



Opioids and the Courts News: December 6, 2019

Michigan

[‘First shot is free’: Hundreds incarcerated in Michigan offered opioid blocker shots](#)

Detroit News

“Vivitrol is not the magic bullet,” said Linda Davis, executive director of Macomb County-based Families Against Narcotics. “But what it does is it quiets the mind, so all the things you’re telling the person can be absorbed. We’re told so many times that people who are new to recovery, they can’t quiet their mind, the cravings are so strong. Vivitrol helps.”

Davis created Michigan’s first drug court when she was on the bench in Clinton Township’s 41-B District Court.

New Jersey

[NJ’s new DUI strategy a chance for even bigger change | Editorial](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer

But states could go further and consider a potential model for a different sort of intervention. Camden County is pioneering a program called Project SAVE which provides professionals at municipal court proceedings to speak to defendants charged with low-level opioid or other illegal drug offenses about treatment. Since the program’s inception in October 2018, municipal court judges have sent 476 such defendants to treatment through the program.

Oklahoma

[‘Addicts look like us’: TU panel discusses impacts of opioid crisis](#)

Tulsa World

In a discussion that spanned criminal justice reform to tragic personal experiences, a group of legal professionals spent lunch Tuesday trying to show a new generation of attorneys how the state’s opioid crisis affects their profession.

District Judge Linda Morrissey said she helped set up the Beyond the Opioid Litigation panel at the University of Tulsa College of Law in part because the next generation of legal tacticians have to understand the factors at play. She said because of the nature of the criminal justice system, attorneys are uniquely positioned to advocate and educate on the issue.



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Whether it's prosecuting or defending those battling substance abuse or contending with liabilities in the crisis, Morrissey said law students ought to know so that they can help others.

“If these young, new lawyers that are entering the community are educated, they can educate the people they're interfacing with,” Morrissey said. “We wanted to capitalize on this population of newly minted lawyers and lawyers that will soon have law degrees so they can take the knowledge they've acquired into the community and use it for good.”

