

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

MERCER VICINAGE

Sue Regan
Trial Court Administrator

Janet VanFossen
Division Manager Criminal

Karl Goldenbaum
Assistant Division Manager



Mercer County Courthouse
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068

Phone: (609) 571-4074
Fax: (609) 571-4150

For more information contact:
Amanda Cinquini
609-571-4065

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Former Denver Broncos Wide Receiver Vance Johnson Returns to Hometown Trenton to Deliver Keynote Speech at Mercer Vicinage Drug Court Graduation

Former Denver Broncos wide receiver and Trenton native Vance Johnson will address graduates of the Mercer Vicinage drug court program at a ceremony on Friday, May 13.

The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. in the special proceedings courtroom on the fourth floor of the Mercer County Criminal Courthouse, 400 S. Warren St., Trenton.

Superior Court Judge Timothy P. Lydon, who presides over the vicinage's drug court program, and Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes will also deliver remarks to the 17 graduates. Assignment Judge Mary C. Jacobson will host the ceremony.

Johnson, who will deliver the keynote address, played in the National Football League from 1985 to 1995 and appeared in three Super Bowls. He is an advocate for retired athletes recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

There are 190 participants in the vicinage's drug court program. More than 190 men and women have graduated from the program since its inception in 1999.

The drug court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that relies upon a collaborative relationship between criminal justice officials and drug treatment professionals to assist non-violent drug offenders in rehabilitation.

Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. The judge heads a team of court staff, attorneys, probation officers, substance abuse evaluators, and treatment counselors who work in concert to support and monitor a participant's recovery.

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