

GIMME 5
The AJC's daily list**Passing sentence**

Patrick Mullin, a veteran federal criminal defense lawyer and sentencing specialist, believes Michael Vick (right) may avoid prison. He offers five options for U.S. District Judge Henry Hudson:

1. If Vick provides significant help in building criminal cases against others and the government brings what is known as a 5K motion for a lower sentence based upon his cooperation, Judge Hudson may sentence him to either a halfway house or home detention.

2. If the government does not bring a 5K motion for a lower sentence, Judge Hudson may choose to accept the plea agreement recommendation by the government and defense, and sentence Vick to 12 months in prison.

3. If Judge Hudson rejects this plea agreement recommendation and decides to impose a much stiffer sentence, he may find justification in the advisory guidelines for a sentence between 33- and 41-month imprisonment. The maximum sentence permitted by statute is five years in prison.

4. As per a brief filed by a coalition of animal welfare groups, Judge Hudson may order forfeiture of Vick's 1915 Moonlight Road property in Smithfield, Va., with the property converted into a no-kill shelter for abused and neglected dogs bankrolled by Vick.

5. Judge Hudson may also impose a fine up to a statutory maximum of \$250,000.



GIVE US FIVE: Got someone you'd like to see us go after? E-mail list ideas to Jeff D'Alessio at jd'alessio@ajc.com.

STEVE HELBER / Associated Press