per section or subsection (600+ ÷ 128). This represents a much higher per section/subsection count than would be reflected in the OLP count. The point is not necessarily that everyone would agree with the criteria used in the Appendix, or that in using the criteria everyone would reach exactly the same count. Rather, the count of 600+ crimes in the seven-year period from 1997 demonstrates the estimate of over 4,000 crimes today, which is a projection from the OLP study, is fairly conservative.

This study, however, did little in the way of analyzing the number of offenses created in various discrete areas of substantive law. Earlier studies did not undertake that task, and consequently, there is no benchmark for comparison. But one fairly glaring trend did emerge which deserves mention. During the seven-year period of this Report from 1997, 24 of the 67 sections and subsections were created in the environmental area. That is over 35% of the total number of sections and subsections created by Congress during that period.31

As practitioners in the field know well, the number of criminal statutes does not tell the whole story.

Measuring the rate of growth certainly confirms that Congress continues to enact criminal statutes at a brisk pace. But no matter how many crimes Congress enacts, it remains for federal prosecutors to decide which statutes to invoke when seeking an indictment.

Federal prosecutors have certain favorites, notably mail and wire fraud statutes,32 which they use even when other statutes might be more applicable. That, of course, does not mean that the addition of little-used crimes is unimportant. The federal government is supposedly a government of limited powers and, therefore, limited jurisdiction. Every new crime expands the jurisdiction of federal law enforcement and federal courts. Regardless of whether a statute is used to indict, it is available to establish the legal basis upon which to show probable cause that a crime has been committed and, therefore, to authorize a search and seizure. The availability of more crimes also affords the prosecutor more discretion and, therefore, greater leverage against defendants. Increasing the number and variety of charges tends to dissuade defendants from fighting the charges, because (s)he usually can be “clipped” for something.
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Moreover, the expansion of federal criminal law continues to occur even without new legislation. Federal prosecutors regularly stretch their theories of existing statutes. Thus, in the Martha Stewart case the prosecutors developed a “novel,” indeed ludicrous, theory that Ms. Stewart committed fraud by proclaiming her innocence of the charges. Ultimately, the trial judge rightly threw out the fraud charge. Often, though, federal courts cooperate with prosecutors and happily make new law retroactively. What (then) Professor (and later federal Judge) John Noonan wrote in 1984 about bribery and public corruption continues to be generally true, namely that federal prosecutors and federal judges have been effectively creating a common law of crimes through expansive interpretations.33

Ultimately, the reason the ABA Report and this Report do a count is to provide some measure of the extent to which federal criminal law and its enforcement are over-reaching constitutional limits. The Supreme Court has admonished Congress twice within the last decade when it declared federal statutes unconstitutional, stating that it lacks a “plenary police power.”34 The counts in this and the ABA Report indicate that those cases have not dissuaded Congress from continuing to pass criminal laws at the same pace.

II. JUDICIAL INTERPRETATION OF MENS REA

As part of this Report, the Appendix identified the mens rea or the lack thereof for each section or subsection. The purpose was to determine whether Congress was more prone today to enact crimes without a mens rea than it was a few decades ago. A quick scan of the initial listing of the sections and subsections, with the mens rea indicated, demonstrated that the great majority of sections or subsections appeared to have a mens rea.35 But simply counting the number of offenses that appear to have a mens rea does not adequately capture the situation, again due to judicial interpretation. Regardless of what a statute says, 1) a crime that appears not to have a mens rea may be interpreted by courts to have one; 2) a crime that appears to have a mens rea may have the mens rea diluted as applied in prosecution and as interpreted by courts. The problem of mens rea in federal criminal law is well summarized by a leading casebook, as follows:

Federal statutes, for example, provide for more than 100 types of mens rea. Even those terms most frequently used in federal legislation—“knowing” and “willful”—do not have one invariable meaning. Particularly with respect to judicial interpretation of the term “willful,” the precise requirements of these terms depend to some extent on the statutory context in which they are employed. Another layer of difficulty is attributable to the fact that Congress may impose one mens rea requirement upon certain elements of the offense and a different level of mens rea, or no mens rea at all, with respect to other elements.36
Moreover, whether an offense has a mens rea may depend on the judgment about the number of crimes contained in a particular section or subsection. Consider for example 18 U.S.C. § 1960, prohibiting “unlicensed money transmitting businesses,” which was amended in the wake of 9/11. The statute has several subsections. The 2001 amendments add a new subsection under (b)(1), which expands the definition of “unlicensed money transmitting business.” The added section has a knowledge requirement. But with regard to an existing section, (b)(1)(A), the amendments dropped a mens rea. If 18 U.S.C. § 1960 is counted as one crime only or if only the newly added subsection is considered, the elimination of “intentionally” may escape notice. Once again, what counts as a crime dictates conclusions about what Congress has done in passing a statute, i.e., whether it has or has not eliminated a mens rea.

The linkage between the mens rea issue and what qualifies as a crime goes to the heart of the moral foundation of criminal law. The current confusion on this point has been well described, in an important article by Columbia University Professor John Coffee, published in 1991:

My thesis is simple and can be reduced to four assertions. First, the dominant development in substantive federal criminal law over the last decade has been the disappearance of any clearly definable line between civil and criminal law. Second, this blurring of the border between tort and crime predictably will result in injustice, and ultimately will weaken the efficacy of the criminal law as an instrument of social control. Third, to define the proper sphere of the criminal law, one must explain how its purposes and methods differ from those of tort law. Although it is easy to identify distinguishing characteristics of the criminal law—e.g., the greater role of intent in the criminal law, the relative unimportance of actual harm to the victim, the special character of incarceration as a sanction, and the criminal law’s greater reliance on public enforcement—one of these is ultimately decisive. Rather the factor that most distinguishes the criminal law is its operation as a system of moral education and socialization. The criminal law is obeyed not simply because there is a legal threat underlying it, but because the public perceives its norms to be legitimate and deserving of compliance. Far more than tort law, the criminal law is a system for public communication of values. As a result, the criminal law often and necessarily displays a deliberate disdain for the utility of the criminalized conduct to the defendant. Thus, while tort law seeks to balance private benefits and public costs, criminal law does not (or does so only by way of special affirmative defenses), possibly because balancing would undercut the moral rhetoric of the criminal law. Characteristically, tort law prices, while criminal law prohibits.

