

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

August 19, 2022



### National

[Ohio judge rules Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens must pay a combined \\$650.6 million for damages related to opioid crisis](#)

CNN

Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens must pay a combined \$650.6 million to two Ohio counties for damages related to the opioid crisis, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

US District Judge Dan Aaron Polster ruled that over the next 15 years, approximately \$306.2 million must be paid to Lake County and approximately \$344.4 million must be paid to Trumbull County.

All three companies were found liable for their role in the opioid epidemic in both Lake and Trumbull counties last November. Polster presided over separate proceedings in May to determine how much money should be awarded.

### Pennsylvania

[Clearfield County Prison Board mulls drug court program](#)

The Progress News

Clearfield County Prison Board this week discussed the possibility of using opioid settlement money to start a drug court program.

A drug court program would allow low-level drug offenders to receive treatment and supervision for their addiction issues without having to go to jail, Clearfield County District Attorney Ryan Sayers said.

As a result of a settlement between the state and pharmaceutical companies, the county will be receiving a total of \$4,287,007 over the next 18 years — or about \$182,600 per year.



### Tennessee

[Judge Tim Dwyer reflects on his 25 years \[with the\] Shelby County Drug Treatment Court](#)  
Commercial Appeal

When I first started drug court, there was only one in the state; now, there are over 50, and there are over 3,500 in the United States. There have been many changes over the years in Drug Court. Initially, we were still dealing with the crack/cocaine crisis in Shelby County. In the early 2000s, the primary drug of choice switched to methamphetamine. Now, we are dealing with the opioid epidemic. This is very dangerous, and we have a large number of individuals overdosing in Shelby County. Those individuals come through my court and are offered treatment immediately following the trauma of overdosing.