

News Release



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Monmouth Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremony

The Monmouth Vicinage will conduct its 29th drug court graduation ceremony on Monday, Nov. 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan.

At the ceremony, 22 drug court participants will be recognized for advancing through the four phases of drug court and satisfying the significant requirements of the drug court program.

“Our vicinage is proud to host another graduation ceremony to mark the exceptional achievements of the individual graduates as well as the drug court team members who work so hard to bring about positive outcomes for participants,” Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton said.

The number of drug court participants in the vicinage has grown steadily since the program’s inception more than 16 years ago. The vicinage’s program has 611 graduates and 340 participants.

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 the team to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic interventions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program.

“Drug court is an opportunity for participants to change the trajectory of their lives. Through this rigorous program, these individuals are able to address the substance abuse issues that underlie their criminal behavior,” said Superior Court Judge Jill Grace O’Malley, the vicinage’s drug court judge. “Additionally, drug court provides employment and educational opportunities, encourages healthier personal

relationships, and teaches invaluable life skills along the way. We are very proud of this year's graduates as they exemplify the very best this program has to offer.”

For more information regarding the graduation ceremony, which is by invitation only, or on drug court, contact Monmouth Vicinage Drug Court Coordinator Melissa Garrett at 732-358-8700, ext. 87445.

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