



Opioids and the Courts News: June 14, 2019

National

[LSC Opioid Task Force Report](#)

Legal Services Corporation

The LSC Opioid Task Force's recommendations in this section draw heavily on the work of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force. Throughout its work, the LSC Opioid Task Force engaged representatives of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force, received regular updates on their progress, and heard from judges and other members of the judicial community about best and promising practices.

RECOMMENDATION 8: The Judiciary Should Learn About the Science of Opioid Use Disorder and Recovery to Better Assist Court-Involved Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder

RECOMMENDATION 9: Courts Should Learn About Unique Challenges Faced by Specific Populations and Consider Expanding Alternate Court Options to Assist People with Opioid Use Disorder

National

[Remarks by President Trump in Meeting on Opioids](#)

Whitehouse.gov

MS. [Kellyanne] CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Secretary Wilkie.

It is true that Dr. Collins at NIH continues to develop the non-addictive opioid. And it includes some of the private sector trying to do that that also, Mrs. Trump, Mr. President.

So our effort as the whole-of-government approach has been to treat the whole person. Sometimes, if you're fortunate enough to go through a drug court program or a drug treatment program, you come out on the other side — where are the housing opportunities, the education, skills, employment.

National

[National Association of State Judicial Educators 2019 Annual Conference](#)

National Association of State Judicial Educators

The Opioid Crisis & Court System Responses

J.D. Gingerich, Justice Loretta Rush, Debi Tate & Lee Ann Barnhardt

No matter where you are located, the opioid crisis is almost certainly impacting your community and courts. In this session, you will receive an update on the scale of the





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opioid problem, as well as a package of tools and resources that have been developed by the National Judicial Opioid Task Force to help state court judges address the issue as it appears in the courtroom.

National

[Opioid manufacturer Insys files for bankruptcy after kickback probe](#)

Reuters

Drugmaker Insys Therapeutics Inc filed for bankruptcy protection on Monday amid mounting expenses driven by a U.S. Justice Department probe into claims it paid doctors bribes to prescribe a powerful opioid medication.

The Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing marked a first for a drugmaker accused in lawsuits of helping fuel the deadly U.S. opioid endemic and came just days after Insys struck a \$225 million settlement with the Justice Department.

National

[Medical Marijuana Probably Won't Stop the Opioid Crisis](#)

The Atlantic

But a new paper, [published today](#) in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, throws cold water on that dream. A new set of researchers replicated part of the 2014 study's findings: That is, from 1999 to 2010, it's true that the introduction of medical-marijuana laws was associated with a decline in opioid-overdose deaths. But when the researchers included states that introduced laws between 2010 and 2017, the direction of the relationship reversed. Instead of a reduction in opioid overdoses, medical marijuana was associated with a 23 percent *increase* in overdose deaths.

National

[Bill to increase sentencing for Fentanyl trafficking introduced by U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn](#)

WRCB TV

Tennessee Senator Marsha Blackburn introduced a bill with her colleagues to increase sentencing for people who traffick Fentanyl.

Sen. Blackburn said the legislation she introduced with her colleagues would reduce the amount of Fentanyl drug traffickers and dealers would have to be caught with for mandatory sentencing.

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[Senator Blackburn] said this legislation would create harsher sentences.





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“For example, instead of 400 grams of Fentanyl to trigger 10 years in prison, it now only takes 20 grams to trigger the ten-year minimum and this is because of the deadly nature of Fentanyl,” Blackburn said.

Michigan

[Retired Macomb Co. Judge fights to end Opioid Crisis](#)

Fox 2 Detroit

A judge in Macomb County recently retired and is now working full time to end the Opioid Crisis. Her own daughter experienced this and she is willing to fight until she breaks the stigma.

“I got my wisdom teeth pulled when I was in my early 20’s and from there I just kind of struggled with opiates for a number of years. I think it came from a feeling of just liking the feeling that opiates gave me,” said Andrea Gerard.

That feeling became all too familiar. Pill by pill, a seemingly endless dark hole that’s hard to step out of.

Ohio

[New report details how the opioid epidemic can be tackled in Appalachian counties](#)

The Columbus Dispatch

The report [by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)] detailed seven case studies, including one from Ross County, which has Ohio’s third highest overdose mortality rate with 112 fatal overdoses between 2014 and 2016.

Every court in Ross County has an embedded drug court, and almost every first responder is equipped with the overdose-reversing naloxone medication and is trained on administering it, according to the report. Opioid overdose deaths in Ross County decreased from 44 to 33 in 2017, the first year-to-year decline since 2013, [according to the report](#).

Ohio

[SOS Court up & running](#)

The Review

Judge Melissa Byers-Emmerling announces that the East Liverpool Municipal Court’s Addiction Recovery Court, the Self-control + Oversight=Sobriety Court (SOS Court) pre-certified by the Ohio Supreme Court has been up and running since February 25, 2019.





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Judge Byers-Emmerling said, "I am very proud that within nine and a half weeks of our initial filing we have been given operational clearance. This confirms the hard work put in by myself and Chief Probation Officer and SOS Court Coordinator Sara Norris, SOS Court and Supervised Probation Officer Norman Keyser and Intensive Supervised Probation Officer Shawn Dunn."

Oregon

[Community Builders: Courts, justice and collaboration](#)

Mail Tribune

Q: How have things changed in the criminal justice system?

[Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Lorenzo Mejia]: Things have changed over the years. When I showed up the drug of choice was cocaine, then it changed to meth, which is still the bigger problem. Although I do see people charged with illegal possession of various opioids, I mostly see people charged with illegal possession of heroin. They usually start using heroin because it is readily available and cheaper. We have an incredible rise in crime rate compared to other counties. We have more criminal cases in Jackson than Lane County.

West Virginia

[Adult Drug Court begins in Jackson County](#)

Jackson County Newspapers

Adult Drug Court saved Kim Oliver's life.

Oliver, who is a Mason County resident, was a guest speaker last week at the opening ceremony held for Jackson County's Adult Drug Court program. Drug court is a way for qualifying offenders to get treatment and rehabilitation to ultimately avoid harsher penalties.

Oliver graduated from the Mason County Drug Court program and has been clean for nearly two years. She became addicted to opioids after being overprescribed by a doctor after a Caesarian section, she said.

"It was a hard road for a long time," Oliver said.

Wisconsin

[Drug court, sober scene, Suboxone helped man beat addiction](#)

Madison.com

Overweight and insecure in high school, Allen Nyberg found a community in partiers who drank beer, smoked pot, and used opioids.





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His Verona High School friends took opioids prescribed to them or others for sports injuries, burns or getting wisdom teeth pulled.

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To clear the charges, he hoped to enter Dane County's Drug Court. To look good for the judge, he went to Connections Counseling in Madison.

While he didn't want convictions on his record, he was not enthusiastic about addiction treatment. "Using drugs was part of my identity," said Nyberg, 32, of Black Earth.

During two years of outpatient treatment and group counseling, he would become sober for a week or two, then relapse, a cycle he couldn't seem to break.

Drug court, which accepted his case, ordered him to do inpatient treatment at Hope Haven in Madison. He was kicked out for using drugs. But he returned, completed the program and stayed sober for five months, enough to fulfill his drug court obligations.

