

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHAMBERS OF
LAWRENCE M. LAWSON
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE

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For immediate release: Jan. 23, 2014

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Monmouth Vicinage to Conduct Drug Court Graduation

The Monmouth Vicinage will conduct a drug court graduation ceremony on Monday, Jan. 27 at 9:30 a.m. at the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan.

The ceremony will mark the graduation of 26 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 Honora O'Brien Kilgallen, who has presided over the drug court program since February 2013, said, "The drug court graduation is an extremely moving celebration and I am looking forward to hearing the graduates share their experiences, strength, and hope. As the drug court judge, what has inspired me the most is seeing our drug court participants reunite with their children, parents, and other loved ones as a result of being in recovery. It is truly wonderful."

The number of participants in the Monmouth Vicinage program has grown steadily since its inception more than 10 years ago. The vicinage now has 329 active cases. A total of 278 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 the completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. Changes in the treatment delivery system this year include the addition of a treatment component on changing criminal thinking and behaviors. Participants continue to follow a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery-focused 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.

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

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