

USA v. Safehouse, et al., Civil Action No. 19-0519 (E.D. Pa)

On July 10, 13 amicus (friends of the court) briefs were filed in *U.S. v. Safehouse* in federal court in Philadelphia. 132 individuals and organizations, composed of 64 current and former prosecutors and law enforcement officials, 8 states, and 6 cities, filed 11 amicus briefs in support of Safehouse. 7 amici filed a brief in opposition and 4 law professors filed a brief in support of neither party.

IN SUPPORT

GROUP	SIGNATORY	LAW FIRM	COUNSEL	SUMMARY
<u>American Civil Liberties Union</u> <u>(2)</u>	ACLU National ACLU Pennsylvania	American Civil Liberties Union	Mary Catherine Roper Nyssa Taylor Witold J. Walczak Ezekiel R. Edwards	
<u>Philadelphia-Area Community Organizations</u> <u>(9)</u>	Action Wellness Sero Philadelphia FIGHT William Way LGBT Community Center	Greenberg Traurig	Jessica Natali Brad Nankerville Brian Feeney Kevin Rethore	Greenberg Traurig, LLP filed an amicus brief on behalf of nine Philadelphia-area community organizations supporting the implementation of harm-reduction measures as part of a comprehensive program to combat the opioid crisis in Philadelphia. Firm attorneys advocate on behalf of these organizations for a medically-supervised consumption and observation site to be operated by Safehouse. The brief explains that harm reduction proved its efficacy during the

	<p>LGBT Elder Initiative</p> <p>Act Up Philadelphia</p> <p>Prevention Point Philadelphia</p> <p>Sol Collective</p> <p>Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Coalition</p>			<p>HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and continues to prove it saves lives in dozens of cities around the globe today and is critical in reversing the foremost public health crisis of our day.</p>
<p><u>Religious Leaders in the Philadelphia Community and Beyond (17)</u></p>	<p>Pastor Adarrel Omar Fisher (Making Others Righteous Prison Ministry)</p> <p>Bishop Ernest McNear (True Gospel Tabernacle)</p> <p>Rev. Lin Crowe (Philadelphia Area Representative, The Navigators & Kingdom Care Reentry Network)</p> <p>Rabbi Eli Freedman (Congregation Rodeph Shalom)</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Calenthia Dowdy (Director of</p>	<p>Akin Gump</p>	<p>Mira Baylson</p> <p>Devin Sikes</p> <p>Dianne Elderki</p> <p>Jonathan Aronchick</p> <p>Andrew Schlossberg</p>	<p>Amici curiae are religious leaders in the Philadelphia community and beyond whose sincerely held religious beliefs align with Safehouse’s mission to protect the lives of those at risk by offering medically supervised overdose prevention. Amici therefore provide this brief in support of Safehouse to confirm that the Safehouse Board Members’ sincere religious beliefs form an integral part of the faith that their communities expect them to follow and that the U.S. Attorney’s action, if successful, would substantially burden those sincere beliefs.</p>

Faith Initiatives at
Philadelphia Fight)

Rabbi Shawn Zevit
(Mishkan Shalom)

Rev. Dr. Chris
Kimmenez, Psy D
(Founder and
President, Recovery
Christian Center Urban
CDC, and Interim
Pastor, Lombard
Central Presbyterian
Church)

Rev. Kevin W. Jagoe
(Minister
BuxMont Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship)

Rev. Winnie Varghese
(Senior Clergy for
Justice & Reconciliation
Trinity Church Wall
Street)

Rabbi John L. Rosove
(Senior Rabbi &
Immediate Past
National Chair for the
Association of Reform
Zionists of America)

<p>Temple Israel of Hollywood)</p> <p>Marvin K. White (Minister of Celebration Glide Memorial United Methodist Church)</p> <p>Rev. Shari Halliday- Quan (Senior Minister First Unitarian Church of Rochester)</p> <p>Rev. Ana Levy-Lyons (Senior Minister First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn)</p> <p>Rev. Alexander E. Sharp (Executive Director Clergy for a New Drug Policy)</p> <p>Rev. Karen Madrone (Unitarian Universalist Interim Minister)</p> <p>The Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart</p>			
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	(The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries) Rev. Laura Colee (Pastor, Broad Street Ministries)			
<u>Multi-states (8)</u>	Colorado Delaware District of Columbia Michigan Minnesota New Mexico Oregon Virginia	Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia	Loren L. AliKhan, Solicitor General Caroline VanZile, Deputy Solicitor General	The District of Columbia, joined by a broad coalition of states, filed an amicus brief defending States' ability to enact innovative public health policies to address the opioid crisis. The brief explains that localities and States feel the effects of the opioid epidemic in different ways, and it is within their power to implement tailored solutions that will best serve their communities—including safe injection sites. Further, the Controlled Substances Act was not intended to prohibit life-saving public health interventions and should not be interpreted as such.
<u>National Public Health and Medical Organizations (12)</u>	AIDS United AMERSA (Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction)	Drug Policy Alliance	Lindsay LaSalle	The national public health and medical organization brief provides an overview of the scientific and medical literature documenting the individual and public health benefits of supervised consumption sites, including preventing fatal drug overdoses, reducing transmission of infectious disease, and providing a bridge to substance use treatment and argues that public health and medical interventions like supervised consumption sites actually further the intents and purposes of the federal Controlled

