



news

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First class set to graduate from 18th Judicial District Recovery Court

CENTENNIAL, Colo. – The 18th Judicial District Recovery Court will graduate its first class of participants on Friday, Nov. 8, 2013, when four clients celebrate their achievements in completing the program.

There are 28 clients enrolled in the Recovery Court, where participants receive intensive supervision, treatment and judicial oversight with a goal of reducing criminal recidivism for offenders with substance dependence while promoting public safety. Magistrate Bonnie McLean presides over the Recovery Court as well as the Wellness Court in the 18th Judicial District (Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert and Lincoln counties).

“We built this court two years ago with the shared vision that through effective treatment and supervision we could stem the tide of addiction and achieve positive change in the lives of our clients,” Magistrate McLean said. “These four graduates prove that drug courts work and that treatment, as opposed to incarceration, not only benefits the individual addict, but society as a whole. Today we celebrate the incredible accomplishment of our four graduates who have worked so hard to achieve and maintain recovery, and who have found a new life as a result of their sobriety.”

Like other problem-solving courts in Colorado and nationally, the Recovery Court's program is based on collaboration among prosecutors, defense attorneys, the Probation Department and treatment providers. Eligible clients volunteer to participate.

"We know the problem-solving court model can achieve great results in ensuring clients' accountability while offering an inexpensive and effective alternative to incarceration," said 18th Judicial District Chief Judge William B. Sylvester. "We in the Judicial Branch are grateful for the continued support of these courts from the General Assembly, prosecutors and the defense bar."

The graduation celebration is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m., following the court's regular 1 p.m. docket in Courthouse One, Courtroom 401 of the Arapahoe County Justice Center (7325 S. Potomac Street, Centennial, CO 80112). The Court's docket and graduation celebration are open to the public. Following the graduation, refreshments will be served in the jury assembly room.

The 18th Judicial District Wellness Court is one of more than 70 problem-solving courts operating in 19 of Colorado'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, a veteran trauma court and truancy courts.