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Middlesex Vicinage Drug Court Celebrates 13th Graduation Ceremony

The Middlesex Vicinage will hold its 13th drug court graduation ceremony on Friday, May 4 at the Middlesex County Courthouse, 56 Paterson St., New Brunswick.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. in courtroom 201 on the second floor. Certificates will be awarded to 18 participants who completed the final phase of the program.

Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas will welcome the graduating class. Judge Robert J. Jones, presiding judge of the vicinage's drug court program, will deliver introductory remarks. Judge Dennis V. Nieves will speak about the importance of continuing with a lifelong recovery process.

The keynote speaker, Robert S., a 2012 drug court graduate, will speak about his experience with the drug court program and his journey to recovery, which included graduating from Rutgers University.

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 Middlesex Vicinage drug court program has more than 400 participants. Since the inception of the drug court program in September 2004, 283 participants have graduated and 23 children of participants have been born drug-free.