

News Release



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Middlesex Vicinage Drug Court Celebrates 14th Graduation Ceremony

The Middlesex Vicinage will hold its 14th drug court graduation ceremony on Friday, Dec. 7 at the Middlesex County Courthouse, 56 Paterson St., New Brunswick.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. in the jury room, located at the Bayard Street entrance of the courthouse. Certificates will be awarded to 22 participants who will be completing the final phase of the program.

Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas will welcome the graduating class. Criminal Presiding Judge Michael A. Toto will officiate and speak about the long-term success of the program. Superior Court Judge Dennis V. Nieves will speak about the importance of continuing with a lifelong recovery process. Superior Court Judge Robert J. Jones, who presides over the vicinage's drug court, will deliver introductory remarks.

The keynote speaker, Tammy O., is a 2016 drug court graduate who will speak about her experience, strength, and hope during her recovery journey.

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. Since the inception of the drug court program in September 2004, 302 participants have graduated and 25 children of participants have been born drug-free.

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