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AJ Solomon, Co-founder of Victory Bay Recovery Center, to Speak at Camden Vicinage Drug Court Graduation Ceremony

AJ Solomon, co-founder of the Victory Bay Recovery Center, will deliver the keynote address at the Camden Vicinage Drug Court graduation and commencement ceremony on Tuesday, March 28, announced Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz.

The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. at the Camden County College Conference Center located in the University District at 601 Cooper St., Camden.

“We are proud of the individuals who have made it through this intense program and have made the commitment to live free from drugs and alcohol. We know that this is continuous work and their success deserves to be celebrated,” Judge Silverman Katz said.

The event will honor approximately 20 men and women who have successfully completed the requirements of the drug court program. Criminal Division Presiding Judge Edward J. McBride Jr., who leads the vicinage’s drug court team, will preside over the ceremony.

“We welcome the partnership with Camden County College as our host as we celebrate the accomplishments of our newest drug court graduates,” Judge McBride said.

Solomon, the son of Board of Public Utilities Commissioner Dianne Solomon and New Jersey Supreme Court Associate Justice Lee A. Solomon, was recognized by Gov. Chris Christie during his State of the State address in January. A former heroin user, Solomon has been clean since 2014.

In February, he opened a recovery center in Laurel Springs to provide care and support for addicts while allowing them to stay close to their families.

The drug court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that relies on a collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals to assist non-violent drug offenders in rehabilitation. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. The program supports 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.

Graduates must meet all the requirements of the program, including maintaining one year of full-time employment and continuous sobriety, earning a GED or high school diploma, and establishing a regular payment history on all court fines.

The vicinage's drug court program is the largest of its kind in New Jersey and serves 634 participants. Along with the Essex Vicinage, it was the first voluntary drug court program in the state when it was implemented in 1996. A total of 403 participants have successfully graduated from the program.

This event is open to the public. Media representatives interested in covering the ceremony should contact the trial court administrator's office at 856-379-2231.

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