



# Opioids and the Courts News: Nov. 9, 2018

## National

[Amid deepening addiction crisis, FDA approves powerful new opioid](#)

CNN

Despite the ongoing opioid crisis plaguing the nation, the US Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved a new opioid medication five to 10 times more powerful than fentanyl.

Dsuvia, made by AcelRx Pharmaceuticals Inc., is a tablet in a single-dose, prefilled applicator to be administered under the tongue by health care providers to patients in settings such as hospitals, surgical centers and emergency rooms, according to the company.

FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb was quick to defend the approval in a statement Friday: "The agency is taking new steps to more actively confront this crisis, while also paying careful attention to the needs of patients and physicians managing pain."

## Massachusetts

[Commission to take a timely look at involuntary commitment](#)

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly

During her recent remarks to fellow judges, lawyers, policymakers and others at the annual State of the Judiciary event, Trial Court Chief Justice Paula M. Carey addressed the surging number of civil commitment filings. Carey attributed much of the increase to the ongoing opioid crisis.

## Montana

[We must defeat Montana's drug epidemic](#)

Helena Independent Record

I'm also pleased that programs like the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, Drug Courts and the COPS Anti-Meth program were all reauthorized in this package and are all vital resources in combating meth use in Montana [Steve Daines, U.S. Senator from Montana].

## Ohio

[Ohio voters defeat Issue 1 on drug crimes](#)

cleveland.com

Ohio voters on Tuesday defeated Issue 1, a constitutional amendment that would have reduced the penalties of some drug crimes, emphasized treatment and moved away from incarceration.



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The measure was defeated handily with 63.4 percent of Ohioans voting against, according to unofficial results from the Ohio Secretary of State.

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Ohio Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, a leader in the opposition, said the judiciary and others in the justice system haven't done a good job telling the story of how addicts are turning around their lives, thanks to drug courts. She rallied judges to talk about the work they do in an effort to oppose Issue 1.

"Now the people of Ohio know what is being done in the courts, in the treatment community with law enforcement and I'm proud of that record," she said.

### Rhode Island

#### [War on Opioids: RI's drug court making positive differences](#)

Turn to 10

[Paul] Roussell spent three months at Rhode Island's Adult Correctional Institution, where he was started on methadone. There, he learned about, and petitioned, Rhode Island's drug court.

"My assignment's been in the drug court since 2012," said Joe Lindbeck, assistant attorney general.

Lindbeck is also a prosecutor in drug court.

"We call ourselves the drug court team," she said, "So, it's probation, it's the drug court clerk, drug court administrator, the judge, the defense attorney, the public defender. We're all working together looking at that individual."

In a statement, Judge Alice Gibney told NBC 10 that since the drug court program was expanded in 2005, 858 participants have been admitted, with a 70 percent graduation rate. Gibney also said re-arrest rates are low -- just over 12 percent after one year and 13 percent after three years.

"When I started, we had 44 participants in there, and now we're averaging around 150, 155," said Lindbeck.