

# News Release



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## **Middlesex Vicinage Drug Court Celebrates 12th Graduation Ceremony**

The Middlesex Vicinage will hold its 12th drug court graduation ceremony on Monday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. in courtroom 201 of the Middlesex County Courthouse, 56 Paterson St., New Brunswick.

Certificates will be awarded to 21 participants who will be completing the final phase of the program.

Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas will welcome the graduating class and Criminal Presiding Judge Michael A. Toto will officiate and speak about the long-term success of the program. Judge Dennis V. Nieves will speak about the importance of continuing with a lifelong recovery process. Judge Robert J. Jones, who presides over the Middlesex County drug court, will deliver introductory remarks.

The keynote speaker, Michael Deleon, is an ex-offender and founder of Steered Straight, Inc. He will speak about his experience and recovery.

Drug Court is a rigorous three-to-five year program of comprehensive treatment and intensive supervision for non-violent drug offenders that functions within the criminal division of the Superior Court.

Since the vicinage's drug court program began in September 2004, 260 participants have graduated and 21 children of participants have been born drug-free. There are more than 400 participants in the program.

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