



Opioids and the Courts News: Apr. 26, 2019

National

[Purdue's Sackler family wants global opioids settlement](#)

CNBC

In rare public comments on behalf of the family that controls Purdue Pharma, lawyer Mary Jo White said why the family believed the litigation against them and their company is legally dubious, factually misleading and politically motivated.

Purdue, along with other opioid makers, wholesalers, and distributors, is facing more than 2,000 suits by state, city, and county officials who blame prescription opiates for sparking an unprecedented epidemic of drug abuse.

White also said the Sacklers do not want to litigate these cases to their bitter end. The family, she said in the first disclosure indication of the family's stance on the opioids litigation, want to settle.

National

[County Jails Struggle With A New Role As America's Prime Centers For Opioid Detox](#)

NPR

Faced with a flood of addicted inmates and challenged by lawsuits, America's county jails are struggling to adjust to an opioid health crisis that has turned many of the jails into their area's largest drug treatment centers.

In an effort to get a handle on the problem, more jails are adding some form of medication-assisted treatment, or MAT, to help inmates safely detox from opioids and stay clean behind bars and after release.

But there are deep concerns about potential abuse of the treatment drugs, as well as worries about the efficacy and costs of programs that jails just weren't designed or built for.

Minnesota

[Mille Lacs County takes another run at drug court](#)

Aitkin Independent Age

Mille Lacs County has made the establishment of a county drug treatment court one of its top legislative priorities in 2019.

The county is once again applying for an Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.



Opioids and the Courts News: Apr. 26, 2019

During their April 2 meeting, commissioners approved another attempt at applying for a grant, also signing a supporting resolution and agreeing to provide more than \$166,000 in matching funds over a four-year period if a federal grant is awarded.

The Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program provides financial and technical assistance to states, state courts, local courts, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribal governments to develop and implement adult drug courts and veterans treatment courts.

Oklahoma

[J&J makes last, best case to head off Oklahoma opioids trial](#)

Reuters

The state of Oklahoma is scheduled to go to trial at the end of May with claims that Johnson & Johnson and Teva are responsible for sparking a crisis of opioid abuse that, according to Oklahoma, will cost \$10 billion to address. The trial, in which Oklahoma AG Mike Hunter will assert the single theory that deceptive opioid marketing created a public nuisance of drug abuse, will be heard by Oklahoma state court judge Thad Balkman rather than a jury. The trial will be the first courtroom test of pharmaceutical companies' liability for widespread abuse of opiates – a crisis that could cost hundreds of billions of dollars to abate nationwide.

In a final attempt to end the litigation before trial, Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiaries filed a motion for summary judgment on Wednesday. (The Teva defendants, which deny Oklahoma's allegations, also moved for summary judgment but their motion is not publicly available and a company representative did not respond to my request for a redacted version of Teva's brief.)

