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**For Immediate release:**

Nov. 17, 2015

**ESSEX VICINAGE CELEBRATES NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY 2015**

The Essex Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 20 at 8:30 a.m. at the Wilentz Justice Complex, 212 Washington St., Newark, Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria announced.

This nationwide event raises public awareness about the number of children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. This will mark the 14th consecutive year of participation for the Essex Vicinage.

Judge Floria, Family Division Presiding Judge David B. Katz and Superior Court Judges Stephen J. Bernstein, Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, Wayne J. Forrest and Marysol Rosero will preside over more than 45 adoptions. Law clerks and staff from the family division and Essex Vicinage Interpreting Unit will participate.

“Adoption Day is a joyous occasion when children become members of forever families. They are able to flourish in the loving environment they deserve,” said Judge Floria. “All those involved work together to make the event memorable for the families.”

The coordination of the event is possible by the collaborative efforts of the court, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), the Office of the Surrogate, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Rutgers University School of Law and attorneys. Vital to the success of the event are the efforts of volunteers, including the Junior League of Montclair/ Newark, the Junior League of the Oranges/Short Hills, Seton Hall University School of Law and the Help if You Care Club from Caldwell.

Following the hearings, DCP&P and CASA will host a celebratory brunch for participating families at the Rutgers School of Law-Newark, 123 Washington St., Newark. The celebration will include the presentation of plaques, gifts for the children, family entertainment and photos.

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**Adoption hearings are closed to the public. Arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families upon conclusion of their adoption proceedings. For more information contact Assistant Family Division Manager Liana Dinallo at 973-766-9300, ext. 56626.**

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