



May 14, 2015

Contact: Leah Gurowitz
(202) 879-1700

PRESS ADVISORY

DC Drug Court Graduation to be held during National Drug Court Month

WHAT: Drug Court Commencement Ceremony

WHEN: **Wednesday, May 20, 2015, 11:30 AM**

WHERE: Moultrie Courthouse, Courtroom C-10
500 Indiana Avenue, NW

WHO: **Judge Gregory Jackson, Presiding Judge, Superior Court Drug Court Program**
Clifford Keenan, Director, Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia
DC Attorney General Karl Racine
Assistant Chief of Police Kimberly Chisley-Missouri

Drug Court is a program designed to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among non-violent substance abusing defendants. The program strives to increase each defendant's likelihood of successful habilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially-supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, and use of appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation services.

Eligible persons with a substance abuse disorder may request to have their cases transferred to the Superior Court Drug Intervention Program in lieu of traditional criminal justice system case processing. Across the country, [drug courts](#) have been found to be effective at reducing recidivism and helping participants maintain their sobriety even after court involvement.

While in Drug Court, participants are:

- provided with intensive treatment and other services they require to get and stay clean and sober;
- held accountable by the Drug Court judge for meeting their obligations to the court, society, themselves and their families;
- tested for drug use;
- required to appear in court frequently so that the judge may review their progress; and
- rewarded for doing well or sanctioned when they do not live up to their obligations.

NOTE: *Judge Jackson and Director Keenan will be available after the graduation for interviews. **Cameras and recorders must be cleared in advance; participants may only be photographed or interviewed with their permission.***

###