

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
OCEAN VICINAGE**

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For immediate release:
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Ocean Vicinage Drug Court to Hold Twelfth Graduation and Commencement Ceremony

Ocean Vicinage will hold its 12th Drug Court commencement and graduation celebration on Thursday, June 4 at 11 a.m. in the Mancini Room of the Ocean County Library, 101 Washington St., Toms River. With her approaching retirement, this will be the last time that Criminal Division Presiding Judge Barbara A. Villano will preside over the event. The guest speaker at the celebration will be Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts.

May is National Drug Court Month, and to celebrate the Ocean Drug Court participants have taken part in an art and poetry contest. The winners of the contest will be announced during the June 4th program. There will be 19 candidates for graduation and 17 candidates for commencement.

Drug Court is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that addresses nonviolent drug-related cases. Drug Courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals.

Drug court targets offenders who, were it not for their substance abuse, may never have been involved with the court system. Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing, and a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery services. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows supervisors to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants cannot comply with the program.

Participants who reach commencement have been in the program a minimum of 18 months and made significant progress in meeting the goals of drug court. The graduates have met all the requirements of the program and have successfully completed their terms of probation supervision.

The ceremony will be followed by a light lunch. For more event information, call Carole Martin, Drug Court coordinator, at 732-929-2125.

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