Professor Coffee despaired at the possibility of Congress or the Supreme Court drawing any meaningful distinction between tort and crime and hoped the Sentencing Commission would do so. The Sentencing Commission has not done so. Its sentencing guidelines for organizations have only made matters worse.

The availability of more crimes also affords the prosecutor more discretion and, therefore, greater leverage against defendants. Increasing the number and variety of charges tends to dissuade defendants from fighting the charges, because (s)he usually can be “clipped” for something.

Consider offenses labeled “petty offenses.” They are not truly crimes. “Petty offenses” have for some time been understood in terms of length of possible sentence, namely six months’ imprisonment or less. At an earlier stage, however, the Supreme Court maintained the common-law basis for the distinction between these offenses and true crimes. Generally, the issue has arisen in the context of whether the Sixth Amendment Right to Jury Trial applies to “petty offenses.” In Schick v. United States, 195 U.S. 65 (1904), the Supreme Court recognized
that crimes involve “moral delinquency.”

It will be noticed that the section characterizes the act prohibited as an offense, and subjects the party to a penalty of fifty dollars. So small a penalty for violating a revenue statute indicates only a petty offense. It is not one necessarily involving any moral delinquency. The violation may have been the result of ignorance or thoughtlessness, and must be classed with such illegal acts as acting as an auctioneer or peddler without a license, or making a deed without affixing the proper stamp. That by other sections of this statute more serious offenses are described and more grave punishments provided does not lift this one to the dignity of a crime.44

This has implications for counting crimes. As the Court went on to say, the same statute might include both a crime and a petty offense:

Not infrequently a single statute in its several sections provides for offenses of different grades, subject to different punishments, and to prosecution in different ways. In some States in the same act are gathered all the various offenses against the person, ranging from simple assault to murder, and imposing punishments from a mere fine to death. This very statute furnishes an illustration. By one clause the knowingly selling of adulterated butter in any other than the prescribed form subjects the party convicted thereof to a fine of not more than one thousand dollars and imprisonment for not more than two years. An officer of customs violating certain provisions of the act is declared guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not less than one thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars, and imprisonment for not less than six months nor more than three years. Obviously these violations of certain provisions of the statute must be classed among serious criminal offenses and can be prosecuted only by indictment, while the violations of the statute in the cases before us were prosecuted by information. The truth is, the nature of the offense and the amount of punishment prescribed rather than its place in the statutes determine whether it is to be classed among serious or petty offenses, whether among crimes or misdemeanors. Clearly both indicate that this particular violation of the statute is only a petty offense.45

The italicized part of this last quote seems to equate petty offenses and misdemeanors. A petty offense is a misdemeanor, but misdemeanors with potential penalties of more than six months are not today considered petty offenses. Whereas the Court in Schick spoke of both the nature of the offense and the length of the punishment, the trend for some time in criminal law has been to consider only the length of the possible punishment. Unfortunately, potential sentences continue to rise without much, if any, consideration of moral culpability. Without that distinction, physical and financial harms—which are the focus of tort law—are too easily labeled “crimes.” Ronald Gainer, who held several senior positions in the Justice Department, puts the situation this way:

This amalgamation of the criminal law and the non-criminal law has contributed to the development of the popular misconception that if a person has violated “The Law,” he deserves to be imprisoned and that any lesser consequence demonstrates the legal system is unjust.46

CONCLUSION

As is repeated throughout this Report, one’s opinion about what counts as a federal crime drives the count of federal crimes. Traditionally, crime requires a mens rea.47 Common law crimes are presumed to have a mens rea.48 Under the common law, an offense without a mens rea would not be labeled a “crime.” When crimes and regulatory offenses are combined and confused as in federal law, however, the issue changes to whether the crime includes a mens rea. Simply focusing on the penalty may not be sufficient because one penalty often applies to several acts. While federal law classifies crimes by penalties, federal law unfortunately does not provide a clear definition of crime that would allow distinctions among separate criminal acts. That makes any count arguable. At the very least, however, this Report can justifiably conclude the following: based on the growth of federal crime legislation since the count in the early 1980s by the Office of Legal Policy in the Department of Justice, the United States Code today includes over 4,000 offenses which carry a criminal penalty.
* Ms. Arianne Ellerbe researched the federal statutes and organized the data for the Appendix to this Report.

Endnotes
4 As noted elsewhere in the Report (pp. 9–10), an exact count of the present “number” of federal crimes contained in the statutes (let alone those contained in administrative regulations) is difficult to achieve and the count subject to varying interpretations. In part, the reason is not only that the criminal provisions are now so numerous and their location in the books so scattered, but also that federal criminal statutes are often complex. One statutory section can comprehend a variety of actions, potentially multiplying the number of federal “crimes” that could be enumerated. (For example, the language of 18 U.S.C. § 2113 encompasses bank robbery, extortion, theft, assaults, killing hostages, and storing or selling anything of value knowing it to have been taken from a bank, etc.) Depending on how all this subdivisible and dispersed law is counted, the true number of federal crimes multiplies. Id. at 93.
6 See, for example, 21 U.S.C. §331, which criminalizes the misbranding of food in interstate commerce; or 42 U.S.C. 300j-23, which criminalizes the sale, in interstate commerce, of any drinking water cooler that is not lead free.
7 The federal statutory law today is set forth in the 50 titles of the United States Code. Those 50 titles encompass roughly 27,000 pages of printed text. Within those 27,000 pages, there appear approximately 3,300 separate provisions that carry criminal sanctions for their violation. Over 1,200 of those provisions are found jumbled together in Title 18, euphemistically referred to as the ‘Federal Criminal Code,’ and the remainder are found scattered throughout the other 49 titles. The judicial interpretations of those provisions, which are necessary for their understanding, are found within the printed volumes reporting the opinions issued by judges in federal cases—volumes which now total over 2,800 and which contain approximately 4,000,000 printed pages.
8 There are 50 titles, but two titles, 6 and 34, currently contain no un-repealed statutes.
9 For example, 20 U.S.C. §9573 criminalizes knowing disclosure, publication, and use of confidential student data. This could arguably be counted as one offense, or as many as three offenses
10 See n. 5, supra.
11 ABA Report at 7 (emphasis in the original) and see note 9 (“more than a quarter of the federal criminal provisions enacted since the Civil War have been enacted within the sixteen year period since 1980”).
12 Id. at 8, Chart 1.
13 See Id. at 9, Chart 2.
14 See ABA Report at 10.
17 Id. at 8, n. 10.
18 Id.
19 Id. at 91–92.
20 Id. at 94.
21 Telephone conversation between the author and Mr. Gainer on December 29, 2003.
22 ABA Report at 8, n. 10.
23 Id. at 9.
24 Id. at 7.
25 Id. at 94, Appendix C.
27 In that period of time, our count shows an increase of 67 crimes calculated on the same criteria used by the ABA to establish that there were 1,020 sections with criminal punishments as of the end of 1996. Our count, using the same criteria, also shows that only one crime was added in 1997. An increase of 67 crimes to an existing count of 1,020 represents a 6.6% increase.

