

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CUMBERLAND / GLOUCESTER / SALEM VICINAGE



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For immediate release:
April 22, 2016

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremonies

In celebration of National Drug Court Month, the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage will hold graduation ceremonies at each of its three county courthouses in May.

Superior Court Judge Linda L. Lawhun, who serves as drug court judge in Gloucester and Salem counties, will preside over the events in these counties. The Salem County graduation ceremony will be held Monday, May 2 at 3 p.m. in Courtroom 3 of the Salem County Courthouse, 92 Market St., Salem. One participant will graduate from the program.

In Gloucester County, graduation ceremonies will be Tuesday, May 3 at 11 a.m. at 3 p.m. in Courtroom 303 of the Gloucester County Justice Complex, 70 Hunter St., Woodbury. Seven participants will graduate.

Superior Court Judge Gary D. Wodlinger, who serves as drug court judge in Cumberland County, will preside over the Cumberland County graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 17 at 3 p.m. in Courtroom 235 of the Cumberland County Courthouse, Broad and Fayette streets, Bridgeton. Two participants will graduate.

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 treat non-violent drug offenders. 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 requirements. The Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem drug court teams, under the guidance and direction of Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio, manage one of the largest drug courts in New Jersey, serving approximately 427 participants. There have been 384 graduates from the programs since its inception in 2002.

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