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Essex Vicinage Celebrates National Adoption Day

The Essex Vicinage will participate in National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 18, at 8:30 a.m. with an event at the Wilentz Justice Complex, 212 Washington St., Newark.

“Adoption Day is a heartwarming day when children become members of forever families.” said Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria. “After waiting for months or years, this is the day these children achieve permanency with their adoptive families.”

Floria, Family Division Presiding Judge David B. Katz and Superior Court Judges Wayne J. Forrest, Linda Lordi Cavanaugh, James Paganelli and Nora Grimbergen will preside over more than 40 adoptions. Law clerks and staff from the family division and the Essex Vicinage Interpreting Unit will participate in the proceedings.

Following the hearings, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will join the vicinage in hosting a celebratory brunch at the Rutgers School of Law, 123 Washington St., Newark. The celebration will include the presentation of plaques, gifts for the children, family entertainment and photos.

The coordination of this event is made possible by the collaborative efforts of the vicinage, DCP&P, CASA, the Office of the Surrogate, and Rutgers University School of Law. Other groups assisting in the day’s events are the Junior League of Montclair/ Newark, the National Council of Jewish Women – Essex Section, Seton Hall University School of Law, the International Longshoreman’s Association and the North Caldwell Community Service Group.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions. The event seeks to raise awareness of the importance of adoption and to recognize caregivers who have chosen to open their homes.

Although adoption hearings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families upon conclusion of the adoption proceedings. For further information, please contact assistant family division manager Liana Dinallo at 973-766-9300 ext. 56626.

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