

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: January 31, 2020



National

[Press Briefing by Senior Counselor Kellyanne Conway, ONDCP Director Jim Carroll, and Assistant Secretary of Public Health ADM Brett Giroir](#)

White House

DIRECTOR CARROLL: What we know is that drug courts work for people that have an addiction. We're able to push people and hold their hand and get them into treatment if they are suffering from the disease of addiction.

What is so disheartening is that when there are prosecutors or judges out there that don't take seriously the peoples whose addiction is to greed. The only thing that they care about is lining their pockets and preying on the victims who do have a substance use disorder. Those are the people that we need to target. That's what the Department of Justice is doing. That's what our top-notch prosecutors across the country are doing. And those are the people that need to be in jail.

The people who have an addiction — we support, with record funding from the White House, National Drug Court programs across the country, and putting them in federal courts as well to make sure that people who have an addiction are not the ones that are going to jail.

Maine

[Maine's chief justice asks for full-time courthouse security and pay raises for judges](#)

Bangor Daily News

“The judiciary is fortunate to have such a dynamic and thoughtful leader as Chief Justice [Leigh] Saufley,” [Governor Janet] Mills said after Saufley's speech. “I appreciated her perspective and look forward to strengthening the judicial branch and potential areas of cooperation, including addressing the opioid crisis, to improve the lives of Maine people.”

Tennessee

[Recovery Courts Helping Tennesseans](#)

WGNS

Chief Justice [Jeff] Bivins also drew attention to the official rollout of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force's final report, which was unveiled at the National Press Club. That task force was co-chaired by Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts Director Deborah Taylor Tate.

That task force's work represents “an incredible resource for judges and recovery court professionals that I would strongly encourage you to use,” Chief Justice Bivins said.