

# News Release



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For immediate release:  
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## **Monmouth Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremony**

The Monmouth Vicinage will conduct its 31<sup>st</sup> drug court graduation ceremony during three virtual sessions on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At the ceremonies, 28 drug court participants will be recognized for advancing through all phases of drug court and satisfying the significant requirements of the drug court program.

“We look forward to honoring the inspirational success stories and achievements of our drug court participants. We also commend the efforts of the drug court team members who made an important impact on the lives of the participants,” Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton said.

The number of drug court participants in Monmouth County has grown steadily since the program’s inception more than 17 years ago. The vicinage’s program has 636 graduates and 312 participants.

The Judiciary’s drug court program operates within the Superior Court to address non-violent offenders in drug-related cases. The rigorous program requires completion of four phases in which participants follow a tightly structured regimen with a focus on treatment and recovery.

“Drug court is an opportunity for participants to change the trajectory of their lives. Through this rigorous program, individuals address the substance abuse issues that underlie their criminal behavior. Additionally, drug court provides employment and educational opportunities, encourages healthier personal relationships, and teaches invaluable life skills along the way. Because of the pandemic, this year’s graduates faced even greater challenges, but they have persevered, and they have demonstrated a true commitment to recovery. We are very proud of this year’s graduates as they exemplify the very best this program has to offer,” Superior Court Judge Jill Grace O’Malley, the vicinage’s drug court judge, said.

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

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