



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Fourth Judicial District HEALS Court to graduate fourth class
Six participants to graduate from Court, four to receive Masters in the Art of Living Sober

COLORADO SPRINGS – Six 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, June 28, 2013, in the Jury Commissioner’s Room (W113) of the El Paso County Judicial Building.

This is the fourth group to graduate from the intensive monitoring and treatment program offered through this adult drug court, bringing the total number of graduates to 24.

Also on Friday, four HEALS Court participants will receive their Masters in the Art of Living Sober. The Master’s degree is awarded to HEALS Court participants who have maintained an additional year of sobriety while in the program, haven’t committed any new offenses and are in full compliance with the terms and conditions of their probation.

“I continue to be pleased with the developments coming out of this court, and the great strides made by our graduates and those still participating in the program,” said Magistrate Evelyn Sullivan, who presides over the court. “Watching our fourth class graduate in the past three years is inspiring and furthers my belief that problem-solving courts work and do make a positive difference.”

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 75 problem-solving courts operating in 20 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 719-452-5104 or nicolle.rugh@judicial.state.co.us.