

**CONFERENCE OF CHIEF JUSTICES
CONFERENCE OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS**

Resolution 8

**Creating a Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court
Administrators Opiate/Opioid Abuse Task Force and Calling on the Federal and
State Governments to Increase the Resources Available to Combat the
Opiate/Opioid Crisis**

WHEREAS, the opiate/opioid abuse epidemic is one of the most serious substance abuse problems the United States has faced and one that knows no geographical, political, or governmental boundaries; and

WHEREAS, opiate/opioid abuse is quickly becoming a leading cause of death in many states, particularly with the introduction of opioid analogues such as fentanyl and carfentanil; and

WHEREAS, the opiate/opioid abuse epidemic is placing a significant burden on many states' criminal justice, corrections, public health, foster care, treatment, and social services systems; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of opiate/opioid abuse are not limited to the abuser but often extend to children, families, and communities, and opiate/opioid abuse is rapidly becoming a leading cause for removing children from the care of their parents; and

WHEREAS, state court systems are facing significant challenges in addressing the opiate/opioid abuse epidemic and its consequences; and

WHEREAS, state courts are in a unique position to promote cooperative leadership in addressing this crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators that the Conferences hereby create a Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators Opiate/Opioid Abuse Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conferences call for an increase in state and federal resources directed at this epidemic to stem increases in opiate/opioid abuse, addiction, and death, and to implement programs and policies specifically designed to reduce the potential for opiate/opioid abuse in the future.

Adopted as proposed by the CCJ/COSCA Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative at the CCJ/COSCA Annual Meeting on August 9, 2017.