

News Release



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GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

For more information contact:

PETER McALEER

MARYANN SPOTO

Office of Communications and Community Relations

609-815-2910

www.njcourts.gov

RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX • P.O. BOX 037 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0984

For additional information contact:

Margareth Alwart, Drug Court Coordinator

(201) 795-6882

Margareth.Alwart@njcourts.gov

For immediate release:

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Hudson Vicinage to Hold Its 20th Drug Court Graduation

The Hudson Vicinage will hold a graduation ceremony for its drug court program on Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 908 of the Hudson County Administration Building, 595 Newark Ave., Jersey City.

The event will formally acknowledge 22 men and women who have successfully completed the requirements of the program. Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso, Jr. will address the graduates, family, friends and supporters. Drug court Judge Edward J. DeFazio will preside over the ceremony. Hudson County drug court alumna Judith Davis will be the keynote speaker. Davis graduated the drug court program in December 2016 and currently is the president of the Hudson County alumni group, whose members speak to participants about their recovery experiences. Judiciary Voices in Unity, a choir comprising judges, attorneys and court staff, will perform musical selections.

The Judiciary's drug court program operates within Superior Court to address non-violent drug-related cases.

Drug court programs require completion of four phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. Participants follow a tightly structured regimen of 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 vicinage's program, which started in 2004, has had 1,436 participants.

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