28 Statisticians usually use a confidence interval, which means that the true value may be higher or lower than 6.6%.

29 ABA Report at 7.

30 Id. at 9, Chart 2.

31 According to methodology of the Appendix, those 24 sections and subsections contained 84 crimes, which is 14% of the total of 600 crimes.

32 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 (Mail Fraud) and 1343 (Wire Fraud).


35 The information from this initial chart has been included in the Appendix.

36 JULIE R. O'SULLIVAN, Federal White Collar Crime (St. Paul; West Group, 2001) at 53 citing WILLIAM S. LAUFER, Culpability and Sentencing of Corporations, 71 NEB. L. REV. 1049, 1064-65 (1994); and noting See, e.g., Ratzlaf v. United States, 510 U.S. 135, 141, 114 S.Ct. 655, 659, 126 L.Ed.2d 615 (1994) (“‘Willful,’ this Court has recognized, is a ‘word of many meanings,’ and ‘its construction [is] often *** influenced by its context.’”) (quoting Spies v. United States, 317 U.S. 492, 497, 63 S.Ct. 364, 87 L.Ed.418 (1943)).

37 (C) otherwise involves the transportation or transmission of funds that are known to the defendant to have been derived from a criminal offense or are intended to be used to promote or support unlawful activity; (2) the term “money transmitting” includes transferring funds on behalf of the . . .

38 Previously, (b)(1)(A) read “is intentionally operated...”; it now reads “is operated.”

39 Also, consider the following comments by then General Counsel of the Treasury, Mr. Aufhauser, regarding his deliberate elimination of the mens rea in the regulations applicable to financial institutions:

Let me first tell you about that Executive Order, because it’s important you get the perspective of where the PATRIOT Act falls in. It is not our only tool. It would be a fool’s errand to think it was. The Executive Order that we wrote is global in scope. It specifically targets financiers of terror. It uses an operative phrase, which is an invention of my own, which is it reaches not only people knowingly associated with it but anyone otherwise associated with the act of transmission. That was written deliberately so that there was no mens rea, that there was no scienter, that it was strict liability.

What we wanted to do is try to create a code of conduct here and abroad so that you are strictly liable for what happens in your institution. We understand it was unprecedented. We understand it’s bold. But it’s worked; I can tell you it’s worked. I know how it’s worked.

I know that when we suspected that transactions have gone through institutions abroad or through intermediaries abroad, like lawyers, we’ve gone to them, sometimes directly, sometimes through intermediaries, and sometimes through their host governments. We’ve told them we don’t believe you know this. We believe you’re too casual about things. We don’t think your financial controls are good, so we’re not going to do anything. We want you to be our partner. So share your books and records with us.

We didn’t have to complete the rest of that paragraph, because they know the Order. If they decline to give us the books and records and decline to be our partners, we would name not only their institution under the Executive Order that is freezing the assets and prohibiting all trade with that institution, but we would freeze the assets and prohibit trade with the fiduciaries in charge of those institutions.

Now in this respect the Executive Order is a powerful tool. It’s better in form of threat than actual execution. I can’t tell you how we’d do in a court of law if somebody challenged it. But anyway it’s an extraordinary power under national security measures, and the President enjoys an awful lot of leeway with such circumstances.

Excerpted from remarks by General Counsel David D. Aufhauser at the Federalist Society’s National Lawyers Convention, Nov. 15, 2002 (unpublished transcript, on file with author) (emphasis added).
41 See id. at 194.
43 See Duncan v. Louisiana, 391 U.S. 145, 159 (1968); Baldwin v. New York, 399 U.S. 66 (1970) (both saying that the 6th Amendment right to jury trial does not apply to “petty offenses,” i.e., those punishable by imprisonment for 6 months or less).
44 195 U.S. at 67–68. (emphasis added).
45 Id. at 68. (emphasis added).
48 Id.
APPENDIX TO “MEASURING THE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF FEDERAL CRIME LEGISLATION”
Federal Enactments 1997 through 2003

Compiled by
Ms. Arianne Ellerbe

Methodology

- Each traditional or common-law crime (e.g., theft, burglary, fraud, etc.) is counted separately as one crime; thus multiple crimes may be listed in a single section or subsection.
- Multiple forms of non-traditional crimes or elaborations on traditional crimes (e.g., theft by fraud, misrepresentation, forgery) are counted as one crime only, if listed together in one section or subsection.
- If the same or similar non-traditional crimes are listed in separate sections or subsections, each section or subsection is counted as a separate crime.
- An explanation is provided for each section or subsection.
- A few of the sections or subsections have a “?” indicating uncertainty as to number of crimes or the mental elements.
- The number of crimes listed for each section or subsection indicates the number added that year by a statute or amendment, not necessarily the total number of crimes in the section or subsection.

