

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

February 5, 2021



National

[Consulting Giant McKinsey to Settle States' Opioid Claims For \\$573 Million](#)

NPR

McKinsey & Company has reached a \$573 million settlement with nearly 50 state governments as well as the District of Columbia and territories, over its role [in] helping to market and boost sales of high-risk opioids including OxyContin.

Most of the funds will be devoted to paying for treatment and rehabilitation programs in communities devastated by the addiction crisis. As part of the settlement, McKinsey admits to no wrongdoing.

This deal heads off civil lawsuits threatened by state attorneys general.

Massachusetts

[Hampshire Hope: Drug treatment courts another tool in the box for opioid epidemic](#)

Daily Hampshire Gazette

State courts within the Northwestern district attorney's office jurisdiction have been offering substance abuse treatment as an alternative to incarceration for years. Treatment courts in Greenfield and Orange district courts, operating for over two decades, were among the pioneers of drug courts in Massachusetts. Last February, under the eye of Judge Maureen Walsh, Northampton District Court opened a treatment court that now serves Hampshire County.

In one recent session of the Northampton District Court Treatment Court, Judge Walsh reminded a participant who had recently relapsed of his progress. "You should be feeling proud," she said. "I appreciate the hard work you put into your recovery."

She knew each participant, making note of their weekly written reflections and applauding their efforts. "I read with interest your relapse prevention plan and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next treatment court meeting," she said to another participant.

North Carolina

[Recovering from Addiction During Coronavirus](#)

Spectrum Local News

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overdose deaths have accelerated during the coronavirus pandemic.

Chris Johnson recently recovered from his drug addiction. He said golf helped him get through it during the pandemic.

“Especially with COVID-19, at times it was really the only thing besides grocery shopping where I would get out of the house,” Johnson says. “Isolation is a big part of addiction, so getting out and seeing people, socializing, as hard as that is now, was important.”

Johnson was addicted to kratom. It’s a leaf-like substance available over the counter in North Carolina.

“It’s basically a plant-based opioid and very addictive,” Johnson says.