

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
OCEAN VICINAGE**

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TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR



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**Ocean Vicinage Drug Court to Hold 13th Graduation and Commencement Ceremony**

Ocean Vicinage will hold its 13th drug court commencement and graduation celebration on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m. in the Mancini Room of the Ocean County Library, 101 Washington Street, Toms River. Judge Ronald E. Hoffman will preside over the event. Thirty-two candidates will graduate and 15 participants will commence into the final phase of the program.

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 do not comply with the program.

The graduates have met all the requirements of the program and have successfully completed their terms of probation supervision. 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 Ocean Vicinage Drug Court program currently serves 259 participants. Eighty-five participants have graduated from the program since its inception in 2002.

For more event information, please call Carole Martin, Drug Court Coordinator, at 732-929-2125.

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