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# BURLINGTON VICINAGE PRESS RELEASE

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For further information contact:  
Trial Court Administrator's Office  
Jude Del Preore or Donna Mazzanti  
Superior Court of New Jersey  
49 Rancocas Road  
Mount Holly, New Jersey 08060  
609-518-2510

## **BURLINGTON VICINAGE TO HOLD EIGHTH DRUG COURT GRADUATION**

**MOUNT HOLLY** – The Burlington Vicinage Drug Court will conduct its eighth graduation on Thursday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. in the ceremonial courtroom of the Burlington County Olde Historic Courthouse, 120 High St., Mount Holly.

Superior Court Judge Patricia Richmond LeBon, who serves as the drug court judge, will preside over the ceremony. Three participants will be graduating from the program and four participants will commence to the final phase of the program.

“The Drug Court program not only changes lives, but strengthens families and communities,” said Judge LeBon. LeBon further commented, “Graduation is the beginning of a lifelong journey toward being productive members of our community. I am very proud of their hard-earned accomplishment.”

The keynote speaker will be Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder, who will address the friends and families of the graduates, drug court team members, supporters and guests.

Drug Court is a highly specialized team process with a judge, prosecutor, defense attorneys, probation staff and treatment providers working together. Participants appear regularly before a Superior Court judge and are required to meet the goals of drug court by undergoing frequent drug testing, obtaining jobs, paying their fines and supporting their families. Drug court targets non-violent offenders with substance abuse issues. The clients are closely supervised by specially trained probation officers.

The Burlington Vicinage Drug Court program has 93 active participants. Since its inception in 2004, 19 participants have graduated from the program.

For more information regarding the Burlington Vicinage Drug Court program, please contact Linda Boyd-Hermansky, Drug Court team leader, at 609-518-2572.

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