

Opioid-Related News and the Courts

Weekly Review

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National

[Tribes: Settlement in opioids case will foster healing](#)

Associated Press

Tribes settled with drugmaker Johnson & Johnson and the three largest U.S. drug distribution companies this week for \$590 million. Lawyers representing tribes hope to reach settlements with others in the pharmaceutical industry, including remaining manufacturers and pharmacies.

Last year, the four companies announced a \$26 billion settlement with state and local governments to end all suits. An overwhelming majority of governments have signed on; the companies are to decide this month whether it constitutes enough acceptance to move ahead. The agreement with tribes is to be subtracted from those deals.

Each of the 574 federally recognized tribes are eligible for a share of the settlement money made public Tuesday. It's unclear how quickly the money would flow to tribes, but it won't be much and not until 95% of tribes and tribal organizations that sued agree to the settlement.

Colorado

[Weld County well-situated for opioid settlement funds, expected to start flowing this year](#)

Greeley Tribune

The funds are approved for opioid abatement solutions including treatment and prevention efforts including medication-assisted treatment, supportive housing, mental health treatment, expanded telehealth, fellowships, scholarships and much more. Other efforts may include community anti-drug coalitions, increasing the availability of naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses and law enforcement expenditures relating to the opioid epidemic.

Kansas

[Jackson County drug court hopes to give people second chance](#)

Kansas City Star

“Drug court is not a pass. It is a process,” [Presiding Judge Christy] Solverson said. “Our goal is to bring people back so that they are upstanding members of the community and are held accountable. Addiction is hard. It crosses all boundaries. No

one is immune from it. Nobody wakes up and says, ‘today I’m going to be a drug addict’ or ‘today I’m going to be addicted to opioids’ or ‘I’m going to be addicted to methamphetamine.’ It’s a silent thief. We now have the resources and the team members to help these individuals hopefully get their lives back.”

Minnesota

[Drug Treatment Court adjusts for pandemic, to better serve participants](#)

Faribault Daily News

Both [Rice County Attorney John] Fossum and Judge Jeffrey Johnson who heads up Rice County’s program say participants have overcome incredible odds which often include a healthy dose of self-doubt, and repair broken relationships, get jobs, regain driver’s licenses and earn their high school diploma.

Johnson now hopes to split the court into two tracks – one for men and one for women – as soon as this spring. During group meetings, participants are asked to be honest about their pasts, which can be difficult for some women, especially those who’ve been victims of domestic and/or sexual violence.

“Substance use disorders may progress differently for women than for men,” according to a 2021 report from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.” Women often have a shorter history of using certain substances such as cocaine, opioids, marijuana or alcohol. However, they typically enter substance abuse disorder treatment with more severe medical, behavioral, psychological and social problems. This is because women show a quicker progression from first using the substance to developing dependence.”