
ALBERTO RIVAS
Assignment Judge

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Middlesex Vicinage Celebrates Adoption Day

Middlesex Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at the Middlesex County Courthouse, 56 Paterson St., New Brunswick.

Adoption proceedings for 16 families with 17 children and one adult will begin at 9 a.m. Presiding Family Division Judge Deborah Venezia will officiate.

Following the proceedings, a ceremony will be held in the courtroom of Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas. Judges Rivas and Venezia will give the opening remarks. New Jersey Department of Children and Families Commissioner Lisa Von Pierre; James P Nolan, an attorney and longtime emcee for the event; and Gianni Raimundo, a 15-year-old who wrote a book on adoption, also will speak.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions and celebrate families who adopt. The event seeks to raise awareness of the need for adoptive homes and to show appreciation for caregivers who choose to adopt.

The vicinage's program is co-hosted by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Middlesex County Bar Association and the Middlesex County Surrogate's Office. The vicinage held its first adoption celebration in 2007.

Information on the adoption process will be available at the reception and can also be obtained by calling DCP&P at 1-877-NJFOSTER.

Although adoption proceedings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families afterward. Contact Candice Covington-Thomas at 732-645-4300, ext. 88662 or candice.covington-thomas@njcourts.gov for more information.

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