	<p>Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health</p> <p>California Society of Addiction Medicine</p> <p>Drug Policy Alliance</p> <p>The Foundation for Aids Research (amfAR)</p> <p>Harm Reduction Coalition</p> <p>NASTAD (National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors)</p> <p>Network for Public Health</p> <p>Positive Women's Network</p> <p>Treatment Action Group</p> <p>Vital Strategies</p>			<p>Substances Act. Amici include national professional associations representing schools of public health and academics, public health government officials, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and drug treatment specialists as well as national public health, infectious disease, and harm reduction organizations.</p>
<p>Friends and Family of</p>	<p>Cara Moser</p>	<p>Cozen O'Connor</p>	<p>Thomas A. Leonard IV</p>	

<p><u>Victims of Opioid Addiction (6)</u></p>	<p>Elise Schiller Bonnie Milas Carol Rostucher Rosalind Pichardo Louis Natali</p>		<p>Hayes A. Hunt Anna Will Kentz</p>	
<p><u>Homeless Service Providers (5)</u></p>	<p>Homeless Advocacy Project Pathways to Housing PA Catholic Worker Free Clinic Bethesda Project St. Francis Inn</p>	<p>Law Office of Michael LiPuma Tucker Law Group Homeless Advocacy Project</p>	<p>Michael LiPuma Jessica Rickabaugh Michelle Levy Patricia Malley Alexandra Muolo Michael Taub Margaret Retz</p>	
<p><u>Current and Former Prosecutors, Law Enforcement Leaders, and Former Department of</u></p>	<p>Roy L. Austin, former Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, White House Domestic Policy Council; former Deputy Assistant Attorney</p>	<p>Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller Wilmer Cutler Pickering</p>	<p>Daniel Segal Matthew Hamer Tasha Bahal Nick Werle</p>	<p>Over 60 current and former prosecutors and law enforcement leaders from around the nation filed an amicus brief highlighting the importance of harm reduction strategies, including overdose prevention sites, in addressing the overdose crisis and promoting public safety. Arguing that the</p>

<p><u>Justice Officials and Leaders (64)</u></p>	<p>General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice; U.S. Department of Justice</p> <p>Aramis Ayala; State Attorney; 9th Circuit, FL</p> <p>Chiraag Bains, former U.S. Department of Justice Trial Attorney, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division; former Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division</p> <p>Diana Becton, District Attorney, Contra Costa County, CA</p> <p>Wesley Bell, Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County, MO</p> <p>Sherry Boston, District Attorney, DeKalb County, GA</p>	<p>Hale and Dorr</p>	<p>Jillian Schlotter</p> <p>Mark Fleming</p>	<p>criminalization of substance use has only exacerbated public health and eroded trust in the justice system, these criminal justice leaders asserted that interpreting federal laws to bar empirically validated health-based interventions like harm reduction measures would “make no one safer [and] would only impede cooperation between criminal justice agencies and the communities they serve.” They also pointed to experiences in other parts of the world establishing that harm reduction strategies, including overdose prevention sites, save lives, promote public trust in the justice system and are a more effective response to substance use disorder.</p>
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Kenyen Brown, former
U.S. Attorney, Southern
District of Alabama

Mike Butler, Police
Chief, Longmont Police
Department, CO

Kimberly B. Cheney,
former Attorney
General, VT

Jerry L. Clayton,
Sheriff, Washtenaw
County, MI

Scott Colom, District
Attorney, 16th Circuit
Court, MS

Brendan Cox, former
Police Chief, Albany,
NY; Director of Policing
Strategies, LEAD
National Support
Bureau

John Creuzot, District
Attorney, Dallas
County, TX

Satana Deberry, District Attorney, Durham County, NC

Michael Dougherty, District Attorney, Boulder County, CO

Mark Dupree, District Attorney, Wyandotte County (KC), KS

Kim Foxx, State's Attorney, Cook County (Chicago), IL

Maj. Neill Franklin, Executive Director, Law Enforcement Action Partnership; former Maryland State Police and Baltimore Police

Kimberly Gardner, Circuit Attorney, St. Louis, MO

George Gascón, District Attorney, City and County of San Francisco, CA

Sarah F. George,
State's Attorney,
Chittenden County, VT

Joe Gonzales, District
Attorney, Bexar County,
TX

Eric Gonzalez, District
Attorney, Kings County,
NY

Mark Gonzalez, District
Attorney, Nueces
County, TX

Andrea Harrington,
District Attorney,
Berkshire County, MA

Robert J. Hoffman,
Former Chief,
Plainfield, CT Police

Peter Holmes, City
Attorney, Seattle, WA

John Hummel, District
Attorney, Deschutes
County, OR

Lawrence S. Krasner,
District Attorney,
Philadelphia, PA

Miriam Aroni Krinsky,
former Assistant U.S.
Attorney; Criminal
Appellate Chief and
Chief, General Crimes,
United States
Attorney's Office for the
Central District of
California (1991-2002);
Assistant United States
Attorney for the Central
District of California
(1987-1988; 1990-
2002); Chair, Solicitor
General's Criminal
Appellate Advisory
Group (2000-2002)