1. 2 USC 437g—Campaign funds—enforcement
   a. 1 crime
   b. Violation of another section (2 USC 441f)
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

2. 6 USC 133—Protection of infrastructure information
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalizes publishing, divulging, disclosing, or making known of protected information
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

3. 7 USC 195—Stockyards—punishment for violation of an order
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation of compensation subpart (h)(4); criminalizes violation of conflict of interest subpart (i)
   c. Mental element: Strict liability

4. 7 USC 221—Stockyards—accounts and records
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds persons to whom the provisions apply
   c. Mental element: Strict liability

5. 7 USC 2009aa-1—Delta Regional Authority
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation of compensation subpart (h)(4); criminalizes violation of conflict of interest subpart (i)
   c. Mental element: Strict liability

6. 7 USC 2009bb-1—Northern Great Plains Regional Authority
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation of compensation subpart (h)(4); criminalizes violation of conflict of interest subpart (i)
   c. Mental element: Strict liability

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7. 7 USC 2016(j)(5)—Food Stamp Program—issuance and use of coupons
   a. 5 crimes
   b. Extends criminal provisions of 7 USC 2024 to coupons issued under 2016 (knowingly uses, transfers, acquires, alters, or possesses)
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

8. 7 USC 2276(a)(3)—Agriculture—confidentiality of information
   a. 1 crime
   b. Disclosure of protected information
   c. Mental element: General intent

9. 7 USC 4068(g)—Honey research—collection of assessments
   a. 1 crime
   b. Disclosure of protected information
      (no criminal penalty in the statute prior to 1998 amendments)
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

10. 7 USC 4504(k)—Dairy required terms in orders
    a. 0 crimes
    b. Added an additional person to whom the statute’s reporting requirements apply
    c. Mental element: Strict liability

11. 7 USC 5712(a)(1)—Export reporting and contract sanctity
    a. 0 crimes
    b. Added an additional person to whom the statute’s reporting requirements apply
    c. Mental element: Knowingly

12. 7 USC 7734—Agriculture—penalties for violation
    a. 11 crimes
    b. Criminalizes violation of the chapter, forgery, counterfeiting, use, alteration, defacing, destruction of certain documents; criminalizes importation, entrance, exportation, movement of certain items
    c. Mental element: Knowingly

13. 7 USC 7809—Agriculture—confidentiality of information
    a. 1 crime
    b. Criminalizes disclosure of voter information
    c. Mental element: Knowingly

14. 7 USC 8313—Animal Health Protection—penalties
    a. 12 crimes
    b. Criminalizes violation of the chapter, forgery, counterfeiting, use, alteration, defacing, destruction of certain documents; criminalizes importation, entrance, exportation, movement of certain items; criminalizes multiple violations as a separate crime
    c. Mental element: Knowingly

15. 10 USC 2323(f)(1)—Contract goal for small disadvantaged businesses and certain institutions
    a. 0 crimes
    b. Criminalizes a particular method of misrepresentation
    c. Mental element: Specific intent

16. 12 USC 1467a—Regulations of Holding Companies
    a. 0 crimes
    b. No changes to criminal provisions
    c. Mental element: Various

17. 12 USC 1715z—Equity skimming penalty
    a. 1 crime
    b. Criminalizes the mortgagor’s violations of regulations (not necessarily action by the person charged with the crime)
    c. Mental element: Willfully

18. 13 USC 305—Penalties for unlawful export information activities
    a. 4 crimes
    b. Criminalizes knowing failure to file reports and knowing submission of false reports; criminalizes knowing reporting of information to further illegal activity; criminalizes knowing use of the agency to further illegal activity
    c. Mental element: Knowingly
19. 15 USC 3(b)—Trusts in territories or District of Columbia
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes actions that monopolize, attempt to monopolize, or combine/conspire to monopolize trade/commerce
   c. Mental element: Various

20. 15 USC 78dd-2—Prohibited foreign trade practices by domestic concerns
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalized “securing any improper advantage” as applied to 3 different situations in subparts (a)(1), (2), and (3)
   c. Mental element: Various

21. 15 USC 78ff—Penalties
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalized violation of 78dd-1(g), which was not criminal prior to amendments in 1998
   c. Mental element: Willfully

22. 15 USC 645—Aid to small business—offenses and penalties
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Criminalizes a particular method of misrepresentation
   c. Mental element: General intent

23. 15 USC 1693n—Electronic fund transfers—criminal penalty
   a. 18 crimes
   b. Criminalizes use, attempt or conspiracy to use false debit instruments (3 crimes); criminalizes transport, attempt or conspiracy to transport false debit instruments (3 crimes); criminalizes use of instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce to transport or sell a false debit instrument (1 crime); criminalizes receiving, concealment, use, transport of items obtained by false debit instruments (4 crimes); criminalizes furnishing anything of value through the use of false debit instruments (1 crime)
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

24. 15 USC 6309—Boxing safety—enforcement
   a. 7 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation of 7 sections in 15 USC
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

25. 15 USC 6823—Fraudulent access to financial information—criminal penalties
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Violation and attempted violation of 15 USC 6821; violation and attempted violation of 6821 while violating another statute
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/intentionally

26. 15 USC 668dd—National Wildlife Refuge System
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes violation of regulations created under the section
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/general intent

27. 15 USC 707—Migratory Bird Treaty—violations and penalties
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes a violation of 15 USC 704
   c. Mental element: General intent

28. 15 USC 1437—Marine Sanctuaries—enforcement
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes a violation of 15 USC 1436; criminalizes a violation 1436 while using a dangerous weapon as a separate crime
   c. Mental element: Various

29. 16 USC 5305a—Prohibition on sale, importation, or exportation of products
   a. 6 crimes
   b. Criminalizes the sale, import, export, attempted sale, attempted import, attempted export of substances derived from rhinoceros or tiger
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

30. 17 USC 1204—Criminal offenses and penalties
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes a violation of 17 USC 1201 or 1202
   c. Mental element: Willfully
31. 17 USC 1312—Oaths and acknowledgements
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes false statements in certain declarations/oaths
   c. Mental element: Willfully

32. 18 USC 25—Use of minors in crimes of violence
   a. 1 crime
   b. Use of a minor to commit a crime of violence
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

33. 18 USC 38—Fraud involving aircraft
   a. 14 crimes
   b. Falsification, concealment, false representation, making false writings, using false writings, attempt to falsify, attempt to conceal, attempt to falsely represent, attempt to make false writings, attempt to use false writings, exportation by fraud, importation by fraud, attempt to export by fraud, attempt to import by fraud
   c. Mental element: Various

