



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
Michael L. Bender, Chief Justice
Gerald Marroney, State Court Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 24, 2013

Contact: Robert McCallum or Jon Sarché
720-625-5815
720-625-5811

robert.mccallum@judicial.state.co.us
jon.sarche@judicial.state.co.us

Fourth Judicial District slates third HEALS Court graduation *Seven participants set to graduate from adult drug court*

COLORADO SPRINGS – Seven participants in the Fourth Judicial District’s Healthy Engaged and Living Sober (HEALS) Court will graduate from the program in a ceremony at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, in the jury room of the El Paso County Judicial Building.

This is the third group of graduates to complete the intensive monitoring and treatment program offered by the HEALS Court, bringing the number of graduates to 18.

“Seeing a third group of people celebrate their graduation to a new chapter in their lives after receiving help from the HEALS Court just reinforces my belief in our problem-solving courts,” said Magistrate Evelyn H. Sullivan, who presides over the court. “All the partners in the court are proud of our participants and their hard-won opportunity to integrate back into the community, using the skills they’ve learned to become productive members of the community.”

A coalition of organizations and individuals established the HEALS Court to enhance public safety by applying intensive court supervision and a regime of treatment and innovative support systems to substance-abusing offenders with the goal of returning sober, law-abiding citizens to the community.

Those involved with the HEALS Court include the Fourth Judicial District Probation Department, El Paso County District Attorney, Office of the Colorado State Public Defender,

Alternative Defense Counsel, El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Aspen Pointe, Set Clinic, Ecumenical Services, Catholic Charities, Care and Share, Women's Resource Center, Phoenix Multi-Sport, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, treatment provider Gregory M. Ortega and a courthouse volunteer.

Colorado is home to more than 70 problem-solving courts operating in 19 of the state's 22 judicial districts. Colorado's problem-solving courts include adult and juvenile drug courts, family/dependency and neglect drug courts, DUI courts, adult and juvenile mental health courts, and a veteran trauma court.

For more information, please contact Fourth Judicial District Problem-Solving Court Coordinator Nicolle Rugh at 719-452-5103 or nicolle.rugh@judicial.state.co.us.