

News Release



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Essex Vicinage to Celebrate Drug Court Graduation

The Essex Vicinage will hold its drug court graduation and commencement ceremony on Friday, Dec. 6 at 11 a.m. at the Leroy Smith Building, 14th floor conference room, 60 Nelson Place, Newark, Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria announced today.

The ceremony will celebrate the accomplishments of 63 participants who have maintained recovery from drugs and alcohol. They include 28 graduates and 35 participants who are moving to the final phase of the program.

Superior Court Judge John I. Gizzo will preside over the event. Robin Shorter, senior director of outpatient services at Integrity House, will give the keynote address.

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.

The vicinage's drug court program has more than 400 participants. Drug court participants are expected to comply with all treatment recommendations, attend AA/NA meetings, gain employment, obtain a GED if not already attained, and demonstrate payment of fines.

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The graduation ceremony is closed to the public. Arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing graduates upon conclusion of the ceremony.