

**Still Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Criminal Justice Act—Part 3:**

**Examining the Heroin Epidemic to Better Understand Substance Abuse and Addiction**

Friday, July 17, 2014 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by the Office of the Federal Public Defender  
for the Northern District of Ohio  
to be held at:

Carl B. Stokes United States Courthouse  
Auditorium, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
801 W. Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

## AGENDA

- 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.    Registration
- 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.    *Understanding the Heroin Epidemic and Other Troubling Trends in Substance Abuse and Addiction*  
Joseph M. Pinjuh, Esq.  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio
- 1:15 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.    *More Data on Our Region's Substance Abuse Epidemic and Some of the Things Being Done About It*  
Vince Caraffi, RS, MPH  
Chair of the Cuyahoga Opiate Task Force/  
Partnership for Prevention  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Allisyn Leppla, RS  
Injury Prevention Coordinator – Opiate Abuse  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
- 2:10 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.    *Q&A and Discussion with Audience Attendees*

## **SUMMARY OF PROGRAM**

This program provides an overview aimed for use by service providers in the legal profession (lawyers, paralegals, investigators, mitigation experts, etc.) of what it means to have a client or a person in a similar legal capacity who is addicted to a chemical substance. In other words, what do those in the legal profession need to know to better understand the science behind addiction, substance abuse, and the scope of the problem we face here in Ohio? This presentation is focused on the particularly difficult and prevalent epidemic concerning heroin use in our region. The goal is to improve the professional's understanding of the problems associated with substance abuse and addiction. The program organizers have sought 2.0 hours of CLE credit in the area of professional conduct.

## PARTICIPANTS

*Vince Caraffi, RS, MPH, Chair of the Cuyahoga Opiate Task Force/Partnership for Prevention, Cuyahoga County Board of Health.*

Vince Caraffi has worked for the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for 24 years with the last 10 years as supervisor within the environmental health division. He concurrently serves as the Chair of the Cuyahoga Opiate Task Force/Partnership for Prevention, partnering with the Ohio Department of Health to address and stop the epidemic rise in opioid abuse within Cuyahoga County. Mr. Caraffi has sought to build successful partnerships at the local, state and national level to address emerging challenges in the present non-traditional public health issues. Starting in 2004, he has worked on addressing safety and falls among the elderly, increased fatalities as a result of the misuse of opiate pain medication, and hoarding. In 2010, he became a member of a workgroup with Safe States & the National Association of City and County Health Officials to develop Standards and Indicators for Local Health Department Injury and Violence Prevention Programs. In 2011, he was asked to participate on the development of Ohio's First Strategic Plan to Prevent Falls among the Elderly. By adopting and implementing this strategic plan, the State of Ohio is now able to secure additional priority federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control Prevention for injury and violence prevention programming. Mr. Caraffi received his Master in Public Health from Cleveland State University in 2004, and is a Master's Degree candidate in Social Work to best understand and aid individuals and families dealing with the illness of substance abuse.

*Allisyn Leppla, RS, Injury Prevention Coordinator – Opiate Abuse, Cuyahoga County Board of Health.*

Allisyn Leppla has been an employee of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for the past 13 years. She currently serves the role of Injury Prevention Coordinator with a focus on reducing fatalities attributed to opioid abuse. Prior to working at the Board of Health, Allisyn conducted pharmaceutical research in the Cardiology Department at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, main campus. Allisyn is a member of the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership, the Midwest Injury Prevention Alliance, the Heroin and Other Opioid Action Plan Committee, as well as a founding member

of the Cuyahoga County Opiate Task Force. Her focus is exclusively to create and implement strategies that will have a positive impact towards reducing accidental deaths due to prescription drug or heroin abuse.

*Joseph M. Pinjuh, Esq., Assistant United States Attorney, Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.*

Joseph M. Pinjuh has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio since 1998. In October 2010, he was appointed as Chief of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and Narcotics Unit, Criminal Division. His areas of specialization and expertise include Title III prosecutions, complex, multi-defendant narcotics prosecutions and community-based gang prosecutions. Joe went to Syracuse University (dual B.A. English & Political Science - 1988, *cum laude*) and Vanderbilt University School of Law (J.D. 1992). He also served as a Captain in the United States Air Force, Judge Advocate General's Corps (via direct Presidential appointment, 1992-1998). His other honors include the Federal Bar Association's 1999 Younger Outstanding Federal Attorney Award Recipient. Joe has previously served as a guest lecturer in the Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law's trial advocacy course and in Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Criminal Pretrial Practice Seminar. In addition to his work as an AUSA, Joe serves as an Instructor for the USDOJ National Advocacy Center (Trial Advocacy and Title III), and worked as Juvenile Court Magistrate, Strongsville, Ohio (1999-2008).