



Opioids and the Courts News: July 20, 2018

National

[Defendants on Probation Can Be Jailed for Drug Relapse, Court Rules](#)

New York Times

The top Massachusetts court [unanimously ruled](#) on Monday that a judge can require defendants with substance use disorders to remain drug-free as a condition of probation and send them to jail if they relapse.

The case, which challenged a requirement routinely imposed by judges across the country, had been closely watched by prosecutors, drug courts and addiction medicine specialists. For many, it represented a debate over the nature of addiction itself.

National/Massachusetts

[Commonwealth vs. Eldred](#)

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

We conclude that, in appropriate circumstances, a judge may order a defendant who is addicted to drugs to remain drug free as a condition of probation, and that a defendant may be found to be in violation of his or her probation by subsequently testing positive for an illegal drug.

National

[Substance Abuse Newsletter July 2018](#)

National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute

The National Center for State Courts has created a [National Judicial Opioid Task Force](#) to assist state courts in effectively managing the impact of the opioid crisis on court dockets across the country and to assist all branches and layers of government to find solutions to this epidemic.

National

[2018 Conference Agenda](#)

National Association of Sentencing Commissions

The Impact for Sentencing Commissions – Marijuana Reform and Changes in Drug Laws and Drug Use (Opioids and Fentanyl)

Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director, Alaska Judicial Council

Alex Kriet, Visiting (2018) Law Professor, The Ohio State University

Hon. John T. Lu, Judge, Massachusetts Superior Court; Chair, Sentencing Commission

Michael Schmidt, Executive Director, Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

Moderator: Douglas Berman, Robert J. Watkins/Procter & Gamble Professor of Law
Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University



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National

[Opioid crisis, cybersecurity, sexual harassment among criminal justice highlights at American Bar Association meeting Aug. 2-7 in Chicago](#)

American Bar Association

“Opioids in America: A Multi-Disciplinary Discussion on Cause, Effect & Solutions” — The abuse of opioids in America has reached epidemic proportions in the past few years. Leaders of the medical, dental and legal professions will explain the multidisciplinary approach necessary to tackle the opioid epidemic in our country.

National

[Biggest Challenges Facing Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#)

Westword

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges'](#) 81st annual conference is slated to take place in Denver beginning on Sunday, July 22... In advance of the gathering (see the details below), NCJFCJ president Tony Capizzi, a judge at Dayton, Ohio's Montgomery County Juvenile Court, outlines some of the most significant issues facing members.

Opioid Crisis and the Impact on Youth and Families

"My court, in Montgomery County in Ohio, is the epicenter of the opioid crisis. I run the largest drug court in Ohio. And even though this is extremely different than most prior drug issues, it's similar in some ways to the crack epidemic of 25 years ago. People think it's the first time we've experienced this level of challenge, but it's not.

"So many people are using heroin today, but generally speaking, heroin is not a drug that normally will kill someone. But Fentanyl and so many derivatives that are being put in heroin do. Today's heroin is laced with drugs that can kill them immediately.

"Juvenile court is about more than just little criminals. We also manage children who are dependents...[kids] who may have been abused or [are] dependent on parents who never got married and who have problems of their own. Today, 50 percent of young people are born to parents who never got married, and we have so many people passing away in their twenties and thirties, leaving their children homeless and without parents. There's been a dramatic increase in foster replacement challenges because of all these young kids without parents. That's why we're working with agencies across the country to make sure we have places for these children — especially children where there aren't family members who can take care of them.



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Illinois

[The Cook County Sheriff Is Launching A Podcast On Opioid Addiction](#)

WNEZ

The Cook County Sheriff's Office is launching a podcast.

Titled "Breaking Free: Dispatches from the Opioid Crisis," the show features...Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart interviewing people recovering from opioid addiction.

Indiana

[Nearly 1,000 local leaders to attend Indiana opioid summit](#)

Edwardsville Intelligencer

A spokeswoman for the Indiana Supreme Court says nearly 1,000 local leaders from all 92 Indiana counties have registered to attend a Statewide Opioid Summit next week.

The event next Wednesday in Indianapolis is part of the state judicial branch's pledge to help fight Indiana's opioid problem, and the Supreme Court is convening teams from each county to attend it. The teams include judges, prosecutors, public defenders, chief probation officers, law enforcement, child welfare workers, community leaders, and medical professionals.

Indiana

[Major summit to address state opioid problem](#)

Dubois County Herald

"It's something that Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush is really supporting," [Dubois County Prosecutor Anthony] Quinn said. "She reached out to the local courts and encouraged the judges to attend and bring a team."

Quinn will attend the summit with Superior Court Judge Mark McConnell, who handles drug cases in his court; Chief Probation Officer Jenny Lampert; Dubois County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Officer John Anderson; Defense Attorney Scott Blazey; Phillip Payne, a treatment program facilitator at Dubois County Community Corrections; Mike Denu, Director of Court Substance Abuse Services; and Ashley Manship from the Dubois County Department of Child Services.



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Maine

[Maine lawmakers in special session finally respond to opioid crisis](#)

Press Herald

The drug court bill provides access to treatment for defendants who have either pleaded guilty or been found guilty of serious offenses that were drug- or alcohol-related. Once admitted to the court, participants are required to meet with the presiding judicial officer every week and maintain regular contact with their case managers and probation officers.

They must also maintain a job, attend school or perform community service; maintain stable and sober housing; undergo frequent and random drug and alcohol tests; and participate in treatment or self-help groups. In place since 2001, the courts have proved to help dramatically lower the recidivism rates and enhance the chance for recovery.

Leigh Saufley, chief justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, [proposed the drug court expansion](#), with LePage's support, in an address to the Legislature in February.

Michigan

[How tribal leaders are responding to the opioid crisis in Michigan's Native American communities](#)

Michigan Public Radio

Judge Patrick Shannon, chief judge for the [Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Court](#) and Joseph Sowmick, coordinator of the Healing to Wellness program for the tribal court, joined *Stateside* to provide an overview of the tribe's approach to dealing with the opioid epidemic.

New Jersey

[Overcoming opioids and trauma: Amanda Zita's NJ drug court path](#)

North Jersey News

Danger in the suburbs
Opioids tighten their grip

For people like Amanda Zita, who spent six years on and off OxyContin and heroin, drug court is one of the only government programs that has proved effective at breaking the cycle of addiction and crime.

Drug court judges offer addicts facing nonviolent charges and low-level felonies a choice: prison or closely supervised treatment. In drug court, they must submit to frequent urine tests, inpatient and outpatient addiction treatment, weekly appearances before a judge and a probation officer, and weekly 12-step meetings. And they must find a job.



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Texas

[What Impact Is The Opioid Epidemic Having On Foster Care?](#)

Texas Public Radio

Guests:

- Yvette Sanchez, chief program officer for [The Children's Shelter San Antonio](#)
- [The Honorable Peter Sakai](#), judge of the 225th District Court
- Angela White, CEO of [Alpha Home](#)

Washington

[Respect, opioids or alcohol? Candidates disagree on top issue facing Clallam court](#)

Peninsula Daily News

The three candidates for the District Court 1 judgeship disagree on what is the top issue facing the court.

Pam Lindquist, Suzanne Hayden and Dave Neupert faced off during the League of Women Voters forum at Port Angeles City Hall on Monday evening....

Hayden said the top issue facing the court is the opioid epidemic, even if the court doesn't see any felony drug cases.

"In District Court we'll certainly have a lot of the other fallout from drug-addled people, which is domestic violence, driving under the influence and those types of things," she said. "I do think the court needs to do something differently."