

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: May 15, 2020



Maryland

[Don't forget opioid public health crisis](#)

The Star-Democrat

In recent years, Maryland has seen a shift in how it treats people recovering from opioid use disorder. Maryland announced the Peer Recovery Certification in 2014 to connect those in long-term recovery with those who were seeking recovery. I became a Peer Recovery Coach and started volunteering, serving families in Family Drug Dependency Court, working with women, men and families who had their children removed for substance use and neglect. While any support is always welcomed, it has been too little and too late for too many people and their families.

Maryland

[Maryland Judiciary shares stories of success amid COVID-19 in honor of National Drug Court Month](#)

Maryland Courts

Baltimore City Circuit Court Drug Treatment Court's peer recovery specialists help program participants during COVID-19 emergency

BALTIMORE, Md - The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the lives of program participants and court operations at the Baltimore City Circuit Court Drug Treatment Court. As a result, drug treatment court program participants are working hard to remain focused on their recovery journey.

Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Ellen Heller (Ret.) and Judge Thomas J.S. Waxter, Jr. (Ret.) preside over the docket, which has adopted a public health model that is sensitive to both the current health crisis and the ongoing battle against opioid addiction.

Pennsylvania

[Pandemic could cause spike in opioid cases](#)

Standard-Speaker

While there are more opioid treatment options than ever, thanks to federal and state governments having stepped up to combat the opioid epidemic, the coronavirus pandemic could hit those in recovery hard, said Frank Bolock, president/CEO of the nonprofit Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County and project director of the Recovery Bank in downtown Scranton, a [TCAC] project.

If recovering addicts are less connected to support, and the economic downturn increases anxiety, "a person with an opioid disorder could return to that. I guess we'll have to wait and see," Bolock said.