

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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NEWS

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Camden County Adult Drug Court to Celebrate 10th Anniversary

CAMDEN, NJ – Camden County Superior Court will hold a celebration to mark the tenth anniversary of its adult drug court in the jury assembly room in the lower level of the Hall of Justice, 101 S. 5th Street, at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2006. Community members are invited to join the festivities.

In 1996, Camden was the very first court to have this program in the State of New Jersey. Today, all 15 vicinages in New Jersey have drug courts. For ten years the mission of drug court has remained the same: Assist nonviolent drug-addicted offenders to rehabilitate their lives while reducing the crime rate. Drug court is a five-year program broken into four phases, with each phase imposing varied degrees of restrictions on the participants. Intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing, anger management and life skills training and frequent contacts with probation officers are all part of this process and essential for the continued success of this program.

Currently, under the guidance of Judge William Cook, the Camden County adult drug court has a 73 percent retention rate, one of the highest in the state, and serves more than 250 participants.

The celebration will include speakers from the court system, program affiliates, and alumni members. Light refreshments will be served.