Drugs in America Today: What Every Judge Needs to Know

With opiate addiction at epidemic levels in both urban and rural America, the NJC has crafted a new course that focuses on the neurology of addiction, with an emphasis on heroin and painkillers. Drug abuse is an ever-present issue that will appear with increasing frequency in cases around the country. The use of drugs not only affects the user on a personal level, but also has a profound negative effect on those who are close to, and interact with the user. Moreover, drugs of choice change and evolve in communities over time. No matter the type of case, they all have the potential to involve a participant who is suffering from substance abuse. It is important for judges today to recognize and understand the drug issues that plague many Americans, and find ways to effectively deal with the issue to reduce recidivism. This course provides an in-depth analysis on the science behind drug addiction, and offers practical solutions on how judges can effectively manage these types of cases.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

During this course, you will learn to:

1. Discuss basic brain chemistry.
2. Analyze the physiological and psychological effects of specific categories of drugs.
3. Develop skills to determine which type of drug(s), if any, a participant might be abusing.
4. Identify different types of treatment options, which will cover psychological, behavioral, and social aspects.
5. Identify special populations, such as juveniles, those with co-occurring disorders, and veterans, and exercise examples of effective management and sentencing strategies for each group.
6. Craft effective sentences to bring about positive change in the drug user, while also providing effective sentencing options.

October 10-12, 2016
Las Vegas, NV

Tuition $985
Conference Fee $305

This course qualifies for The NJC Certificate in Judicial Development program Administrative Law Adjudication Skills, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, Special Court Trial Skills and Tribal Judicial Skills disciplines.

For more information, contact Irene Q. Hart, Esq. toll free at (800) 25-JUDGE or email her at ihart@judges.org.

Scholarship assistance is available for this course.

To learn more about financial assistance to attend NJC programs, please email njc-scholarships@judges.org or call us at (800) 25-JUDGE.

www.judges.org
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FACULTY BIOS

Hon. Peggy D. Davis
Judge Peggy D. Davis is the Drug Court Commissioner for Greene County, Missouri. She assumed this position in August 2000. She has served as a Public Defender for the State of Missouri, an Assistant Prosecutor for Greene County and as an Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Springfield. She also practiced general civil law with Woolsey Fisher Whitaker and McDonald in Springfield. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1985. In 1988, she received her Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University School of Law. She joined The National Judicial College faculty in 2015.

Carl M. Dawson
Mr. Carl M. Dawson is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Missouri. He has actively been working and lecturing in the field of Substance Use Disorders, Treatment and Recovery for the past 36 years. Mr. Dawson holds a Master of Science degree in Community Mental Health “Clinical” Psychology, from Pittsburg State University, in Pittsburg, Kansas. Mr. Dawson is a National Board Certified Counselor and a National Board Certified Master Addiction Counselor, which was granted by the National Board for Certified Counselors. He also holds a Level II Substance Abuse Counselor Certification, and is certified as a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) by the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board. He has maintained an independent practice in professional mental health counseling, specializing in Substance Use Disorders, Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, Employee Assistance Programs, and Marriage and Family counseling, for over 25 years. Mr. Dawson is a member of the clinical faculty in the Departments of Psychology (undergraduate college), and the School of Mental Health Counseling (graduate college), Missouri State University (MSU), Springfield, Missouri. He is a consultant and lecturer for the State of Missouri/Greene County Drug Court Association and The Springfield Metropolitan Bar Association. He is also an educational consultant and faculty member of the National Drug Court Institute in Washington D.C. Mr. Dawson serves as a clinical consultant to regionally and nationally-based employee assistance programs, and is the national substance abuse consultant for O’Reilly Automotive, Ozark Distributors, Springfield, Missouri. He is also currently a member and associate member of the American Counselor’s Association. Mr. Dawson joined The National Judicial College faculty in 2015.

Did You Know?

In 2014...

In the U.S., a total of 47,055 drug overdose deaths occurred, representing a 1-year increase of 6.5%, from 13.8 per 100,000 persons in 2013 to 14.7 per 100,000 persons in 2014. More persons died from drug overdoses than during any previous year on record.

Rates of opioid overdose deaths also increased significantly, from 7.9 per 100,000 in 2013 to 9.0 per 100,000 in 2014, a 14% increase.

Opioids were involved in 28,647 deaths, or 61% of all drug overdose deaths. The rate of opioid overdoses has tripled since 2000.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Jan. 1, 2016.