

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:
June Zieder, Ombudsman
973-247-8651

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Passaic Vicinage Celebrates Black History Month

The Passaic Vicinage is holding a program celebrating Black History Month on Friday, Feb. 23.

Samantha Washington, staff assistant to U.S. Rep. Donald Payne Jr., will serve as keynote speaker for the event, which will be from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Freeholder's Meeting Room on the second floor of the Passaic County Administration Building, 401 Grand St., Paterson.

Born in Newark and raised in East Orange, Washington graduated from East Orange High School in 2001 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In her 10 years of service, she was stationed with Strike Fighter Squadron 14 based in Lemoore, California.

As an aviation captain, she prepared the jets for flight, briefed pilots on fuel load and the status of jets, and launched and recovered aircraft. Washington, who achieved the senior enlisted rank of E-6, received many Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

The Fine and Performing Arts Academy of Paterson School No. 24 will perform at the event. Students will demonstrate a West African dance, Kuku, which was primarily performed by women returning from fishing. It has been performed around the world and incorporates influences from other styles of dance.

The academy's choir also will perform.

The vicinage's Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Advisory Committee and its Committee on Minority Concerns are co-sponsoring the event.

Refreshments will be served and the event is free and open to the public.

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