



# Opioids and the Courts News: May 4, 2018

## Florida

### [How Much Has the Opioid Epidemic Cost Sarasota?](#)

Sarasota

In Sarasota County, substance abuse is the No. 1 reason that children are removed from their parents' care by the courts. That means an increased strain on medical examiners, coroners, doctors, nurses, schools, and the foster care system, and a huge cost to the government and taxpayers.

## Illinois

### [Health law conference at SIU to address nation's opioid epidemic](#)

The Southern

A symposium hosted by the SIU School of Law will explore the nation's opioid epidemic and look at ways to address the crisis. The presenters are...Michelle White, principal court management consultant, National Center for State Courts.

## Indiana

### [Two vie to be judge of Circuit Court](#)

Daily Journal

The opioid epidemic is having a huge impact on the criminal justice system, and drug addiction is a factor in nearly every child welfare case in juvenile court, from children who need services to efforts to terminate parental rights, Roesener said. A decade ago, children in juvenile court had typically faced physical abuse, neglect at home or educational neglect. "Now, you don't see much of anything other than opiates," Roesener said.

## New York (Chief Judge Janet DiFiore)

### [Our Commitment to Excellence Helps Keep Our Judiciary Strong and Independent](#)

New York Law Journal

In response to the tragic opioid crisis ravaging our communities, we have opened the Opioid Intervention Court—the first of its kind in the nation—in the City of Buffalo. In collaboration with the District Attorney, the defense bar and the treatment community, prosecution is suspended in order to provide charged offenders at high risk of overdose with immediate, intensive treatment. The early results—only two overdose deaths among 250 participants in less than a year—have attracted the close attention of policymakers and state court systems all around the country. Timothy Williams, "This Judge Has a Mission: Keep Defendants Alive," New York Times, Jan. 3, 2018. This new approach, which we are quickly expanding to New York City, recognizes that the devastatingly addictive qualities of opioids demands early court intervention, aggressive treatment and



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close interagency collaboration. Andrew Denney, “[New Bronx Opioid Treatment Court Looks to Help Addicts Kick their Addictions](#),” New York Law Journal, Jan. 29, 2018.

### Ohio

#### [OPIOID CRISIS: Drug courts have goal of rehabilitation](#)

Ironton Tribune

Although it just recently got started, Lawrence County’s drug court, lead by county common pleas judge Andy Ballard, has already started making a difference in people’s lives.

Ballard named the drug court the Nexus Recovery Docket, and stated that the meaning of the word nexus stands for what the court is all about. Its first session, which took place on April 19, had five participants trying to improve their lives from being addicted or involved with drugs, three of which had to do with opioids.

Ballard said the drug court is only for low-level, non-violent offenders with either fourth or fifth-degree felonies, or first-degree misdemeanors.

“This is only for people who want to get their lives back on track and be productive members of society,” he said.

### Vermont

#### [Opioid crisis: treatment vs. jail](#)

Stowe Today

Four years ago, after then-Gov. Peter Shumlin focused his entire State of the State address on the “full-blown heroin crisis,” they found a solution that people in the field think is working.

Formerly known as Rapid Intervention Community Court, the answer to the opioid crisis focused on treatment rather than prison time.

In January, the Governor’s Opioid Coordination Council recommended that the courts keep that system going and find alternatives to jail, ensuring that treatment and recovery services are available to people hauled into court or already in prison.

That may be easier said than done.