

# SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHAMBERS OF  
**LISA P. THORNTON**  
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE



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## **Monmouth Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremony**

The Monmouth Vicinage will conduct its 22<sup>nd</sup> drug court graduation ceremony on Monday, Feb. 1 at 9:30 a.m. at the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan.

The event had originally been scheduled for Jan. 25 but was cancelled due to the weather.

At the ceremony, 22 drug court participants will be recognized for advancing through the four phases of drug court and satisfying all of the significant requirements of the drug court program.

Jesse Pianelli, a current drug court participant, will sing original songs that he wrote on the theme of recovery.

Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton said, "Our vicinage is proud to host another graduation ceremony to mark the exceptional achievements of the individual graduates, as well as the drug court team members who work so hard to bring about positive outcomes for participants."

Superior Court Judge Honora O'Brien Kilgallen, who presides over the vicinage's drug court, said, "It is extraordinary how many of our graduates have reunited with loved ones, furthered their education, obtained promotions in employment, regained driving privileges, and more. The graduates have truly realized the rewards that come with recovery, and we wish them continued success in their recovery efforts."

The number of drug court participants in Monmouth County has grown steadily since the program's inception more than 14 years ago. The vicinage now has 409 active participants and 370 participants have graduated from the program.

The drug court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that relies upon a unique, collaborative relationship between criminal justice officials and drug treatment professionals to address non-violent, drug-related cases. 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.

For more information regarding drug court or the graduation ceremony, contact Monmouth Vicinage Drug Court Coordinator Melissa Garrett at 732-677-4551.