



Opioids and the Courts News: June 22, 2018

National

[Opinion: Why we need more drug courts](#)

The Hill

First, drug courts are an extremely effective strategy in reducing recidivism - especially among drug-addicted, nonviolent offenders with long criminal histories....

Second, the data on drug courts no longer are up for debate....

Third, drug courts are serving the growing number of military veterans who face charges stemming from substance abuse and mental-health issues....

Fourth, drug courts are successfully rolling out across the country....

National

[Teachers See Firsthand the Effects of Drug Crisis on Children](#)

NPR

RACHEL MARTIN, BYLINE: When a parent is fighting addiction, sometimes the only place their kids feel safe is at school. And teachers and staff are the first to see signs that something's not right.

MARY ANN HALE: They'll just walk into the office and start crying, and they hug you. And you sit down and talk with them and find out what's going on in their secret little world.

MARTIN: This is Mary Ann Hale. She is the principal at West Elementary School in Vinton County. She tells me that the school is aware of about 60 kids who've been directly affected by the drug crisis here. Sometimes the children are so overwhelmed they just come out and say what's going on. Most of the time, though, she has to read the signs.

National

[Congress is Writing Lots of Opioid Bills. But Which Ones Will Actually Help?](#)

New York Times

In the House, the leadership is bringing many individual bills to the floor, allowing the maximum number of legislators to say they sponsored their own piece of legislation and won passage. At a news conference last week, 10 members each gave a short speech about the constituent story that inspired their bill. (During the Q. and A. portion of the conference, reporters asked about immigration policy.) The leadership has set up an



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[opioids crisis website](#) to highlight the bills. And there's a social media hashtag: #opioidcrisis.

National

[What's in the House's bills to address the opioid crisis — and what's not](#)
Scientific American

What's in the package:

1. Evidence-based treatment
2. Waiving the IMD exclusion—kind of
3. Expanded access to buprenorphine
4. A movement away from opioids for pain treatment
5. Changes to medical privacy laws

What's not:

1. Harm reduction
2. Methadone treatment expansion for Medicare and Medicaid:
3. More parity enforcement
4. Mandatory prescriber education

Indiana

[LSC opioid task force coming to Indianapolis](#)

Indiana Lawyer

The Legal Services Corporation's Opioid Task Force, which is examining the role of civil legal aid in addressing the opioid epidemic, is scheduled to convene in Indianapolis in October for the first of three field hearings.

The task force was organized to increase awareness about the many civil legal issues that frequently arise for people suffering from addiction and for their families. Its primary goals are to provide an education about the legal obstacles individuals and families struggling with opioid issues can face, and to engage health care professionals to include legal aid attorneys in recovery treatment plans.

Three Hoosiers serve on the task force. Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush, Jay Chaudhary, managing attorney for Indiana Legal Services, and Abby Kuzma, former assistant Indiana Attorney General and chief counsel for the victims services and outreach division are members. Healthcare and public health experts, judges and leaders in business and law also serve on the task force.



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North Carolina

[NC's top judge delivers 2018 State of the Judiciary address](#)

WECT

North Carolina's top judge delivered his 2018 State of the Judiciary address at the North Carolina Bar Association's annual meeting Friday.

Chief Justice Mark Martin spoke to a room full of lawyers, judges, paralegals, and law students at the Wilmington Convention Center.

Martin's address covered a wide range of issues, including the importance of Pro bono legal work, the Raise the Age initiative, the opioid epidemic, school safety, human trafficking, and maintaining judicial independence.

Martin spoke about the Raise the Age initiative, which ended the practice in NC of automatically charging people as adults at age 16. Once the initiative goes into effect December 2019, the age of juvenile jurisdiction for nonviolent crimes will be 18.

"We had an overwhelming debate and an overwhelming victory for that which the data took us to," he said. "Most of these offenses were minor and there are a lot of lives that we could turn around...."

Martin also addressed the opioid epidemic in North Carolina.

"This crisis did not need to happen and we find ourselves in a very reactive mode," he said.

The Chief Justice praised a program spearheaded by Judge Corpening in New Hanover County to help families suffering from opioid addiction.

North Dakota

[Duluth judge honored, again](#)

Duluth News Tribune

[Sixth Judicial District Judge Shaun] Floerke has been presiding judge of the Duluth DWI program since it was established in 2008. But he also has been active in efforts to fight the opioid epidemic, earning a spot this year on the National Judicial Opioid Task Force.



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South Carolina

[Guest editorial: S.C. moving to address opioid crisis](#)

Aiken Standard

Most recently, [Gov. Henry McMaster] signed into law nine bills passed by the General Assembly in 2018 related to opioids:

H.4117: Confidentiality exceptions – Allows DHEC to release data from the Prescription Monitoring Program to a drug court official seeking information related to a specific case involving a designated person.