

Opioid-Related Conditions and the Courts

In the News: August 21, 2020



National

[Opioids and Children in State Courts: Targeted Community Resource Mapping Project](#)

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), with funding support from the [State Justice Institute \(SJI\)](#), is seeking judicially led stakeholder teams to participate in a four-month process to conduct targeted community resource mapping. Court stakeholder teams that strategically map resources in their communities can accomplish three main goals: 1) understand and use existing services; 2) identify gaps in services; and 3) target resources to fill gaps identified. To help state courts respond to the effects of the opioid crisis on children, NCJFCJ staff will help selected stakeholder teams identify substance use prevention interventions, a range of treatment services, harm reduction resources, and recovery support teams on a local level. The NCJFCJ will select up to 10 stakeholder teams interested in working with NCJFCJ staff to develop a localized resource map and companion resource directory.

Before applying, please seek the commitment of 5-6 stakeholders to create your team. The team will work between September 2020 and December 2020 to complete the targeted community resource map and directory.

National

[Opioids in the pandemic](#)

Axios

Prior to the pandemic, America's leading public health crisis was the overuse and abuse of opioids. And opioids haven't gone away just because the coronavirus arrived. In fact, the situation may have gotten worse.

Axios Re:Cap digs into the next phase of litigation against prescription opioids makers, which states and cities estimate has cost over \$600 billion since 2007.

National

[Civil-rights attorney Ben Crump on how courts widen — and can narrow — the racial wealth gap](#)

Marketwatch

Or when you look at the opioid epidemic in America now, how the pharmaceutical companies are being held accountable to the full extent of the law. But when you have stuff like the crack cocaine epidemic, we didn't talk about giving mental and medical help to deal with the addictions. They just criminalized an entire community of people in America.

National

[Commentary: John Kasich: Government can't be trusted with opioid settlements](#)

Chicago Tribune

State and local governments, on the other hand, sit squarely in those discussions and their budgets are in free fall. The pressure on states to use funds from any opioid settlement is going to be an irresistible force, as certain as gravity. If there is any doubt of this, legislators in one state have already proposed using COVID-19 bailout money to refurbish their state capitol. Actions like these echo the aftermath of the tobacco settlement of the late 1980s, where examples of misuse are legion and continue to this day.

We are at a crucial point with the nation's opioid crisis as court actions against an irresponsible opioid industry appear to be approaching settlement. When this comes to pass, the wisest use of these resources should see them paid directly to our hospitals and medical organizations as quickly as possible. Programs and facilities exist for treatment, but they are woefully at risk after almost two decades of addressing the opioid crisis without support. Settlement funds could make a big difference and save lives — or they could be misdirected to redecorate statehouses and fill potholes.

Illinois

[McHenry County Opioids Update: County's ODs flat, despite U.S. trend](#)

Woodstock Independent

Jason Sterwerf, who heads McHenry County's Adult Drug Court program, said the program was able to continue with participants wearing drug-testing patches that their probation officers removed after seven to 10 days and sent to a lab for testing.

Giving “meeting remotely” a new meaning, clients participated in online recovery meetings — electronically joining groups, sometimes in countries as far away as New Zealand.