



August 30, 2019

## State of the States



On Thursday, during the Industrial Commission of Arizona's (ICA) monthly **meeting**, the group discussed the ICA's goals, objectives, and key initiatives for the remainder of the year. While the ICA did not release specific areas of discussion, noticeably absent from the agenda was any discussion of the proposed pharmacy fee schedule and restrictions on physician dispensing that dominated their July meeting.



Oklahoma Senate Judiciary Chair, Julie Daniels, published an op-ed in the Tulsa World **newspaper** this week discussing how Oklahoma remains trapped in a "judicial hellhole" because of the

actions of some trial attorneys, including their repeated attacks on the workers' comp system following the state's workers' comp reforms. Among the issues Daniels raises in the op-ed is an attack on the state Supreme Court who shifted the burden of proof in workers' comp claims to the employer. The Senate Judiciary Committee hears all workers' comp related bills.



Wednesday, the Joint Committee on Public Health scheduled a hearing for September 10, to discuss numerous bills, including several related to opioids and the prescription drug monitoring program. Bills under consideration include **H. 1936**, which requires prescribers to report daily any Schedule 2 through Schedule 5 drug prescribed to the PDMP, and **H. 1998** which requires the Board

of Medicine to develop regulations imposing disciplinary actions for doctors who fail to participate in the PDMP. Additionally, **H. 3884** is up for consideration. The bill would require prescribers to discuss the risks associated with opioids prior to dispensing and mandate that patients sign an acknowledgment form that they discussed such risks with their provider.



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At a hearing this week, the California Assembly Appropriations Committee took up **SB 542**, a bill that would create a presumption

that post-traumatic stress disorder is compensable for police and firefighters. Although the Committee heard the bill, they did not vote on it. However, they only have until Friday to consider the bill in order to pass it during the 2019 session.

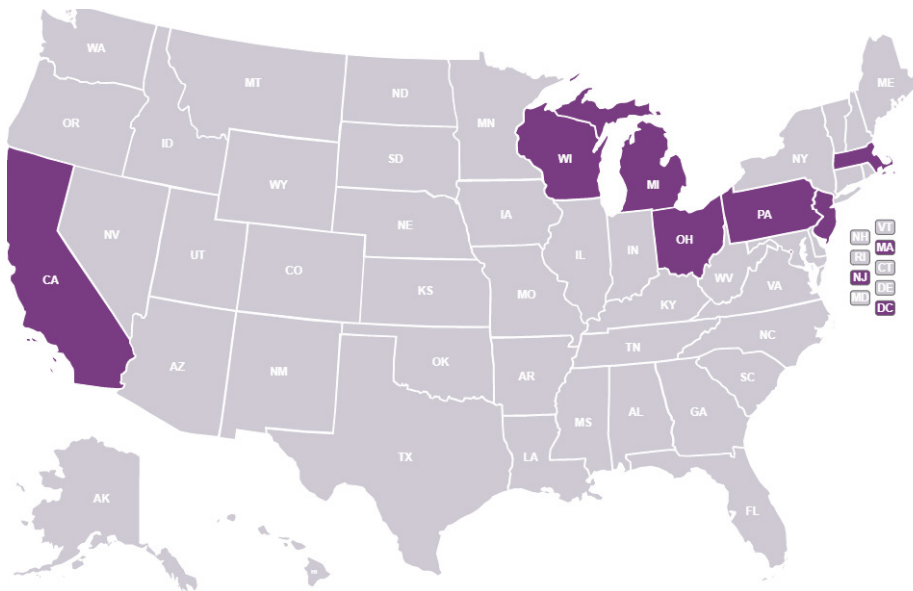
## Article of Interest

On Monday, a judge **awarded** the state of Oklahoma \$572 million from Johnson & Johnson after finding the company shared “false, deceptive and misleading” messages about prescription narcotics and created a “public nuisance.” The ruling is the first court decision finding a drug manufacturer responsible for the opioid epidemic. However, the fate of the decision remains unclear as appeals are already being prepared.

## States in Session

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## Where in the U.S.A. is Danielle?

Danielle will be in the home office next week.



## Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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**978.770.8047**

