

Sallyanne Floria, Assignment Judge
Amy DePaul, Trial Court Administrator

Debbie Despotovich
Criminal Division Manager

www.njcourts.com

phone: 973 766-9300 • fax: 973 693-5726

For additional information contact:
Thomas Viola, Drug Court Coordinator
973-766-9300, ext. 56491

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Essex Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremony

The Essex Vicinage will hold its adult drug court graduation and commencement ceremony on Wednesday, May 24 at 11 a.m. at the Mary Burch Theater at Essex County Community College, 303 University Ave., Newark.

This event will honor 24 drug court graduates and 33 participants who are moving to the final phase of the program.

Judge Ramona A. Santiago will preside over the event. Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria and Gov. Chris Christie will deliver remarks. Also speaking will be Former NFL wide receiver Vance Johnson, who appeared in three Super Bowls with the Denver Broncos and now works for New Pathways Counseling Services, Inc. speaking about his own recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Officials from Integrity House, a treatment facility in Newark, will lead in the singing of the national anthem.

Drug court is a rigorous three-to-five year program of comprehensive treatment and intensive supervision for non-violent drug offenders. Drug court participants are expected to comply with all treatment recommendations, gain employment, obtain a GED if not already attained, and demonstrate a payment of court fines. The program functions within the criminal division of the Superior Court.

The vicinage's drug court program has more than 500 active participants.

Space for the ceremony is limited. Those wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. to Sarah Hatcher, 973-776-9300 Ext. 56886.

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