34. 18 USC 43—Animal Enterprise Terrorism
   a. 7 crimes
   b. Criminalizes travel for the purpose of causing disruption of animal facility; criminalizes use of mail or interstate commerce to cause physical disruption to animal enterprise; criminalizes causing the mail or commerce to be used for the purpose of disruption to animal enterprise; criminalizes damaging or causing the loss of any animal enterprise property; criminalizes conspiracy to damage or conspiracy to cause the loss of any animal enterprise property
   c. Mental element: Strict liability and Specific intent

35. 18 USC 48—Depiction of animal cruelty
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Creation, sale, possession of depiction of animal cruelty
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

36. 18 USC 81—Arson within special maritime and territorial jurisdiction
   a. 1 crime
   b. Conspiracy to commit arson within maritime or territorial jurisdiction
   c. Mental element: Willfully/maliciously

37. 18 USC 175—Prohibitions with respect to biological weapons
   a. 1 crime
   b. Possession of biological toxins
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

38. 18 USC 175b—Possession by restricted persons
   a. 5 crimes
   b. 5 instances criminalize various forms of possession and transport of biological toxins
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

39. 18 USC 228—Failure to pay legal child support obligations
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes travel with the intent to evade child support obligation; criminalizes failure to pay for longer than 2 years or greater than $10,000 (separate crime from simple failure to pay)
   c. Mental element: Willfully

40. 18 USC 229/229A—Chemical Weapons—prohibited activities and penalties
   a. 60 crimes
   b. Criminalizes developing, producing, acquiring, transferring directly, transferring indirectly, receiving, stockpiling, retaining, owning, possessing, using, threatening to use chemical weapons; criminalizes assisting in each of the above, inducing each of the above, attempting each of the above, and conspiring to do each of the above (12 original crimes x 5)
   c. Mental element: General intent
41. 18 USC 333—FDA—penalties
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes failure to comply with a requirement of 18 USC 384(e)
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

42. 18 USC 476—Taking impressions of tools used for obligations or securities
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds 3 additional means by which one could criminally take, procure, or make a security of the US (non-traditional)
   c. Mental element: Strict liability

43. 18 USC 477—Possessing or selling impressions of tools used for obligations or securities
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds 3 additional means by which one could criminally take, procure, or make a security of the US (non-traditional)
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

44. 18 USC 481—Plates, stones, or analog, digital, or electronic images for counterfeiting
   a. 11 crimes
   b. Criminalizes making, executing, acquiring, scanning, capturing, recording, receiving, transmitting, reproducing, selling, having in one's control/custody/possession certain items
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

45. 18 USC 607—Place of solicitation
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No real change through amendment
   c. Mental element: General intent

46. 18 USC 657—Lending, credit and insurance institutions
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds an additional agency to whom the provisions apply
   c. Mental element: Willfully

47. 18 USC 658—Property mortgaged or pledged to farm credit agencies
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds an additional agency to whom the provisions apply
   c. Mental element: General intent

48. 18 USC 709—False advertising or misuse of names indicating a federal agency
   a. 1 crime
   b. Unauthorized use of U.S. Marshall’s insignia, etc.
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

49. 18 USC 713—Use of likenesses of the great seal of the U.S., House of Representatives, Senate
   a. 10 crimes
   b. Unauthorized use, manufacture, reproduction, sale, purchase for resale of U.S. House seal; unauthorized use, manufacture, reproduction, sale, purchase for resale of U.S. Congress seal
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

50. 18 USC 716—Use of police badges
   a. 6 crimes
   b. Transfer, transport, receipt of counterfeit police badge; unauthorized transfer, transport, receipt of genuine police badge
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

51. 18 USC 842—Explosives—unlawful acts
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No changes to criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Various

52. 18 USC 844—Explosives—penalties
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No changes to criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Various
53. 18 USC 876—Mailing threatening communications  
a. 4 crimes  
b. Depositing or causing to be delivered a threat to kidnap/injure addressed to U.S. judge, federal law enforcement officer, or federal official; depositing or causing to be delivered ransom letter to U.S. judge, federal law enforcement officer, or federal official  
c. Mental element: Knowingly and specific intent

54. 18 USC 879—Threats against former presidents and certain other persons  
a. 3 crimes  
b. Threatening to kill, kidnap, or injure a person protected by the Secret Service  
c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

55. 18 USC 924—Firearms—penalties  
a. 1 crime  
b. Violation of 18 USC 931  
c. Mental element: Knowingly

56. 18 USC 930—Possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in federal facilities  
a. 1 crime  
b. Criminalizes conspiracy to kill during an attack on a federal facility using a dangerous weapon  
c. Mental element: General intent

57. 18 USC 1006—Federal credit institutions entries, reports, transactions  
a. 0 crimes  
b. Adds an additional agency to whom the provisions apply  
c. Mental element: Specific intent

58. 18 USC 1014—Loan and credit applications generally  
a. 0 crimes  
b. Adds an additional agency to whom the provisions apply  
c. Mental element: Strict liability

59. 18 USC 1028—Fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents  
a. 3 crimes  
b. Criminalizes transferring, using, or trafficking in false identification  
c. Mental element: Specific intent and knowingly

60. 18 USC 1029—Fraud and related activity in connection with access devices  
a. 4 crimes  
b. Criminalizes use, production, trafficking in, controlling/having in custody/possessing either hardware or software in order to fraudulently obtain telecommunications services  
c. Mental element: Knowingly and specific intent

61. 18 USC 1036—Entry by false pretenses to any real property, vessel, or aircraft  
a. 2 crimes  
b. Entry, attempted entry into secured area owned by U.S.  
c. Mental element: General intent

62. 18 USC 1111—Murder  
a. 0 crimes  
b. Adds new means by which the state crime of murder may be deemed a federal offense (child abuse and pattern of torture)  
c. Mental element: Specific intent

63. 18 USC 1204—International parental kidnapping  
a. 1 crime  
b. Attempt to remove a child from the U.S. with intent to restrict parental rights  
c. Mental element: Specific intent

64. 18 USC 1350—Failure of corporate officers to certify financial reports  
a. 2 crimes  
b. Separate sections criminalize various means of false certification of corporate reports  
c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully
65. 18 USC 1362—Communication lines
   a. 1 crime
   b. Conspiracy to injure/destroy communication lines
   c. Mental element: Willfully/maliciously

