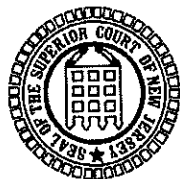


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Essex Vicinage

Amy K. DePaul
Trial Court Administrator



Essex County Veterans Courthouse
Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-693-5701

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For immediate release:
Nov. 12, 2013

ESSEX VICINAGE CELEBRATES NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY 2013

Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello has announced that the Essex Vicinage will participate in National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 15. The event will take place at the Wilentz Justice Complex, 212 Washington St., Newark.

This will mark the 12th consecutive year of participation for the Essex Vicinage in this nationwide event, which raises public awareness about the number of children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families.

“Adoption Day is one of the happiest and most fulfilling days of the year for our judges, the families, and most of all, the children,” Judge Costello. “It’s the culmination of much hard work done throughout the year, and we are very gratified to be participating.”

Family Division Presiding Judge Sallyanne Floria and Superior Court Judges Stephen J. Bernstein, Wayne J. Forrest, Ronald D. Wigler, and Daniel J. Yablonsky will preside over more than 50 adoptions beginning at 8:30 a.m. Law clerks and staff from the family division and interpreting unit will participate.

The coordination of this event is made possible by the collaborative efforts of the court, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), the Office of the Essex County Surrogate, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and attorneys. Vital to the success of the event are the efforts of volunteers, including the Junior League of Montclair/Newark and the Help if You Care Club of Caldwell.

Following the hearings, DCP&P and CASA will host a celebratory brunch for all participating families at the Rutgers School of Law-Newark, 123 Washington St., Newark. The celebration will include the presentation of plaques, gifts for the children, family entertainment and photos.

Although adoption hearings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families upon conclusion of their adoption proceedings. Call Assistant Family Division Manager Karen D. Smith at 973-693-6626 for more information.