

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:
Sharon Andresen
732-645-4300, ext. 88675

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Middlesex Vicinage Celebrates Adoption Day

The Middlesex Vicinage will celebrate National Adoption Day on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at the Middlesex County Courthouse, 56 Paterson St., New Brunswick.

Adoption proceedings for 12 families will begin at 9 a.m. Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas will officiate.

Following the proceedings, a ceremony will be held in Judge Rivas' courtroom. Judge Rivas and Family Presiding Judge Deborah Venezia will give opening remarks. Department of Children and Families Assistant Commissioner Carmen Diaz-Petti; James P. Nolan, an attorney and longtime emcee for the event; state Sen. Joseph Vitale; New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P) Area Director Haydee Zamora-Dalton, and adoptive mother/daughter team Beth Keefe and Sabina Smith also will address the group.

National Adoption Day is an annual event in which courts and communities in all 50 states come together to finalize thousands of adoptions and celebrate families who adopt. The event seeks to raise awareness of the need for adoptive homes and to show appreciation for caregivers who choose to adopt.

The vicinage's program is co-hosted by the DCP&P, the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders, the Middlesex County Bar Association and the Middlesex County Surrogate's Office. The vicinage held its first adoption celebration in 2007.

Information on the adoption process will be available at the reception and also can be obtained by calling DCP&P at 1-877-NJFOSTER.

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Although adoption proceedings are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families afterward. Contact Sharon Andresen at 732-645-4300, ext. 88675 or sharon.andresen@njcourts.gov for more information.