



The Network for Public Health Law monitors key court cases and relevant judicial trends in public health. The Network's quarterly reporter, ***Judicial Trends in Public Health*** (JTPH), highlights select, recently published cases in public health law and policy from the prior 3 months. Case abstracts are organized within 11 key topics (adapted from James G. Hodge, Jr., *Public Health Law in a Nutshell*, 4th ed. (2021)), including hyperlinks to the full decisions (where available).

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T&V Associates, Inc. v. Director of Health and Human Services (Michigan Supreme Court, November 1, 2024): The Michigan Supreme Court held that a challenge to the State's epidemic emergency powers act is moot and vacated the lower court's finding that the act is unconstitutional. [Read the summary.](#)

CompassCare v. Hochul (2nd Cir., January 2, 2025): The Second Circuit Court of Appeals revived one claim made by religious employers and related crisis pregnancy centers who challenged a New York law that prohibits employment discrimination or retaliation based on employees' reproductive health decision-making.

[Read the summary.](#)

Reese v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (5th Cir., January 30, 2025): The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held that federal laws prohibiting the sale of handguns by federally licensed sellers to individuals under 21 are unconstitutional and reversed the lower court's holding that such challenged laws are consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation.

[Read the summary.](#)

Johnson v. Sanders (10th Cir., November 5, 2024): The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals held against an incarcerated transgender woman whose hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was discontinued by staff upon her transfer to a new carceral facility in Oklahoma. [Read the summary.](#)

Held v. Montana (Montana Supreme Court, December 18, 2024): The Montana Supreme Court upheld the right to a clean and healthful environment under the Montana Constitution, affirming the trial court's decision and rejecting the State's contentions that the framers did not intend to encompass environmental degradation resulting from climate change. [Read the summary.](#)

In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation (Ohio Supreme Court, December 10, 2024): The Ohio Supreme Court ruled in favor of Walgreens, CVS, and Walmart on a certified question before the Sixth Circuit, clarifying that the litigation before the circuit court concerns state product liability laws rather than common law principles. [Read the summary.](#)

Cocroft v. Graham (5th Cir., November 22, 2024): The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held that marijuana dispensaries seeking to advertise lack protections under the First Amendment because federal law prohibits marijuana dispensing. [Read the summary.](#)

Singer v. City of Orange City (Iowa Supreme Court, December 20, 2024): The Iowa Supreme Court upheld a city ordinance authorizing the city inspector to seek legal remedies if refused entry to a rental property during the course of inspection, to include obtaining an administrative search warrant. [Read the summary.](#)

Attorney General v. Milton (Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County, January 8, 2025): The Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County upheld the statewide Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Communities Act, which requires municipalities with MBTA public transit services to adopt zoning laws that provide for at least one district of multifamily housing near MBTA facilities. [Read the summary.](#)

State ex rel. Torrez v. Board of County Commissioners for Lea County (New Mexico Supreme Court, January 9, 2025): The New Mexico Supreme Court struck down local ordinances across several counties and cities in the State that would have banned abortions in violation of the state constitution. [Read the summary.](#)

TOPICS: These and other cases are organized on the Network website under the topics below. Select a topic to view all cases under that topic.

1. [Source and Scope of Public Health Legal Powers](#)
2. [Constitutional Rights and the Public's Health](#)
3. [Preventing and Treating Communicable Conditions](#)
4. [Social Distancing Measures](#)
5. [Addressing Chronic Conditions](#)
6. [Mitigating the Incidence and Severity of Injuries and Other Harms](#)
7. [Public Health Information Management, Privacy and Security](#)
8. [Regulating Communications](#)
9. [Monitoring Property and the Built Environment](#)

10.[Public Health Emergency: Legal Preparedness and Response](#)

11.[Reproductive Liberties and Care Access](#)

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