



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

COUNTIES OF
ATLANTIC AND CAPE MAY
VICINAGE I

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Atlantic/Cape May Drug Court Holds 10-Year Anniversary and 13th Graduation Ceremony

The Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage will conduct a joint county drug court graduation ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. in the first floor auditorium of the Atlantic County Office Building, 1333 Atlantic Ave., Atlantic City. This is the 10-year anniversary of drug court in Atlantic and Cape May counties.

In addition to the recognition of the drug court graduates, the event will be an opportunity to thank and recognize those who contributed to the success of drug court in Atlantic and Cape May counties for the past 10 years.

Judges Michael R. Connor, on recall, and John C. Porto will preside over the ceremony. Christopher Macomber, president of The Hope All Day Foundation in Galloway Township, will be the keynote speaker. Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez and Trial Court Administrator Howard H. Berchtold Jr. also will speak.

There will be 17 graduates and 11 participants going to phase four in Atlantic County, and there will be nine graduates and 10 participants going to phase four in Cape May County.

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.

Drug courts 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.

For more information regarding drug court or the graduation ceremonies, contact program coordinator Celeste Goodson at 609-909-8113.

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