

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

September 22, 2023



National

[Life Events and Other Stressors of Diversion Drug Court Participants: An Exploratory Analysis of Race and Gender Differences](#)

Drug Court Review

We sought to understand the domains and types of co-occurring life events and stressors experienced by participants of one diversionary drug court by coding qualitative notes made by team members (i.e., case managers, treatment, and support service staff) in the online administrative data system. We found the most common stressor domains among the full sample were transportation, finances, and physical health. Among male participants, finances were the most common stressor; but among female participants, the most common was physical health. Among African American, White, and participants who were another race, transportation and finances were both the most mentioned stressors. Findings can help drug court team members better understand life events and stressors of their participant population which can help team members better connect participants to appropriate support services.

New Hampshire

[Pioneer Superior Court Chief Justice Tina Nadeau to Retire on Sept. 29](#)

NH Business Review

Beyond the Bench, Justice Nadeau is heavily involved as a board member of both the New England Association of Recovery Court Professionals and All Rise (formerly known as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals). She is also a co-chair of the New England Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative.

Pennsylvania

[Q&A with the DA: Why Doesn't Clearfield County Have a Drug Court?](#)

Gant News

The major issue that arose (just like any new program) was the question of “how do we pay for this?” because a new county position would need to be created to be the drug court coordinator.

At the end of 2021, the commissioners helped me apply for a grant to fund such a position. However, there was concern that the position would only be funded by the grant for two years, instead of something more long-term.

Then in 2022, the commissioners and I received news that we would be receiving funds from the opioid litigation settlement, which would be spread out over 18 years, and those funds could be used to fund such a drug court program.

At this point, the drug court proposal and guarantee a drug court would be funded with the opioid settlement money is with President Judge Ammerman because such a court program has to be approved by the president judge of the county.

Texas

[Tears and heartache in Denton's 158th District Court](#)

Dallas Morning News

In the seven years since the program started, drug cases in Denton have risen steadily. An opioid-induced surge started three years ago and hasn't slowed, [Denton County Judge Steve] Burgess says. He knows because he's been tracking drug-related deaths in his case files.

In 2021, he closed a dozen active cases because the defendants died from drugs. The next year, 25. This year, he stopped counting in the spring when he realized the number would far surpass last year's.

"I just can't do it. I know what's happening," he says. "I don't need to keep count to know the number is going up. I can only handle so much."