

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



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Hudson Vicinage Drug Court to Mark Veterans Day with Speaker Series

Hudson Vicinage Drug Court will host a speaker series to commemorate Veterans Day and to educate the court and community about the origin of the holiday on Monday, Nov. 9 and Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m. in Courtroom 809 in the Hudson County Administration Building, 595 Newark Ave., Jersey City.

Former Gov. Jim McGreevey and his father Jack McGreevey will speak on Tuesday at 10 a. m. Jack McGreevey is a retired U.S. Marine who served during World War II and the Korean War. He chairs the New Jersey World War II Commission.

Speakers on Tuesday include retired Superior Court Judge Barbara Curran, a veterans' advocate and general counsel to the "No Greater Sacrifice Foundation," which provides scholarships to the children of fallen and seriously wounded members of the military; Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran and Bronze Star awardee Pete Badawy; retired Recon Marine "American Gladiator" contestant; professional motivational speaker Jesus "Jay" Martinez and Frank L. Greenagel Jr., an adjunct professor of addiction studies at Rutgers University and first lieutenant in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Hudson County Deputy Public Defender Joseph J. Russo is scheduled to speak on Monday.

The speakers will discuss topics ranging from addiction in the military to the role of drug courts and the Veterans Assistance Project to address the struggles current and former service members experience when they return home from active duty or deployment. Current drug court participants who served in the U.S. military will be recognized, and original artwork commemorating past and current service members will be on display.

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 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 Hudson Vicinage Drug Court is one of the largest in the state, with more than 470 active participants and an annual retention rate of 84 percent.

For more information about the event, contact Evan Weiss at 201-795-6882.

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