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Camden Vicinage Celebrates National Adoption Day

Camden Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Friday, Nov. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in the jury assembly room at the Hall of Justice, 101 S. 5th St., Camden, announced Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz.

There will be 28 adoptions finalized during this year's ceremony. Family Division Presiding Judge Charles W. Dortch Jr. and Judges Gwendolyn Blue, Angelo J. DiCamillo, Morris G. Smith, Donald J. Stein and Francine I. Axelrad (retired on recall) will preside over the proceedings.

"The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that more than 100,000 children in the United States in foster care and waiting to be adopted. We welcome this opportunity to recommit ourselves to finding them their forever homes," said Judge Silverman Katz.

The celebration, hosted by the vicinage's family division with assistance from the Camden County Surrogate's Office, the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Camden County, will begin with an open-house luncheon for the families at the surrogate's office. Families will then meet in the jury assembly room at the Hall of Justice for dessert and opening remarks. The children will receive gift bags and keepsakes to commemorate the day, courtesy of CASA of Camden County.

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

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Although adoptions are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families after the adoption proceedings have concluded. For more information, contact the Trial Court Administrator's Office at (856) 379-2231.