Jackie Lacey, District
Attorney, Los Angeles
County, CA

William Lansdowne,
former Police Chief,
San Diego County, CA;
former Police Chief,
San Jose County, CA;
former Police Chief,
Richmond, CA

Chris Magnus, Police
Chief, Tucson, AZ

James Manfre, former
Sheriff, Flagler County,
FL

Isaiah McKinnon,
former Police Chief
Detroit Police

Dan Meloy, former
Police Chief,
Colerain Township
Police Department, OH

Spencer Merriweather,
District Attorney,
Mecklenberg County,
NC

Brian Middleton, District
Attorney, Fort Bend
County, TX

Kenneth Mighell, former
U.S. Attorney, Northern
District of TX

Marilyn Mosby, State's
Attorney, Baltimore
City, MD

Bill Nettles, former U.S. Attorney, District of SC

Jim Petro, former Attorney General, OH

Channing Phillips, former U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Ira Reiner, former District Attorney, former City Attorney, Los Angeles, CA

Rachael Rollins, District Attorney, Suffolk County, MA

Jeff Rosen, District Attorney, Santa Clara, CA

Stephen Rosenthal, former Attorney General, VA

Dan Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney, King County, WA

Ronal Serpas, former
Superintendent, New
Orleans Police, LA;
Chief, Metropolitan
Nashville Police, TN;
Chief, Washington
State Patrol, WA

Harry L. Shorstein,
former State Attorney,
Fourth Judicial Circuit,
FL

Carol Siemon,
Prosecuting Attorney
Ingham County, MI

David Soares, District
Attorney, Albany
County, NY

Norm Stamper, former
Police Chief, Seattle
Police, WA

Carter Stewart, former
U.S. Attorney, Southern
District of Ohio

David Sullivan, District
Attorney, Northwestern
District, MA

Thomas P. Sullivan,
former U.S. Attorney,
Northern District of Illinois

Thomas Synan Jr.,
Police Chief, Newtown
Police, OH

Betty Taylor, former
Chief, Winfield, MO
Police

Jennifer Tejada, Police
Chief, Emoryville
Police, CA

Steve Tompkins,
Sheriff, Suffolk County,
MA

Raúl Torrez, District
Attorney, Bernalillo
County, Albuquerque,
NM

Cyrus R. Vance, District
Attorney, New York
County, NY

Peter Volkman, Police
Chief, Village of
Chatham Police
Department, NY

	Andrew Warren, State's Attorney, 13 th Judicial Circuit, Tampa, FL			
<u>Constitutional Law Scholar and Commerce Clause Experts (1)</u>	Randy Barnett (Georgetown University Constitutional Law and Commerce Clause Expert)	Pillsbury Law	Nida Vidutis	
<u>Multi-cities (6)</u>	King County, Washington New York, New York San Francisco, California Seattle, Washington Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Svante L. Myrick Mayor of Ithaca New York	Hogan Lovells	Virginia Gibson Stephen Loney Alexander Bowerman	
<u>City of Philadelphia (2)</u>	Mayor Jim Kenney Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley	City of Philadelphia Law Department	Marcel Pratt Jennifer MacNaughton	The amicus brief on behalf of the Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley details how Philadelphia is suffering through the greatest public health emergency in living memory and how the research shows that Safehouse will save lives, connect people with treatment, and reduce

				problems associated with opioid use. The brief provides the reasons why the Mayor and Health Commissioner believe that Safehouse is an important part of the City's strategy for fighting the opioid crisis in order to save lives and alleviate the damage wrought by the crisis.
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IN OPPOSITION

<u>Harrowgate, et al. (7)</u>	<p>Harrowgate Civil Association</p> <p>Bridesburg Civic Association</p> <p>Juniata Park Civic Association</p> <p>Kensington Independent Civic Association</p> <p>Port Richmond On Patrol and Civic</p> <p>South Port Richmond Civic Association</p> <p>Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 5</p>	Dechert LLP	<p>Michael H. McGinley</p> <p>Judah Bellin</p> <p>Justin M. Romeo</p> <p>Steven B. Feirson</p>	
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IN SUPPORT OF NEITHER PARTY

<u>Law Professors for Religion (4)</u>	Katherine Franke (Law, Rights, and Religion)		Katherine Franke	
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Project; Professor,
Columbia Law School)

Micah Schwartzman
(Professor, University of
Virginia Law School)

Elizabeth Sepper
(Professor, Washington
University in St. Louis
School of Law)

Nelson Tebbe
(Professor, Cornell
University Law School)

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www.safehousephilly.org