



# Opioids and the Courts News: March 14, 2018

## National

### [Opioid Maker Insys Still Has Fans on Wall Street](#)

Wall Street Journal

Insys Therapeutics has lost its former CEO and co-founder, John Kapoor, and several top executives, all charged with conspiracy to illegally distribute an addictive prescription painkiller.

The company has lost more than 80% of its market cap since its peak price in 2015 amid declining sales and multiple lawsuits from states over how it marketed Subsys, a mouth-spray version of the potent opioid painkiller fentanyl that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat cancer-related pain.

But Insys hasn't lost all of its following on Wall Street.

## National

### [The Poison We Pick](#)

New York

We look at this number and have become almost numb to it. But of all the many social indicators flashing red in contemporary America, this is surely the brightest. Most of the ways we come to terms with this wave of mass death — by casting the pharmaceutical companies as the villains, or doctors as enablers, or blaming the Obama or [Trump administrations](#) or our policies of drug prohibition or our own collapse in morality and self-control or the economic stress the country is enduring — miss a deeper American story. It is a story of pain and the search for an end to it.

## National

### [Drug deaths rose 8370% in some US counties over 34 years](#)

CNN

Boone County, West Virginia was the county with the largest increase, 8369.7%, in deaths due to drug overdose followed by Wyoming County, West Virginia which saw a rise of 6973.1%. In addition to West Virginia, many of the regions that saw the biggest jumps are familiar from stories about the [nation's raging opioid epidemic](#). Counties in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and eastern Oklahoma saw the greatest increases in drug deaths: more than a 5,000% increase.



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## Florida

[Lawmakers Agree On Plan To Battle Opioids](#)

WLRN

The bill earmarks another \$6 million to the Office of State Court Administrator for medication-assisted treatment but again allows for a variety of options.

## Massachusetts

[Fentanyl ban in state courts drawing fire](#)

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly

The fentanyl ban was challenged in late January in Salem District Court in a case against four men charged with possession and distribution of fentanyl.

Defense attorneys Meghan Somers Taylor, George D. Abi-Esber and Jeremy J. Sears objected to a pre-trial motion by the state to introduce photos of the drugs seized in the investigation rather than the actual exhibits.

Judge Randy S. Chapman denied the motion, citing the Trial Court's fentanyl protocols and finding no need for the introduction of the actual evidence for either the state to prove its case or the defendants to mount a defense.

## Missouri

[Amid opioid crisis, drug court offers reason for hope](#)

News-Press Now

When the drug court first started out 21 years ago, officials saw more issues with cocaine, marijuana and a little bit of meth. Today, [Circuit Judge Daniel] Kellogg believes opioids are the biggest problem the community is facing.

## Nevada

[Las Vegas Pain Doctor Denies Role in Henderson Judge's Death](#)

Associated Press

A Las Vegas doctor charged with illegally distributing the powerful opioid fentanyl has denied involvement in the death of a Henderson city judge, who died with the drug in her system