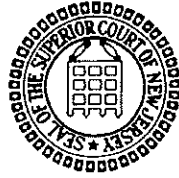


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHAMBERS OF
LAWRENCE M. LAWSON
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE



MONMOUTH COUNTY COURT HOUSE
71 MONUMENT PARK
FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY 07728-1266
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For immediate release: Jan. 24, 2013

For further information contact:
Acting Trial Court Administrator
Lori B. Cooper
732-677-4212

Monmouth Vicinage To Conduct Drug Court Graduation

The Monmouth Vicinage will conduct a drug court graduation ceremony on Monday, Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m. at the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan.

The ceremony will mark the graduation of 24 individuals from the drug court program. The graduates have completed the requirements of all four phases of the program and will be released from their obligations to the court.

Superior Court Judge Thomas F. Scully, who has presided over the drug court program since the fall of 2006, said, "This graduation represents an extraordinary achievement for our individual graduates, their families, and the entire drug court community."

The number of participants in the Monmouth Vicinage program has grown steadily since its inception more than 10 years ago. The vicinage now has 325 active cases. A total of 244 participants have graduated from the program.

The drug court program 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.

The program has been successful in breaking the cycle of addiction to improve the lives of individuals. It provides structure, assists participants with access to appropriate treatment and encourages them to become productive members of the community.

Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. Participants follow 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.

For more information about drug court or the graduation ceremony, contact program coordinator Adri Lieb at 732-677-4551.

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