



JUDICIAL TRENDS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

→ May 20, 2025

*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).*

[Kathleen Hoke, J.D.](#) Director, Network for Public Health Law Eastern Region and Professor and Director, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, is JTPH Editor-in-Chief. Margaret Collopy, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, J.D. Class of 2025, contributed to this issue.

[FDA v. Wages & White Lion Investments, L.L.C.](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, Apr. 2, 2025): The Supreme Court unanimously upheld the Food & Drug Administration's denial of authorization to market flavored electronic cigarette products, overturning an en banc Fifth Circuit ruling that FDA's actions were arbitrary and capricious. [Read the summary.](#)

[Brown v. Wisconsin Elections Commission](#) (Wisconsin Supreme Court, Feb. 18, 2025): The Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the city of Racine's use of a mobile voting truck for in-person absentee voting, reversing the trial court decision on the basis that the plaintiff lacked standing. [Read the summary.](#)

[Duncan v. Bonta](#) (9th Cir., March 20, 2025): The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in an en banc decision, upheld a California ban on ammunition magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds. [Read the summary.](#)

[Miller v. McDonald](#) (2d Cir., March 3, 2025): The Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld New York's repeal of its religious belief exemption for school immunizations, holding the State did not violate 1st Amendment rights of Amish parents or schools. [Read the summary](#)

Bondi v. VanDerStok (U.S. Supreme Court, March 26, 2025): The Supreme Court confirmed that weapon parts kits and ghost guns are subject to regulation under the Gun Control Act (GCA) by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

[Read the summary.](#)

Amdor v. Grisham (Supreme Court of New Mexico, March 6, 2025): The Supreme Court of New Mexico upheld the governor's executive orders declaring public health emergencies in response to gun violence and drug abuse. [Read the summary.](#)

City & County of San Francisco v. EPA (U.S. Supreme Court, March 4, 2025): The Supreme Court struck down the federal Environmental Protection Agency's authority to impose "end-result" requirements in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits under the Clean Water Act. [Read the summary.](#)

Hogan v. Lincoln Medical Partners (Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, March 4, 2025): The Supreme Court of Maine upheld immunity for medical providers against tort allegations when they administered a COVID-19 vaccine to a child at a school clinic without parental consent. [Read the summary.](#)

Akers v. State of Maryland (Supreme Court of Maryland, Feb. 19, 2025): The Supreme Court of Maryland ruled in favor of a woman convicted of murder following a stillbirth, concluding her internet searches about abortion and lack of prenatal care should not have been admitted as evidence because her abortion research and lack of prenatal care did not show intent to commit a crime. [Read the summary.](#)

Tennessee v. Becerra (6th Cir. Court of Appeals, March 10, 2025): The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the federal government against Tennessee in its Title X grant funding challenge. [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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