66. 18 USC 1363—Buildings or property within special maritime and territorial jurisdictions
   a. 1 crime
   b. Conspiracy to destroy/injure maritime or territorial buildings
   c. Mental element: Willfully/maliciously

67. 18 USC 1365—Tampering with Consumer Products
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes tampering with a consumer product; separately criminalizes multiple offenses under the section
   c. Mental element: General intent

68. 18 USC 1366—Destruction of an energy facility
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Separately criminalizes violations under (a) and (b) of the section when death results
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

69. 18 USC 1368—Harming animals used in law enforcement
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes harming a police animal, attempting to harm a police animal, or conspiring to harm a police animal
   c. Mental element: Willfully/maliciously

70. 18 USC 1369—Destruction of veterans’ memorials
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes injuring/destroying veterans’ memorials; criminalizes attempting to injure/destroy memorials
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

71. 18 USC 1470—Transfer of obscene material to minors
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes transferring obscene matter to juveniles
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

72. 18 USC 1512—Tampering with a witness or informant
   a. 18 crimes
   b. Criminalizes use of physical force, threats of physical force, attempts to use physical force, attempts to threaten physical force against a witness, victim, or informant in a federal case; criminalizes altering, destroying, mutilating, concealing records (and attempt of each); criminalizes obstruction, influencing, impeding federal proceedings (and attempt of each)
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

73. 18 USC 1513—Retaliating against a witness or informant
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes taking action harmful to a witness, victim, informant; criminalizes conspiracy to harm such individuals
   c. Mental element: Various

74. 18 USC 1516—Obstruction of a federal audit
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds new persons and situations to whom the provision applies
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

75. 18 USC 1519—Destruction, alteration, or falsification of records in federal investigation
   a. 7 crimes
   b. Criminalizes alteration, destruction, mutilation, concealment, covering up, falsification, and false entry of federal investigation records
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

76. 18 USC 1520—Destruction of corporate audit records
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes violation of the section generally
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully
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77. 18 USC 1531—Partial-birth abortions prohibited
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes performance of partial-birth abortions
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

78. 18 USC 1581—Peonage
   a. 7 crimes
   b. Adds heightened penalty if death results from violation or if violation includes kidnapping, attempted kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse or attempted aggravated sexual abuse, or attempted killing
   c. Mental element: General intent

79. 18 USC 1584—Enticement into slavery
   a. 7 crimes
   b. Adds heightened penalty if death results from violation or if violation includes kidnapping, attempted kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse or attempted aggravated sexual abuse, or attempted killing
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

80. 18 USC 1589—Forced labor
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes providing or obtaining labor by various criminal means
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

81. 18 USC 159—Trafficking with respect to peonage
   a. 5 crimes
   b. Criminalizes recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining labor of a person held unlawfully
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

82. 18 USC 1591—Sex trafficking of children
   a. 8 crimes
   b. Criminalizes recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, benefiting financially, or receiving anything of value as a result of a person engaging in a commercial sex act
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

83. 18 USC 1592—Peonage and slavery—unlawful conduct regarding documents
   a. 5 crimes
   b. Criminalizes destruction, concealment, removal, confiscation, possession of actual or purported immigrant documentation or government identification
   c. Mental element: Specifically

84. 18 USC 1905—Disclosure of confidential information generally
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds additional person to whom the provision applies
   c. Mental element: Strict liability

85. 18 USC 1960—Prohibition of unlicensed money transmitting
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Amendment did not affect criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

86. 18 USC 1992—Wrecking trains
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalized conspiracy to violate the section
   c. Mental element: Willfully

87. 18 USC 1993—Terrorist attacks
   a. 68 crimes
   b. This involves numerous offenses regarded as terrorism plus attempt, threatening, or conspiring to do any one of the 17 offenses originally listed (17 offense x 4 = 68); possibly could add another 34 crimes because 2 additional factors transfer each offense into an aggravated offense
   c. Mental element: Willfully
88. 18 USC 2232—Destruction or removal of property to prevent seizure
   a. 30 crimes
   b. Part (a) lists 12 separate offenses involving the destruction or removal of property to prevent seizure; part (b) lists 12 separate offenses involving the impairment of in rem jurisdiction; part (c) lists 2 separate offenses (giving notice and attempting to give notice) involving execution of seizure warrant; part (d) lists 2 separate offenses (giving notice and attempting to give notice) involving electronic surveillance; part (e) lists 2 separate offenses (giving notice and attempting to give notice) involving foreign intelligence surveillance
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

89. 18 USC 2244—Abusive sexual contact
   a. 1 crime
   b. Created a new crime if the act in violation of the section victimized a child under 12 years of age
   c. Mental element: ?

90. 18 USC 2247—Repeat offenders
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalized multiple violations of the chapter
   c. Mental element: ?

91. 18 USC 2251—Sexual exploitation of children
   a. 6 crimes
   b. Criminalizes employing, using, persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing any minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct outside the U.S. for the purpose of creating a visual depiction of such
   c. Mental element: Specific intent and knowingly

92. 18 USC 2252—Certain activities relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of children
   a. ? crimes
   b. Reduces the number of items a person must possess depicting sexually explicit behavior by minors for criminal penalties to attach (from 3 items down to 1 item)
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

93. 18 USC 2252A—Certain activities relating to material constituting or containing child pornography
   a. 9 crimes
   b. Criminalizes advertising, promoting, presenting, distributing, soliciting real or purported juvenile pornography; criminalizes distributing, offering, sending, providing such to minors
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

94. 18 USC 2252B—Misleading domain names on the internet
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes using misleading domain names for 2 different purposes in 2 separate subsections
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

95. 18 USC 2261—Interstate domestic violence
   a. 6 crimes
   b. Part (a)(1) criminalizes traveling, entering or leaving Indian country with the intent to kill a spouse or intimate partner; part (a)(2) criminalizes causing another to travel, enter, or leave Indian country with the intent to kill a spouse or intimate partner
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

96. 18 USC 2262—Interstate violation of a protective order
   a. 6 crimes
   b. Part (a)(1) criminalizes traveling, entering, or leaving Indian country with the intent to violate a protection order; part (a)(2) criminalizes causing another to travel, enter, or leave Indian country with the intent to violate a protection order
   c. Mental element: Specific intent
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97. 18 USC 2319—Criminal infringement of a copyright
   a. 3 crimes
   b. 3 separate subsections criminalize various violations of 17 USC 506
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

