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## **Camden Drug Court to Celebrate Graduation**

Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz announced today that the Camden Vicinage will celebrate the anticipated graduation of 30 participants from its drug court program during virtual court sessions on Tuesday, May 25 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Camden County Bar Association will award a stipend to one graduate who has done very well in the program while advancing their education in the field of medical care.

During the commencement, the graduates will be acknowledged formally for their successful completion of the program's requirements.

Superior Court Judge Kathleen M. Delaney will preside. Retired Superior Court Judge Stephen M. Holden along with Camden County Bar Foundation representatives Brian Herman and Michael Dennin will present a drug court scholarship. Graduation speakers also will include Camden County Assistant Prosecutor Greg Audino and Assistant Deputy Public Defenders Katina Chase and Lou Presenza. Drug court graduate Jay S. 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, which began in 1996, has 684 participants and has graduated 779 participants.

The ceremony will be livestreamed to the public on New Jersey Courts channels under Camden at https://www.njcourts.gov/public/channels.html.