

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
PASSAIC VICINAGE**

**CHAMBERS OF
DONALD J. VOLKERT, JR.
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE**



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Passaic Vicinage Holds Drug Court Graduation

The Passaic Vicinage will honor 17 graduates from the drug court program on Thursday, July 17 at 11:30 am in the College Theater at Passaic County Community College, One College Blvd., Paterson.

The master of ceremonies will be Superior Court Judge Rudolph A. Filko. Criminal Division Presiding Judge Marilyn C. Clark will give opening remarks. The keynote speaker will be former NFL quarterback Ray Lucas. The Straight & Narrow Choir will perform.

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 the drug treatment professionals.

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. 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.

The drug court program in the Passaic Vicinage began in 1997, funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. At that time, Passaic Vicinage was one of five pilot programs. More than 200 participants have graduated from the Passaic Vicinage Drug Court Program since its inception.

For more information about the Passaic Vicinage Drug Court Program, contact program coordinator Adrien Byrd at 973-247-8343.

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