

News Release



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Middlesex Vicinage Drug Court Celebrates 15th Graduation Ceremony

The Middlesex Vicinage will hold its 15th drug court graduation ceremony on Friday, June 7 at 10 a.m. in the jury room of the Middlesex County Courthouse, Bayard St., New Brunswick.

Certificates will be awarded to 27 participants who have completed 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 share an inspirational message and 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 give introductory remarks.

The keynote speaker, Carlos M., is a 2016 Middlesex drug court graduate who will speak about his recovery journey before, during, and after drug court.

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 the team to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic interventions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program.

Drug court programs are rigorous, requiring intensive probation supervision, treatment, frequent drug testing, and court appearances.

Since the vicinage's drug court program began in September 2004, 324 participants have graduated and 27 children of participants have been born drug-free. There are more than 425 participants in the program.

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