

**KENNETH W. KERWIN
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

www.njcourts.com • phone: 732-929-2042

For more information:
Carole Haines
732-929-2125

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**Ocean Vicinage Drug Court to Hold Graduation Ceremony and
10th Anniversary Celebration**

Ocean Vicinage will hold a drug court graduation ceremony and 10th anniversary celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 11 a.m. in the Mancini Room of the Ocean County Library, 101 Washington St., Toms River. Judge Joseph L. Foster will preside over the event. The program has 12 candidates who are eligible to graduate.

Drug court is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that addresses nonviolent, drug-related cases. Drug courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals.

Drug court targets offenders who, were it not for their substance abuse, might never have been involved with the court system. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing, and a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery services. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows supervisors to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program.

The graduates have met all the requirements of the program and have successfully completed their terms of probation supervision.

The Ocean Vicinage Drug Court program serves 300 participants. Since its inception in 2002, the program has graduated 187 participants.

For more event information, call Carole Haines, drug court coordinator, at 732-929-2125.