

# News Release



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## Monmouth Vicinage to Hold Drug Court Graduation Ceremony

The Monmouth Vicinage will conduct its 27<sup>th</sup> drug court graduation ceremony on Monday, Dec. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Dr., Manalapan.

At the ceremony, 36 participants will graduate from the drug court program.

“We are proud to honor these graduates and hope that their successful completion of the program’s requirements will serve as an example to others,” Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton said.

Superior Court Judge Honora O’Brien Kilgallen, who presides over the vicinage’s drug court, said, “It is extraordinary how many of our graduates have reunited with loved ones, furthered their education, obtained promotions in employment, regained driving privileges, and more. The graduates have truly realized the rewards that come with recovery, and we wish them continued success in their recovery efforts.”

The number of drug court participants in Monmouth County has grown steadily since the program’s inception more than 15 years ago. The vicinage has 394 participants, and 522 participants have graduated from the program.

The Judiciary’s drug court program operates within the Superior Court to help nonviolent defendants overcome alcohol and drug dependencies while resolving related criminal charges. The program offers a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery that provides graduates with the skills needed to stay sober and out of prison so they can regain custody of their children and contribute to society again.

For more information regarding drug court, contact Monmouth Vicinage Drug Court Coordinator Melissa Garrett at 732-677-4551. The graduation ceremony is by invitation only. Media representatives should contact Janet Slocum at 732-677-4208 to obtain approval for photography.

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