

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

April 22, 2022



### National

#### [National Drug Control Strategy 2022](#)

White House

**6. Criminal Justice reform and public safety efforts in the United States include drug policy matters.**

- *Objective 1:* Eighty percent of all treatment courts will be trained and will implement practices to increase equity by 2025.

### National

#### [Revised CDC Guidance for Prescribing Opioids Emphasizes Physician Judgment, Reflects Concerns About Misapplication of Earlier Guidance](#)

National Law Review

Conscientious medical providers face difficult tradeoffs when deciding whether to prescribe opioid medications to treat patients with chronic pain. For patients who have failed other therapies, opioids can offer powerful pain relief and restore quality of life. But these drugs come with substantial and well-documented regulatory and patient-safety risks because of their potential for abuse.

On February 10, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published in [draft form](#) a revised version of its Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids, and requested public comments. Once finalized, the 2022 Guideline will replace the CDC's 2016 Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain, which many commentators argue is clinical guidance that has been misapplied and misunderstood to be regulatory dictates.

### Tennessee

#### [Judge who had harsh words for Endo rebuked by Tenn. appeals court](#)

Reuters

A Tennessee judge who harshly sanctioned drugmaker Endo International Plc in a lawsuit by cities and counties over its alleged role in the opioid epidemic was biased against the company and should have recused himself, an appeals court ruled, ordering the case reassigned.

In a unanimous [ruling](#) Wednesday, a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals of Tennessee at Knoxville also threw out the unusual sanction, in which Judge Jonathan Young of the Circuit Court for Cumberland County found Endo liable by default.

“Endo’s statewide record of misconduct is plain for all to see, and the years-long record of their actions remains the same, regardless of the judge or venue,” said Gerard Stranch of Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings, a lawyer for the plaintiffs. “We look forward to presenting the default request to the newly assigned judge and ultimately to presenting the damages case to a jury.”