

# News Release



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GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

For more information contact:

PETER McALEER

MARYANN SPOTO

Office of Communications and Community Relations

609-815-2910

[www.njcourts.gov](http://www.njcourts.gov)

RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX • P.O. BOX 037 • TRENTON, NJ 08625-0984

For additional information contact:  
Thomas Viola, Drug Court Coordinator  
973-766-9300, ext. 56491

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## **Essex Vicinage Celebrates Drug Court Graduation**

The Essex Vicinage will hold its drug court graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 23 at 11 a.m. at the Leroy Smith Building, 14<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, 60 Nelson Place, Newark, Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria announced.

The event will honor 32 drug court graduates and 24 other participants who will move to the final phase of the program.

Drug court Judge Ramona A. Santiago will preside over the event. Wanda H. Moore, director of the New Jersey Urban Peace Building Project at the Global Peace Foundation, will be the keynote speaker. Moore is a former assistant attorney general and director of the Office of Community Justice at the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. She also is one of the first drug court public defenders in the state, a former director of the State Re-Entry Program and former head of Newark's prisoner re-entry initiative.

The Judiciary's drug court program operates within the Superior Court to address nonviolent drug addicted offenders. The program requires completion of four phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and recovery. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process but also allows supervisors to react quickly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply.

The vicinage's drug court program has more than 400 participants.

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