

PRESS RELEASE

For Release: April. 18, 2017

For further information contact:
Donna L. Mazzanti, Trial Court
Administrator's Office
609.518.2518

49 Rancocas Road
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

www.njcourts.com

Former Denver Broncos Wide Receiver Vance Johnson to Deliver Keynote Speech at Burlington Vicinage Drug Court Graduation

Former Denver Broncos wide receiver and Trenton native Vance Johnson will address the latest graduating class of the Burlington Vicinage Drug Court program at a ceremony on Thursday, April 20.

The graduation will take place at 2 p.m. at the Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Blvd, Westampton. The ceremony will honor 14 drug court graduates and 12 other participants who will move on to the next phase of the program.

Superior Court Judge Christopher J. Garrenger, who presides over the drug court program, will deliver remarks along with Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder and Criminal Presiding Judge Jeanne T. Covert.

Johnson, who will deliver the keynote address, played in the National Football League from 1985 to 1995 and appeared in three Super Bowls. He is an advocate for retired athletes recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

The drug court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that relies upon a collaborative relationship between criminal justice officials 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 judge heads a team of court staff, attorneys, probation officers, substance abuse evaluators, and treatment counselors who work in concert to support and monitor a participant's recovery.

Since the inception of the vicinage's program in 2004, 144 men and women have graduated from the program and 16 children of participants have been born drug-free. There are 208 active participants in the program.

Reporters and photographers are invited to attend the ceremony.

###