



SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTIES OF
ATLANTIC AND CAPE MAY
VICINAGE I

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**Atlantic/Cape May Drug Court Holds Seventh Graduation Ceremonies
and Celebrates Drug Court Month**

The Superior Court of New Jersey, Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage, will conduct drug court graduation ceremonies on Tuesday, May 24 and on Wednesday, May 25.

The Atlantic County ceremony will be held on May 24 at 1 p.m. in the jury assembly room on the first floor of the Atlantic County Courthouse, 4997 Unami Blvd., Mays Landing. Eight participants will graduate from the 5-year program, and seven participants will commence to the final phase of the program.

The Cape May ceremony will be held on May 25 at 11 a.m. in courtroom D of the Cape May County Courthouse, 9 N. Main St., Cape May Courthouse. Seven will graduate from the program and eight will commence into the final phase.

Retired Superior Court Judge Michael R. Connor, on recall and currently serving as drug court judge for the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage, will preside over the event. Harry Morgan, CEO of Hansen and Hendricks Halfway Houses, will deliver the keynote addresses.

Drug court 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 the drug treatment professionals.

Drug courts are rigorous, requiring completion of four phases during five years of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and testing. Participants follow a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery. This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process, but also allows supervisors to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program.

Drug court program began in both counties in September 2004. Atlantic County currently has 192 participants and Cape May, 111. Since 2004, 39 participants have graduated from the Atlantic County program and 36 from the Cape May program.

May has been recognized as Drug Court Month across the country. To celebrate this event, the Atlantic/Cape May drug court team has held several events, including health fairs and seminars on budgeting and credit counseling for the participants. Atlantic Cape Community College also conducted a seminar on advanced education and financial aid.

For additional information regarding drug court or the graduation ceremonies, contact program coordinator Celeste Goodson at 609-909-8113.