

Week 4 Overview + Course Materials: Diversion, Reducing Criminalization of Mental Disorders

Welcome to Week 4!

We will spend the majority of this week's lecture discussing various specialty and diversion courts. Come to class having read both assigned articles in addition to the assigned chapter.

We will examine several specialty courts that are aimed at reentry and preventing reincarceration. We will watch two videos in class about these courts. Note: there is no need to watch these ahead of time.

- [Federal Judiciary Careers: U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services](#) (Viewing time: (8 mins)
- [MultCo DA launches STEP Court for some Measure 11 crimes](#) (Viewing time: 3:21)

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the concept of criminalization of mental disorders.
- Discuss the impact of diverting people with mental disorders out of the criminal justice system.
- Consider the impacts if someone is not diverted out of the criminal justice system.
- Explain the role of specific interventions (e.g., mental health courts) in the effort to decriminalize mental disorders.

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Assignments Due Week 5:

Please complete the following before we meet next week:

- Research a speciality court utilized in Oregon online using the skills introduced by the campus librarian in week 2. Come prepared to share with the class.
- Read [Chapter 4: Reducing Criminalization of Mental Disorders](#)
- Read both articles:
 - [Best Practices in Treatment Court Evaluation \[Online PDF from uscourts.gov\]](#)
 - [Pretrial Diversion in the Federal Court System \[Online PDF from uscourts.gov\]](#)