

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

March 12, 2021



National

[Chairman Nadler Statement for Subcommittee Hearing on “Controlled Substances: Federal Policies and Enforcement”](#)

U.S. House Judiciary Committee

Today, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) delivered the following opening remarks during a Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security hearing on “Controlled Substances: Federal Policies and Enforcement.”

I would like to thank Chairwoman Jackson Lee for holding this important hearing today. Drug addiction is a serious problem in our communities. The current pandemic has furthered worsened the tragic impact of overdoses as so many Americans continue to struggle through this isolating and stressful crisis. It is time for us to act quickly to advance smart, effective solutions at the federal, state, and local level.

We also need to learn lessons from programs and alternatives that have been successfully pursued at the state and local level, not just with marijuana but with other drugs as well. For instance, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Programs, known as LEAD, allow law enforcement to divert appropriate arrestees from criminal court, and instead to provide treatment and other services that address addiction and reduce recidivism.

Developed and initially implemented in Seattle, the LEAD approach is now being used with success in other areas. We should support these efforts, as well as other innovative approaches at the local level, such as medication assisted treatment, supervised injection facilities, expanding the availability of overdose reversal drugs, and better education of doctors and the public about the proper prescription and use of opioids as pain medication.

Alabama

[“It’s basically over-the-counter heroin,” says the Judge trying to ban tianeptine in Decatur](#)

WAFF

Judge Charles Elliott runs the Morgan County Drug Court program. He has seen the effects of tianeptine in Decatur.

Elliott says he became aware of the drug because some drug court participants were acting as if they were high but passing drug tests.

That led him to discover they were using tianeptine.

“What makes it so dangerous is how readily available it is in our gas stations and in our convenience stores and it’s basically over-the-counter heroin,” Elliott said.

Florida

[The Psychology of Addiction: What Courts Need to Know](#)

Florida Supreme Court

The Psychology of Addiction: What Courts Need to Know
Virtual Series on Working with Participants Facing Addiction to Opioids & Stimulants

March 12, 2021, Noon-3p.m. Eastern

Judges, magistrates, staff of the Florida courts and partners are encouraged to attend this very special OSCA webinar and the kickoff for FCOI’s 2021 events.

Motivating and Engaging Hard-to-Reach People Into Accountable, Collaborative Treatment
[Click here for handout.](#)