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Camden Vicinage Drug Court to Celebrate Graduation

Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz announced today that the Camden Vicinage will celebrate the anticipated graduation of 40 participants from the drug court program on Tuesday, Oct. 27 in two virtual court sessions.

In honor of this milestone for these participants, the Camden County Bar Association will award a stipend to one graduate who has done extremely well in the program while advancing their education in the field of addiction.

During the commencement ceremonies, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the graduates will formally be acknowledged for their successful completion of the program's requirements.

Superior Court Judge Kathleen M. Delaney will preside over the ceremony. Retired Superior Court Judge Stephen M. Holden and Brian Herman of the Camden County Bar Association will present a drug court scholarship. Graduation speakers also will include Camden County Assistant Prosecutor Greg Audino, New Jersey Assistant Deputy Public Defender Katina Chase, and New Jersey Assistant Deputy Public Defender Lou Presenza.

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 drug court program in the Camden Vicinage, which began in 1996, has 694 current participants and 709 graduates.