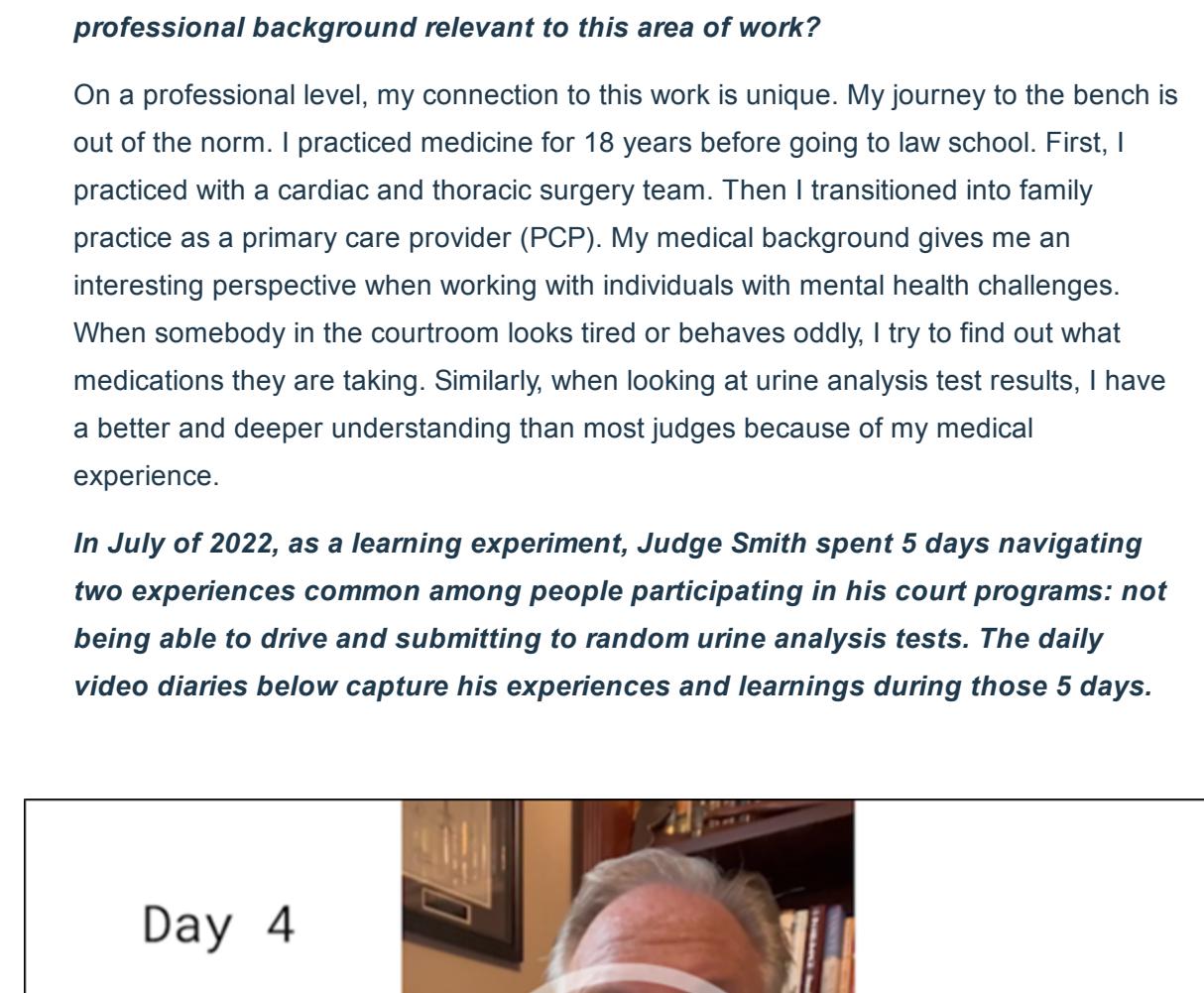


NEWSLETTER

Hi Colleague,

Keep up with the field with this month's stories:

- [Q&A with Honorable Jeffrey R. Smith, Spokane County District Court, Mental Health Therapeutic Court and DUI Therapeutic Court](#)
- [Lone Star Justice Alliance: Promoting Trauma-Informed, Age-Appropriate Responses to Emerging Adults](#)
- [Strategies for Post-release Housing for People with a Sex Offense Conviction](#)



Q&A with Honorable Jeffrey R. Smith, Spokane County District Court, Mental Health Therapeutic Court and DUI Therapeutic Court

You've spent time considering the experience of individuals impacted by the criminal justice system with mental health disorders. What is your personal and professional background relevant to this area of work?

