

# News Release



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## Essex Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation

The Essex Vicinage will hold its drug court graduation and commencement ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Leroy Smith Public Safety Building, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, 60 Nelson Place, Newark, Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria announced.

This event will honor 61 men and women who have maintained recovery from drugs and alcohol. The ceremony will also pay tribute other participants who are moving to the final phase of the program.

Drug court Judge Ramona A. Santiago will preside over the event. Teresa P., former drug court graduate and active alumni, will serve as the keynote speaker. Brent Bowman, senior probation officer, will also address those in attendance. Essex Senior Probation Officer Noemi Quinones will lead the singing of the national anthem.

The Judiciary's drug court program operates within the Superior Court to address nonviolent drug addicted offenders. The program requires completion of four phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and recovery. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows supervisors to react quickly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

The Essex Vicinage drug court program currently has more than 500 participants.

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