

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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## Press Release

August 25, 2014

On September 4, 2014 at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the United States District Court will host two panel discussions on opiate usage in Massachusetts. *In our Own Backyard; A Panel Discussion on the Opiate Epidemic in Massachusetts* is being organized by the United States Probation Office and will take place in the jury assembly room of the John J. Moakley Courthouse in Boston.

Invited panelists include Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, State Representative Randy Hunt, United States District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin, Quincy Police Department Lieutenant Patrick Glynn, CEO Kevin Norton of Lahey Health Behavioral Services, Dr. Alexander Walley and Colleen Labelle, RN, of the Boston Medical Center, Joanne Peterson, Executive Director of Learn to Cope, and Senior U.S. Probation Officer Andrew Laudate.

The program's format will include two panel discussions focusing on policy initiatives, strategies of the medical and treatment communities, as well as perspectives from law enforcement and a community corrections professional regarding the recent increase in opiate abuse. Chief U.S. Probation Officer Chris Maloney and United States Attorney Carmen Ortiz will provide welcoming remarks.

Chief Judge Patti B. Saris states: "The recent surge in the use of opiates in the Commonwealth is an issue that can only be appropriately addressed when the policy makers, medical and treatment professionals, and law enforcement come together to share their respective strategies. I applaud our Probation Office, who is right there on the front line, for taking a lead in bringing such an impressive group of speakers together for what I'm sure will be an informative session."

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