On a professional level, my connection to this work is unique. My journey to the bench is out of the norm. I practiced medicine for 18 years before going to law school. First, I practiced with a cardiac and thoracic surgery team. Then I transitioned into family practice as a primary care provider (PCP). My medical background gives me an interesting perspective when working with individuals with mental health challenges. When somebody in the courtroom looks tired or behaves oddly, I try to find out what medications they are taking. Similarly, when looking at urine analysis test results, I have a better and deeper understanding than most judges because of my medical experience.

In July of 2022, as a learning experiment, Judge Smith spent 5 days navigating two experiences common among people participating in his court programs: not being able to drive and submitting to random urine analysis tests. The daily video diaries below capture his experiences and learnings during those 5 days.



Day 4

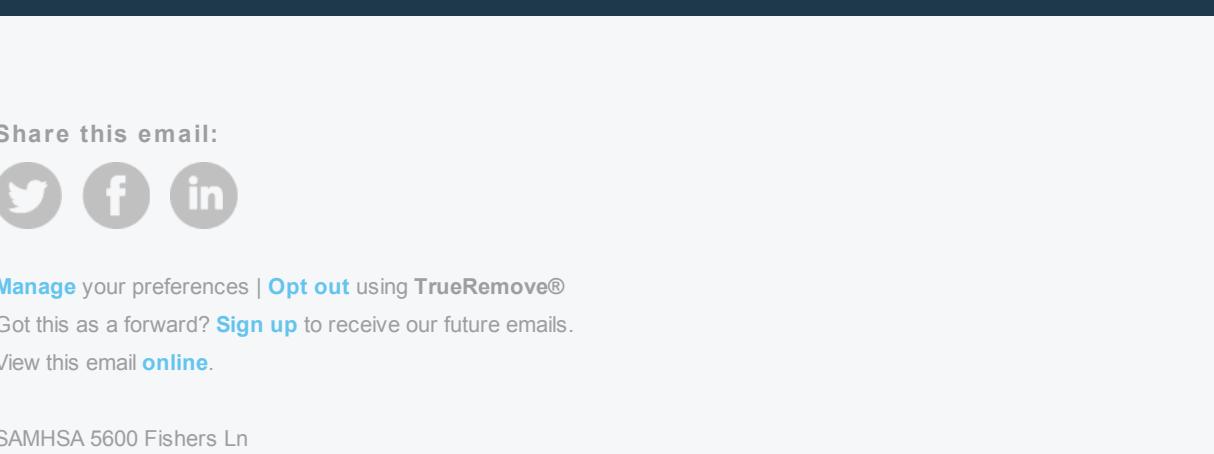
A video thumbnail showing a close-up of Judge Jeffrey R. Smith's face. He is wearing a light-colored shirt and has a slight smile. A large white play button icon is overlaid in the center of the video frame.

Lone Star Justice Alliance:
Promoting Trauma-Informed, Age-Appropriate Responses to Emerging Adults

Lone Star Justice Alliance: Promoting Trauma-Informed, Age-Appropriate Responses to Emerging Adults

Emerging adults, those between the ages 18 and 25, have unique characteristics and needs when it comes to addressing criminal justice involvement. While their bodies may be grown, their brains are still developing, meaning they don't yet have the cognitive or emotional maturity of an adult. However, in many places, the court and carceral systems don't treat them accordingly, which research shows can lead to trauma, lifelong justice involvement, and denial of opportunities to be successful, contributing members of their communities.

[Read More](#)



Strategies for Post-release Housing for People with a Sex Offense Conviction

Many states and communities have residency restrictions for where in the community people with sex offense convictions may live. Additionally, federal law prohibits anyone on a state sex offender registry from living in public housing. While these laws are intended to increase public safety, they often make community reentry especially challenging for those with sex offense convictions. These restrictions can make finding a legal place to live virtually impossible for individuals on the sex offender registry. This, in turn, pushes some individuals into homelessness, a known contributor to recidivism after reentry. Ongoing behavioral health treatment helps reduce recidivism; however, housing instability contributes to individuals' inability to maintain treatment.

[See Full Article](#)

Flashback on Behavioral Health and Justice System Transformation for Indigenous People and Native American Tribes

Approaches to Support Justice-Involved Tribal Members | September 2021

Healing Old and New Wounds: Indigenous Mental Health, Culturally Responsive Treatment, and the Criminal Justice System | November 2021

White Bison's Wellbriety Programs | February 2020

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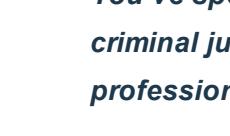
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