

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

September 3, 2021



National

[Purdue Pharma is Dissolved and Sacklers Pay \\$4.5 Billion to Settle Opioid Claims](#)

New York Times

Purdue Pharma, the maker of the highly addictive painkiller OxyContin, was dissolved on Wednesday in a wide-ranging bankruptcy settlement that will require the company's owners, members of the Sackler family, to turn over billions of dollars of their fortune to address the deadly opioid epidemic.

But the agreement includes a much-disputed condition: It largely absolves the Sacklers of Purdue's opioid-related liability. And as such, they will remain among the richest families in the country.

Judge Robert Drain of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in White Plains, N.Y., approved the settlement, saying he wanted modest adjustments. The painstakingly negotiated plan will end thousands of lawsuits brought by state and local governments, tribes, hospitals and individuals to address a public health crisis that led to the deaths of more than 500,000 people nationwide.

Indiana

[Allen County OVWI Court receives full certification](#)

WOWO AM

Allen County's Circuit Court Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated (OVWI) Court has received full certification from the Indiana Supreme Court's Office of Judicial Administration. The certification follows a year-long development and review process.

The court focuses on people charged with a Level 6 felony. Participants are supervised by Allen County Adult Probation in partnership with local community agencies. The court employs evidence-based supervision strategies. These include medication-assisted treatment, substance-use disorder treatment, safe and sober housing, and cognitive-behavioral therapy programs.

Circuit Court Judge Wendy Davis said, "This collaborative effort with our community partners makes Allen County a safer and healthier community." Davis serves as the OVWI court's judge.

Ohio

[How Medication Assisted Treatment changed one addict's life](#)

News 5

[Megan] Thomas was in and out of treatments, arrested several times, and then she was court ordered to go through MAT. She was skeptical at first about going on a drug called Suboxone.

“But I think if you really want to be sober, it’s a really amazing thing to do. Because this is the best I’ve ever done,” said Thomas.

“It’s not that you just get medications, but you’re also going to get some counseling, you’re going to learn some new coping skills,” said Morse. “Those changes in your life are bigger than just the change with the drugs.”

Thomas uses Circle Health services. Brager is one of the staff who helps her.

“What keeps me going every day are individuals that are raising their children and they got a job full time that are living their life,” said Brager.

“I get up and go to work. I take (my son) to daycare. I cook, clean...(without the illegal drugs),” said Thomas.

Texas

[Drug overdoses rise in Travis County, according to new state data](#)

KVUE

In Travis County’s [preliminary budget](#) for fiscal year 2021-2022, it included an [additional] \$2.4 million towards the Health and Humans Services Division, which included more funds towards direct emergency assistance staffing, mental health resources, additional caseworkers and social workers for the emergency assistance program and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Treatment through the Substance Abuse Managed Service Organization.

The budget also puts more funds towards the Justice and Public Safety Division, including three public defender programs, diversion programs and counseling and education Services.

Travis County’s current criminal courts system also has dedicated courts that provide diversion programs to keep people out of the justice system and on the road to recovery, which also received more funding on the preliminary budget.

West Virginia

[One W.Va. community waits for an opioid verdict, others still seeking their day in court](#)

WV Public Media

But there are people struggling with addiction all over Mingo County. You can see them sometimes in magistrate court, on the third floor of the Mingo Memorial Building, where the response team is based. Or down the road at one of the local treatment clinics. Or in just about any of the small towns from Matewan to Delbarton, from Gilbert to Kermit.

For the Mingo County response team, this work can seem like an uphill battle. But behind their efforts to address one of the largest public health epidemics in the state, there looms an even larger battle in the courts to hold manufacturers, distributors, and state regulators responsible for their roles in the state's addiction crisis.