

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

June 23, 2023



### National

#### [Facilitators and barriers to collaboration between drug courts and community-based medication for opioid use disorder providers](#)

Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment

Facilitator and barrier themes centered around the needs and resources of drug court participants, external policies such as MOUD access in jails, networking with external agencies, and beliefs about MOUD providers. Drug court staff preferred working with agencies that offered MOUD alongside comprehensive services. Drug courts benefited when jails offered MOUD in-house and facilitated community referrals. Existing relationships with providers and responsive communication eased referrals and served to educate the courts about MOUD. Barriers included logistical limitations (limited hours, few methadone providers) and inadequate communication patterns between providers and drug court staff. A lack of confidence in providers' prescribing practices and concerns around perceived overmedication of participants impacted referrals, interagency collaboration, and further burdened the participants.

### Maine

#### [Maine will receive at least \\$235 million in settlements from companies accused of fueling the opioid crisis](#)

News Center Maine

“The AG has already committed over \$4 million to expand family drug court dockets and the OPTIONS program, in addition to the naloxone the Office has been purchasing and distributing to law enforcement agencies across Maine since 2016. The OAG's share of the settlement funding is, by design, intended to be flexible and responsive to meet urgent programming and resource needs and as such, the OAG will be paying close attention to opportunities to make an impact for Maine communities.”

### Virginia

#### [Stories of healing, perseverance as drug court graduates six](#)

Winchester Star

The court, which serves the city of Winchester, Frederick, and Clarke counties, started in 2016 as an alternative to incarceration in response to the opioid epidemic. In

exchange for pleading guilty, defendants' sentences are suspended, and they enter the drug court rather than jail. If terminated from the drug court, they often face lengthy prison sentences, which is an incentive to maintain sobriety.

## Virginia

### [State approves drug courts for Warren, Shenandoah counties](#)

Northern Virginia Daily

The Supreme Court of Virginia approved drug treatment courts for Shenandoah and Warren counties on Thursday.

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition announced the approval in a media release.

The drug courts will serve non-violent and non-sexual offenders with a high need for treatment who have a drug- or substance use-related offense.

Circuit Court Judge Kevin Black will preside over the Shenandoah County Drug Treatment Court. Jenna Barsotti will serve as the drug treatment court coordinator. Circuit Court Judge Daryl Funk will preside over the Warren County Drug Treatment Court, with Erin Dooley serving as its coordinator.