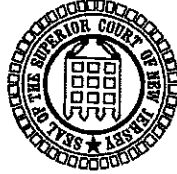


**Superior Court of New Jersey  
Criminal Division - Hudson Vicinage  
Drug Court**

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

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



Hudson County Administration Building  
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**For immediate release:  
Nov. 25, 2013**

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**Hudson Vicinage Drug Court Holds 12th Graduation**

The Hudson Vicinage will hold its 12th drug court graduation on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. in the William J. Brennan Jr. Courthouse, 583 Newark Ave., Jersey City.

A total of 22 participants will celebrate their successful completion of the program, and 15 participants will commence into the last phase of the program. All graduates have attained a minimum of one year of continuous sobriety, are employed full time, have earned a GED or high school diploma, have established a regular payment history on all court fines, and have established a sober community network where they live.

Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. will address the graduates, family, friends, and supporters. Criminal Presiding Judge Sheila A. Venable, who oversees the drug court, will preside over the event. Jersey City Mayor Steven M. Fulop will be the keynote speaker. Judiciary Voices in Unity, a choir composed of judges, attorneys, and court staff members, also will perform.

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. The drug court program is 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 with the program.

Established in 2004, the Hudson Vicinage Drug Court Program was selected as one of the first three vicinages to pilot mandatory drug court. A total of 780 have been sentenced into the program. The program has maintained a cumulative retention rate of 70 percent.

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