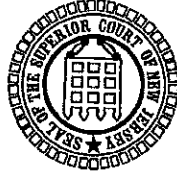


**Superior Court of New Jersey
Criminal Division - Hudson Vicinage
Drug Court**

Sheila A. Venable, P.J. Cr.
Drug Court Judge

Patricia DellOsso, L.S.W.
Drug Court Coordinator



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May 31, 2013

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Hudson Vicinage Drug Court Holds 11th Graduation

The Hudson Vicinage will hold its 11th drug court graduation celebration on Tuesday, June 4 at 12:30 p.m. in the William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse, 583 Newark Avenue, Jersey City.

Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. will address the graduates, families, friends, and supporters. Judge Sheila A. Venable, presiding judge of the criminal division who also oversees the drug court, will preside over the event. Noted author and comedian Damon Rozier will be the keynote speaker. Judiciary Voices in Unity, a choir composed of judges, attorneys, and court staff members, also will perform.

A total of 24 participants will celebrate their completion of the program. Each graduate has attained a minimum of one year of continuous sobriety, is employed full time, has earned a GED or high school diploma, has established a regular payment history on all court fines, and has established a sober community network where they live.

Drug courts are a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that addresses non-violent drug-related cases. This rehabilitative option relies upon a unique, collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals.

Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases over 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 the team to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

Established in 2004, Hudson Vicinage has sentenced 660 defendants into drug court. The program has an annual retention rate of 84 percent.

For more information about the event, contact Patricia DellOsso at 201-795-6882.

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