



Opioids and the Courts News: May 10, 2019

National

[McKesson Opioid Deal in West Virginia May Spur More Accords](#)

Bloomberg

McKesson Corp.'s settlement of an opioid lawsuit with West Virginia – the state with the highest U.S. rate of drug-overdose deaths – may encourage other states to seek quick cash to cope with the rising societal costs of addiction.

West Virginia agreed to accept \$37 million from McKesson to settle claims of improper distribution of the painkillers to pharmacies, though the company admitted no wrongdoing, Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said Thursday. The money will help defray some of the \$8.8 billion in costs to the state's economy associated with the opioid crisis.

States including West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky have sued drug makers and distributors for allegedly understating the risks of prescription opioids, overstating their benefits, and failing to halt suspiciously large shipments to pharmacies. The West Virginia accord is the first by a distributor, which may set an industry-favoring benchmark for other claims.

Louisiana

[Drug Court offers redemption](#)

Houma Courier

Terrebonne's program is led by the Terrebonne District Attorney's Office and Judge Johnny Walker, in conjunction with local law enforcement and the state Supreme Court.

Among one of the first dozen such programs in Louisiana, the court involves four distinct phases that can last up to two years or more depending on the client's needs, according to the client handbook.

May marks the 30th anniversary of the first drug court in the country. Terrebonne's program has been operating for about 17 years and has about 100 participants, [Drug Court Coordinator Danny] Smith said.

With the rise of the opioid epidemic, Drug Court is needed now more than ever, [Drug Court Coordinator Danny] Smith said.



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Maryland

[After treatment, addicted to recovery](#)

Kent County News

In some areas, local governments are leading the charge. Blount County, just south of Knoxville, has, in recent years, put increasing emphasis on its Recovery Court program (recently renamed from Drug Court), which diverts drug offenders from the jail into a strictly regimented curriculum to get them clean. For many in the program, it is the first help from mental health professionals they have ever received.

Blount County Judge Tammy Harrington said she has seen even hardened, long-term offenders emerge with a lasting grip on sobriety.

New York

[Judges: Oswego County must expand its court spaces now](#)

Watertown Daily Times

The increase in opioid and heroin arrests also have impacted county and family courts. And he [Fifth District Administrative Judge and Justice of the Supreme Court James Tormey] said there also is a new proposal that would require all civil cases to be submitted for mediation.

“All of these things require space,” Tormey said. “We don’t have the proper space in Oswego County.”

