

# 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](http://www.njcourts.gov)

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

For additional information, contact:  
M. Dean Bowman, Drug Court Coordinator  
856-878-5050, ext. 15347

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## **Gloucester and Salem Counties to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremonies**

In celebration of “National Drug Court Month,” the drug courts in Gloucester and Salem counties will hold graduation ceremonies honoring 36 participants who successfully completed the program.

Superior Court Judge Sandra Lopez, who serves as the drug court judge in both counties, will preside over the events.

The Salem County graduation ceremony will be held Monday, May 13 at 3 p.m. in courtroom 2 on the second floor of the Salem County Courthouse, 92 Market St., Salem. Nine participants are scheduled to graduate.

The Gloucester County graduation ceremony will be held Tuesday, May 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the ceremonial courtroom of the Gloucester County Civil Courthouse, 1 N. Broad St., Woodbury. Twenty-seven participants are scheduled to graduate.

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

The vicinage’s drug court teams, under the guidance and direction of Assignment Judge Benjamin C. Telsey, provide management and services for

the largest tri-county drug court program in New Jersey. To date, the vicinage's drug court programs have graduated 501 participants and have served 2,397 people. There are 481 active participants.

For additional information, contact M. Dean Bowman, drug court coordinator, at 856-878-5050, ext. 15347.

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