



Opioids and the Courts News: Feb. 22, 2019

New York

[Marren: Teamwork results in Ontario County successes](#)

Daily Messenger

[Board of Supervisors Chairman Jack] Marren also praised efforts to curb the opioid addiction crisis with the implementation of the first full year of the weekend alternative to jail sentencing, enhanced electronic home monitoring, and trust accounts. Also, centralized arraignments, crisis intervention training, and Opioid Court started in 2018.

Ohio

[Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative Debuts New Website](#)

Court News Ohio

A new website was launched to share best practices in the multi-state effort to fight the opioid epidemic.

A new year brings a new website for a first-of-its kind regional judicial effort by states to combat the opioid epidemic.

The website highlights the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative (RJOI)'s background, purpose, information, and statistics needed to address the epidemic.

The courts are experiencing an ever-increasing number of opioid-related cases which span criminal, family, juvenile, and civil dockets.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor convened RJOI three years ago.

The mission was to explore ways that state leaders within a region devastated by opioid abuse could work more effectively and collaboratively across borders and disciplines to confront this problem.

The goal of the initiative is to collaborate and be more responsive and efficient through state courts, children's services, criminal justice, and treatment systems within Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

"The solutions that are brought to our judges are critically important," Chief Justice O'Connor said. "The website will be updated continuously to show the many ways that our Ohio team has pursued innovation."

The National Judicial Opioid Task Force also has published an online resource center. This site provides the nation's courts a comprehensive collection of best practices, policy recommendations, research, statistics, podcasts, and other information on opioids and the courts.



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Ohio

[Stark Co. judge: Progress, but more to do, in addressing opioid epidemic](#)

Canton Repository

It is obvious Stark County is doing the right things. First, judges and treatment providers are making the saving of lives a priority, especially through their drug courts. Law enforcement has assisted by making sure Narcan — a drug that reverses an opioid overdose — is on hand and distributed throughout the community. They are also using innovative techniques to battle drug cartels.

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Frank Forchione is a judge on the Court of Common Pleas in Stark County.

Pennsylvania

[Guest Editorial: A need for local solutions](#)

The Sentinel

There's no question that the state has stepped up. We now have 45 treatment facilities, called Centers for Excellence, dedicated to treating Pennsylvanians with opioid-use disorders. These centers are designed to provide 'whole person' care where behavioral health services — such as drug counseling — are integrated with primary and other services, which is a critical component of every county's human services systems.

We have stronger prescription drug monitoring and better guidelines for the use of opioids. Naloxone, the lifesaving overdose antidote medication, is more readily available. There is much greater access to substance abuse treatment, including opioid-specific medication-assisted treatment. Law enforcement, our courts, and local providers are working more closely than ever before.

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Jack Carroll is the Executive Director of the Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission.

Wisconsin

[Supreme Court candidate Brian Hagedorn vows to battle opioid crisis in TV ad](#)

State Journal

Conservative-backed Supreme Court candidate Brian Hagedorn in his first TV ad says he'll "hold people accountable" in the opioid crisis.



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In the ad, Hagedorn and his wife, Christina, reveal their adopted daughter Lily was born dependent on opioids and that she had to struggle through withdrawal in her mother's arms.

“Adopting Lily has brought home the opioid crisis and how it affects families in such significant ways,” Hagedorn said in the ad. “We need to show compassion, but we also need to hold people accountable, and that’s exactly what I’ll do on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.”