Kevin Mullins worked for nine years as an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney in Letcher County where his primary responsibility was the prosecution of drug related offenses. On December 17, 2009, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear appointed Kevin to fill the unexpired term of deceased Letcher District Judge James T. Wood. At the time of his appointment Kevin realized that the Commonwealth could no longer seek to incarcerate its way out of a substance use epidemic that was crippling the state.

In 2010, Letcher District Judge Kevin Mullins assisted his first justice involved participant into an inpatient residential drug treatment facility as part of a plea agreement. Subsequently, Judge Mullins began to refer justice involved participants who suffered from a substance use disorder into inpatient treatment predisposition as part of pre-trial release.

On August 14, 2018, Judge Mullins working with Addiction Recovery Care developed the concept of allowing individuals who were in drug addiction recovery to be stationed at the courtroom to share their experiences with others interested in treatment. This concept of having someone available who had “walked in their same shoes” became known as the Community Liaison Program.

In 2019, based upon the Community Liaison Program and work with other community partners, the Letcher District Court was able to help 262 people into inpatient drug treatment. As a result of this community approach, Judge Mullins was asked and presented at both the May and November 2020 Cocaine, Meth & Stimulant Summit “The Little County that Could: How a Kentucky Community is Addressing the Meth Crisis.”

The Community Liaison Program implemented by the Letcher District Court and Addiction Recovery Care and has been adopted in fifty (50) counties across the state and one (1) county in Ohio. In 2020 the Community Liaison Program helped 2,889 mostly justice involved participants into inpatient residential treatment for substance abuse disorders, and in 2021 helped 4,753 mostly justice involved participants into inpatient residential treatment for substance use disorders.

The Letcher District Court presently utilizes Peer Support for both outpatient behavioral health and inpatient residential treatment with 153 justice involved participants being referred to inpatient residential treatment in 2020 and 148 justice involved participants being referred in 2021. As a result of these referrals and community involvement, Letcher County experienced a decline in overdose mortality rates for 2017, 2018, 2019, and even 2020 during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Currently, Judge Mullins is one twelve (12) judges serving in the Responsive Effort to Support Treatment in Opioid Recovery Efforts (RESTORE) Leadership Team working to transform the court system into a recovery-oriented system of care.