



Opioids and the Courts News: March 28, 2018

Kentucky

[Opinion: Ky.'s criminal justice system must be fixed](#)

Cincinnati.com

These states sharpened their sentencing and supervision policies to focus prison beds on the most serious and violent offenders and then reinvested the savings into more cost-effective strategies to reduce recidivism. And it worked. As of 2016, 35 states have reduced their crime and incarceration rates. These states now offer more substance abuse programs for addicts — a must in the midst of this opioid crisis — and mental health treatment.

Pennsylvania

[Opioids blamed for increase in municipal court cases in 2017](#)

New Philadelphia Times Reporter

The number of cases handled in New Philadelphia Municipal Court increased 4.4 percent in 2017, with a total of 13,800, compared to the 13,216 cases handled in 2016, according to the annual report from Judge Nanette DeGarmo Von Allman.

“Our communities, and the New Philadelphia Municipal Court, are facing many challenges in dealing with the opioid epidemic and crime directly related to substance abuse,” Von Allman wrote in the report’s introduction.

Pennsylvania

[National opioid forum held in Lower Swatara; Pennsylvania No. 2 in U.S. for OD deaths](#)

Middletown Press and Journal

The panel heard from Michael J. Barrassé, a Lackawanna County Court judge who has been praised for his role in developing specialty treatment courts like drug courts.

“Often our county prisons, our state prisons, end up being our detox our drug rehab and our mental health hospital, all at the same time,” he said. “We can’t Narcan, we can’t arrest our way out of the problem. (Yet) one of the problems that we are facing today is that the arrest ends up being the only way that we are often able to get these individuals into treatment.”

Tennessee

[Opioid Epidemic Major Focus at Tennessee Judicial Conference](#)

Tennessee State Courts

Judges from across the state gathered at Montgomery Bell State Park in early March for the first Tennessee Judicial Conference of the year. The five-day conference provided judges the opportunity to participate in continuing legal education (CLE) courses related



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to relevant issues affecting Tennesseans, including the opioid epidemic, as well as reconnect and network.

Following the opening remarks, the opioid crisis took a front seat at the conference, as judges participated in the CLE: The Opioid Driven Addiction Crisis: Drug Addiction and Practical Solutions. Judges were able to hear from Judge Duane Slone, Pat Levitt, Ph.D., and Howard Burley, Jr. M.D., who all focused on varying subjects within the opioid epidemic.