

US attorney general Eric Holder's announcement this week could signal a shift in drug prosecution policies in the nation. At least that's the hope of La Crosse attorney Keith Belzer, pleased with Holder's Monday announcement that fed prosecutors will no longer pursue mandatory minimum sentences for low level drug offenders. Because that hardcore approach doesn't work, says Belzer. And may actually hurt

Holder says lighter drug sentences would be pursued for those who are not part of a larger drug gang. The changes, says Holder, would be effective immediately.