

March 16, 2018

Legal Responses to the Opioid Addiction Crisis: Criminal, Civil and Regulatory Solutions

Time: All Day

Location: Golkin 100, Michael A. Fitts Auditorium

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - Expert panels and keynote address, open to the public. Please RSVP below.

Conference website

The Opioid Addiction Crisis has caused approximately 633,000 deaths since 1999, more than ten times the total loss of U.S. life from the Vietnam War. On March 16, The Center for Ethics and Rule of Law (CERL) will host a public conversation designed to identify criminal, civil and regulatory solutions to address this crisis and to prevent a reoccurrence of this kind of public health emergency.

Presenters draw from the ranks of health care professionals, lawyers, legislators, psychologists, and scholars from a variety of disciplines to discuss recent developments in the opioid epidemic as well as proposals for legal action and policy reform. What is the liability of pharmaceutical companies in relation to advice they gave to doctors that pain was being "undertreated"? Are civil suits that are currently being filed against pharmaceutical companies on behalf of a number of American cities likely to succeed?

Are federal agencies, particularly the FDA, the Veterans Administration (VA) and possibly the CDC responsible for failing to protect veterans and other vulnerable consumers from the perils of addiction? What regulatory reforms need to be adopted to ensure this never occurs again?

Many have begun to question the ethical and legal ramifications of persistent opioid prescription within the last few years. How are the current laws and regulations addressing the crisis? Are they adequate, or do we need additional policies and legal solutions to help curb the widespread abuse? State and local law enforcement have been in the vanguard of addressing this crisis, but many feel that the efforts of responsible agencies in the federal government lags behind. Are state and local efforts being adequately supported by the federal government? What kind of regulation is needed at both levels of government at this late stage in the crisis? What measures should be taken to avoid a public health crisis of this dimension in the future?

The Center for Ethics and Rule of Law (CERL) will host this high-level, one-day event to focus on possibilities for civil, criminal, and regulatory solutions to stem the morbidities and death from the crisis. We will draw from the ranks of health care professionals, lawyers, legislators, psychologists, and scholars from a variety of disciplines to discuss recent developments as well as the implications for legal and



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policy reform. Participants will address questions that affect each of their professional communities in different, but interrelated ways. What is the liability of pharmaceutical companies in relation to doctors? Are federal agencies, particularly the FDA, the Veterans Administration (VA) and possibly the CDC responsible for failing to protect veterans and other vulnerable consumers from the perils of addiction?

Please RSVP below if you would like to attend the afternoon session, consisting of expert panels and keynote address, starting at 1:00 p.m.

*This program has been approved for 4 ethics CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of \$160.00 (\$80.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to **The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.***

Registration for this event is now closed.

Feedback