98. 18 USC 2326—Telemarketing fraud-enhanced penalties
   a. 6 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violations of 6 separate sections of Title 18
   c. Mental element: Various

99. 18 USC 2332a—Use of certain weapons of mass destruction
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Expands the definition of a weapon of mass destruction
   c. Mental element: General intent

100. 18 USC 2339—Harboring terrorists
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes harboring or concealing terrorists or suspected terrorists
   c. Mental element: General intent

101. 18 USC 2339A—Providing material support to terrorists
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, concealing support for terrorists, or disguising support for terrorists
   c. Mental element: Various

102. 18 USC 2339C—Prohibitions against the financing of terrorism
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalizes providing or collecting funds to be used for terrorist actions; criminalizes concealing or disguising such funds
   c. Mental element: Knowledge/specific intent

103. 18 USC 2340A—Torture
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes conspiracy to commit torture and conspiracy to attempt to commit torture
   c. Mental element: General intent

104. 18 USC 2421—Transportation generally
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes attempt to transport a prostitute
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

105. 18 USC 2423—Transportation of minors
   a. 15 crimes
   b. Criminalizes transportation with intent to engage in illicit sexual activity; criminalizes arranging, inducing, procuring, facilitating such travel; criminalizes attempt and conspiracy to do all of the above
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

106. 18 USC 2425—Use of interstate facilities to transmit information about a minor
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes initiating transmission of juvenile’s information for sexual purposes
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

107. 18 USC 2426—Repeat offenders
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Involves penalties
   c. Mental element: Various

108. 18 USC 2441—War Crimes
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Involves definitions of war crimes
   c. Mental element: General intent

109. 18 USC 2442—Coercion and enticement
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalizes attempt to persuade, attempt to induce, attempt to entice, attempt to coerce prostitution
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

110. 18 USC 2512—Manufacture, distribution, possession, and advertising of wire communications
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds additional means of communication; adds additional intent element of “knowing the content of the communication”
   c. Mental element: Knowingly
111. 18 USC 2516—Authorization for interception of communication
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Involves authorizations for interceptions of communications, but does not criminalize behavior
   c. Mental element: Various

112. 18 USC 2701—Unlawful access to stored communications
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds additional motives for crime
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

113. 18 USC 3261—Certain offenses committed by members of the armed forces
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes commission of crimes outside the U.S. (really doubles all the crimes contained in the USC as a separate crime if committed outside the U.S.)
   c. Mental element: Various

114. 19 USC 2401f—Fraud and recover of overpayments
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes knowingly making a false statement or knowingly failing to disclose particular facts or circumstances
   c. Mental element: Knowledge

115. 19 USC 3907—Diamond trade—enforcement
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation of or attempted violation of regulations issued under the chapter
   c. Mental element: Willfully

116. 20 USC 1103f—Higher education resources—penalties
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalizes embezzling, willfully misapplying, stealing, or obtaining by fraud grant or assistance funds under the chapter
   c. Mental element: Willfully

117. 20 USC 9573—Education sciences—confidentiality
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes knowing disclosure, publication, and use of confidential student data
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

118. 21 USC 841—Prohibited Acts
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No change in criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Various

119. 21 USC 856—Maintaining drug-involved premises
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes leasing, renting, and using any place for controlled dangerous substance manufacture or distribution
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

120. 21 USC 864—Anhydrous ammonia
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes stealing anhydrous ammonia and transporting stolen anhydrous ammonia
   c. Mental element: Various

121. 21 USC 960—Prohibited Acts
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Reduced the number of grams needed to amount to a federal criminal drug offense under the statute
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/intentionally

122. 21 USC 1906—Narcotics trafficking—enforcement
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalizes willful violation of the chapter, willful neglect of Presidential orders, willful refusal to comply with Presidential orders, and knowing participation in a violation of the chapter (separate subparts)
   c. Mental element: Willfully

123. 22 USC 2780—Transactions with countries supporting acts of international terrorism
   a. 9 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation of 9 separate subparts in the section
   c. Mental element: Various
124. 22 USC 6744—Chemical Weapons—confidentiality of information  
   a. 1 crime  
   b. Criminalizes disclosure of certain confidential information  
   c. Mental element: Willfully  

125. 22 USC 6761—Chemical weapons—penalties  
   a. 2 crimes  
   b. Criminalizes violations of 22 USC 6726 or 6745  
   c. Mental element: Knowing  

126. 23 USC 164—Minimum penalties for repeat offenders—DUI  
   a. 0 crimes  
   b. Involves definitions in state statutes  
   c. Mental element: General intent  

127. 26 USC 5762—Tobacco products—penalties and forfeitures  
   a. 0 crimes  
   b. Adds additional person to whom provision applies  
   c. Mental element: Specific intent  

128. 26 USC 7213—Unauthorized disclosure of information  
   a. 1 crime  
   b. Criminalizes willful disclosure of certain information  
   c. Mental element: Willfully  

129. 26 USC 7213A—Unauthorized inspection of returns or return information  
   a. 1 crime  
   b. Criminalizes willful inspection of certain returns or return information  
   c. Mental element: Willfully  

130. 26 USC 7217—Prohibition on executive influence  
   a. 3 crimes  
   b. Criminalizes directly requesting and indirectly requesting an IRS audit; criminalizes failing to report prohibited requests for audits  
   c. Mental element: Willfully  

131. 29 USC 1131—employee benefits—criminal penalties  
   a. 1 crime  
   b. Criminalizes willful violation of the subtitle or regulations issued under it  
   c. Mental element: Willfully  

132. 31 USC 5322—Monetary instruments transactions—criminal penalties  
   a. 2 crimes  
   b. 2 subparts separately criminalize willful violation of particular regulations  
   c. Mental element: Willfully  

133. 31 USC 5324—Structuring transactions to evade reporting requirement prohibited  
   a. 8 crimes  
   b. Criminalizes causing failure to file a report; criminalizes attempt to cause failure to file a report; criminalizes causing filing of a false report; criminalizes attempting to cause filing of a false report; criminalizes structuring, assisting in structuring, attempting to structure, attempting to assist in structuring prohibited transactions  
   c. Mental element: Various  

