



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTIES OF
ATLANTIC AND CAPE MAY
VICINAGE I

Howard H. Berchtold, Jr.
Trial Court Administrator

Kathleen E. Obringer
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

1201 Bacharach Boulevard
Atlantic City, NJ 08401-4510
(609) 594-3400
FAX: (609) 343-2232

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 19, 2013

For additional information contact Kathleen Obringer 609-594-3346

**ATLANTIC AND CAPE MAY COURTS CELEBRATE
FAMILY REUNIFICATION DAY**

The Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage will hold two celebrations in honor of Family Reunification Day.

The event in Cape May County will be held on Thursday, July 25, at 2:30 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Cape May County Courthouse, 9 N. Main St., Cape May Court House. Speakers will include Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez, Superior Court Judge John C. Porto, Trial Court Administrator Howard H. Berchtold Jr., and Daren Brantley, assistant area director for the N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P).

The event in Atlantic County will be held on Friday, July 26, at 2:30 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Atlantic County Civil Courts Building, 1201 Bacharach Blvd., Atlantic City. The keynote speaker will be retired Superior Court Judge Octavia Melendez. Judge Melendez served as a Superior Court judge in Camden County for 10 years, spending her entire judicial career resolving Children in Court cases.

Family Reunification Day acknowledges the efforts that families have made to reunite with their children. This celebration highlights families who have achieved reunification with their children and the people in the child welfare system who make reunification a reality. As part of the celebration, the court will recognize reunification heroes, people who have made a difference working with families and guiding them toward reunification.

Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez said, "Family reunification takes hard work and commitment on the part of the parents, service providers and the Child Protection Agency. We want to highlight the importance of family reunification, which provides each child with safety, stability and love."

Both events are sponsored by the Superior Court of New Jersey, DCP&P and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

###

Although Children in Court cases are closed to the public, arrangements will be made for reporters to interview willing families at the event. Contact Florine Alexander, Family Division Manager, at 609-594-3446 for more information.