

# SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

## BERGEN VICINAGE

Bergen County Justice Center  
Suite 425  
Hackensack, New Jersey 07601-7699  
(201) 527-2700  
Fax (201) 371-1111

**Jon Goodman**  
Trial Court Administrator



**Jennifer V. Shultis**  
Ombudsman

For more information: Barbara Morgan  
201-527-2405

For immediate release: May 3, 2011

## **Bergen County Superior Court Hosts Drug Court Graduation**

The Bergen County Drug Court will hold a graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 12 at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 426 of the Bergen County Justice Center, 10 Main St., Hackensack.

Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne will deliver the welcome. Judge DeAvila-Silebi, presiding judge of the criminal division who presides over the Bergen County Drug Court, also will speak. Allen Quintavella, criminal division manger, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The keynote speaker will be Deputy Public Defender Louis Acevedo, one of the original members of the Drug Court team, who participated in the planning and implementation of the program in Bergen County and for whom the success of Drug Court has personal significance.

Acevedo oversees the Bergen County Trial Regional Office of the Public Defender, a position that he has held since 1993. The first Latino to occupy that position, Acevedo is vice president of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Prior to serving in this position, Acevedo served as first assistant deputy public defender in the Passaic County Trial Region of the Office of the Public Defender. He also worked as an associate attorney in the New York City Police Department's Advocate Office.

The Drug Court program is a highly specialized team process within the existing Superior Court structure that addresses nonviolent, drug-related cases. Drug Courts are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals. Participants follow a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery services. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process.

Drug Court participants in phases one, two and three receive intensive supervision from their probation officers. To commence to the fourth and final phase, participants must be in the program for at least 18 months and make significant progress in their recovery. In order to graduate, which concludes a term of probationary supervision, participants must successfully complete all treatment requirements, demonstrate a strong sobriety support system and remain sober. Participants also must be employed full-time and have no pending criminal charges or active bench warrants.

Since the inception of the Bergen County program in April 2002, 104 participants have graduated and 38 have commenced into the final, least restrictive phase of the program.

For more information regarding the Bergen County Drug Court program, contact Barbara Morgan, Drug Court coordinator, at 201-527-2405.

###