134. 31 USC 5332—Cash smuggling  
   a. 2 crimes  
   b. Criminalizes currency smuggling and conspiracy to smuggle currency  
   c. Mental element: Specific intent  

135. 36 USC 509—Penalties-presidential inaugural ceremonies  
   a. 1 crime  
   b. Criminalizes violation of a regulation prescribed under the chapter (but really creates infinite crimes because each day the violation continues constitutes a separate violation)  
   c. Mental element: Strict liability  

136. 40 USC 3708—Contract work hours—criminal penalties  
   a. 1 crime  
   b. Criminalizes intentional violation of the subchapter  
   c. Mental element: General intent
137. 40 USC 5109—U.S. Capitol and grounds-penalties
   a. 14 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation or attempted violation
      of 7 separate sections of Title 40
   c. Mental element: General intent

138. 40 USC 6137—Supreme Court Building-penalties
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violation of the subchapter and
      violation of a regulation prescribed under
      the section
   c. Mental element: General intent

139. 40 USC 6307—Kennedy Performing Arts Center—
   penalties
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes violations of 3 separate sections
      of Title 40
   c. Mental element: General intent

140. 40 USC 8103—Public buildings in Washington, D.C.
   a. 7 crimes
   b. Criminalizes disorderly and unlawful con-
      duct on public grounds in Washington, D.C.;
      criminalizes willful injury to public build-
      ings, etc.; criminalizes pulling down, impair-
      ing, or injuring public appurtenances; crimi-
      nalizes injuring public utilities; criminalizes
      removing property from public grounds in
      Washington, D.C.
   c. Mental element: Strict liability, willfully, and
      general intent

141. 40 USC 14309—Personal financial interests
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes certain conflicts of interests
   c. Mental element: Knowledge and strict
      liability

142. 41 USC 423—Restrictions on disclosing contractor
   bids
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes knowing disclosure of bid
      information
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

143. 42 USC 262—Regulation of biological products
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No change to criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Various

144. 42 USC 1011—World War II Veterans penalties for
   fraud
   a. 7 crimes
   b. Criminalizes knowing and willful making
      or causing to be made false applications
      for benefits (2); criminalizes knowing and
      willful making or causing to be made false
      representations regarding rights to benefits
      (2); criminalizes concealing or failing to dis-
      close fraudulent applications (2); criminal-
      izes converting benefits to unauthorized
      use (1)
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

145. 42 USC 1320a-7b—Criminal penalties for acts
   involving federal healthcare programs
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No change in criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Knowingly and willfully

146. 42 USC 1383—Procedure for payment of benefits
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No change in criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Various

147. 42 USC 1395ss—Certification of medicare supple-
   mental health insurance policies
   a. ? crimes
   b. Medicare provisions run to 36 pages and
      include several penalty provisions.
   c. Mental element: Various

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148. 42 USC 1490s—Farm housing—enforcement provision
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes willful use and authorization of use of certain property in an unauthorized manner
   c. Mental element: General intent

149. 42 USC 2284—Sabotage of nuclear facilities
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes conspiracy to destroy nuclear facilities; criminalizes conspiracy to damage nuclear facilities; criminalizes conspiracy to interrupt nuclear facility operations
   c. Mental element: Intentionally/willfully

150. 42 USC 3215—Economic development—penalties
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes making a knowingly false statement; criminalizes willfully overvaluing security
   c. Mental element: Various

151. 42 USC 14072—FBI Database—registration requirements
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No change in criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Knowingly

152. 42 USC 14921/14944—Adoption—accreditation
   a. 8 crimes
   b. Criminalizes a violation of 14921 (2 crimes); criminalizes making false statements, offering inducement, giving inducement, soliciting inducement, accepting inducement; criminalizes engaging another person as an agent
   c. Mental element: General intent

153. 42 USC 15544—Elections—other criminal penalties
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalizes giving false voter information, conspiring to give false voter information, committing fraud with regard to citizenship, or making a false statement with regard to citizenship
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

154. 47 USC 231—Restriction of access by minors to materials commercially distributed
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes making prohibited communications available to minors (strict liability); separately criminalizes intentional making of prohibited communications available to minors
   c. Mental element: Various

155. 49 USC 521—Transportation—civil penalties
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes knowing and willful violation of provisions of one subchapter and provisions of one section in Title 49
   c. Mental element: Various

156. 49 USC 30170—Motor vehicle safety—criminal penalties
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes violation of a particular section
   c. Mental element: Specific intent

157. 49 USC 46311—FAA—unlawful disclosure of information
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds additional persons to whom the provisions apply
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

158. 49 USC 46313—FAA—refusing to appear and produce records
   a. 0 crimes
   b. Adds additional persons to whom the provisions apply
   c. Mental element: Strict liability
159. 49 USC 46317—Criminal penalty for pilots operating without certificate
   a. 4 crimes
   b. Criminalizes knowing and willful serving or attempting to serve as an uncertified airman;
      criminalizes knowing and willful employing or using of, in any capacity, an uncertified airman
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

160. 49 USC 46503—Interference with security screening personnel
   a. 1 crime
   b. Criminalizes interference with security screening personnel
   c. Mental element: Strict liability and general intent

161. 49 USC 46504—Interference with flight crew members
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes attempt to interfere and conspiracy to interfere with flight crew members and attendants
   c. Mental element: Strict liability and general intent

162. 49 USC 46505—Carrying a weapon or explosive on an aircraft
   a. 3 crimes
   b. Criminalizes conspiracy to conceal a dangerous weapon on an aircraft, conspiracy to place a loaded firearm on an aircraft, and conspiracy to place an explosive device on an aircraft
   c. Mental element: Strict liability/willfully

163. 49 USC 60123—Pipelines—criminal penalties
   a. 2 crimes
   b. Criminalizes conspiracy to damage and conspiracy to destroy gas pipelines
   c. Mental element: Knowingly/willfully

164. 50 USC 192—Seizure and forfeiture of vessel—fine and imprisonment
   a. 0 crimes
   b. No changes to criminal provisions
   c. Mental element: Strict liability and knowingly

600 crimes total