



news

Colorado Judicial Branch
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Colorado's Courts set to celebrate National Drug Court Month

DENVER – Throughout May, many of Colorado's problem solving treatment courts will celebrate National Drug Court Month by holding graduation celebrations and special events to commemorate the work and accomplishments of the courts and court participants.

"Colorado's problem solving treatment courts have a proven track record for making a positive difference," said Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L. Bender. "These courts engage participants with treatment options, save money, reduce recidivism and make for safer communities."

Chief Justice Bender added that Colorado's problem solving treatment courts are successful largely because of the individualized treatment options available that are designed to address an individual's specific needs.

Drug courts around the country are honoring National Drug Court Month through the theme "Drug Courts: Where Accountability Meets Compassion." The month of May will showcase the collective impact treatment courts have in terms of saving lives, reuniting families and making communities safer.

The following is a rundown of activities planned in May throughout Colorado:

First Judicial District (Jefferson and Gilpin counties) – The Jefferson County Family Integrated Treatment (FIT) Court will observe National Drug Court Month during its May 17, 2012, 1:30 p.m. docket. Four parents are scheduled to graduate from the program. Assignments completed by the graduates will be on display and presiding Judge Gail Meinster will share her thoughts on the purpose and philosophy of family drug courts. Refreshments will be served

throughout the docket. For more information please contact Judge Meinster at 303-271-6434 or ann.meinster@judicial.state.co.us

The Jefferson County Recovery Court will also celebrate National Drug Court Month with a Community Service Day on Monday, May 7, 2012. Recovery Court participants and staff will give back to the community by volunteering for a lunch shift at the Denver Rescue Mission. The Court will also note the importance of National Drug Court Month at all dockets held throughout May. For more information please contact Jennifer Kawakami at 303-271-6324 or jennifer.kawakami@judicial.state.co.us

Second Judicial District (Denver District and Juvenile Court) – Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock has officially proclaimed May 2012 as National Drug Court Month. Denver Adult Drug Court will hold its graduation ceremony and celebration on Wednesday May 16, 2012, at 3 p.m. in the Jury Assembly room of the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse at 520 West Colfax Ave. Denver, CO 80204. Denver's Manager of Safety, retired Colorado Supreme Court Justice Alex Martinez, will be presenting the mayor's proclamation at the graduation ceremony. For more information contact Jessica Peterson at 720-337-0540 or jessica.peterson@judicial.state.co.us

Denver's Family Integrated Drug Court and Youth Development Court will mark the occasion with a celebration on May 23, 2012, at 5 p.m. The celebration location is to be determined. Court participants will take to the softball field to match up against probation officers, attorneys, law enforcement and staff from the Court, Department of Human Services and Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC). A barbeque dinner will follow the softball game and court participants will share their stories. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Danette Hays at 720-913-4228 or danette.hays@judicial.state.co.us

Fourth Judicial District (El Paso and Teller Counties) – The district currently supports several successful Problem Solving Courts: Veteran Trauma Court (District and County), Adult Drug Court, HEALS Court (Adult Intensive Supervised Probation Drug Court), Family Treatment Drug Court and DUI Court (El Paso County and Teller Counties). The Fourth Judicial District is also working with various community agencies to develop of a Mental Health Court, a Child Support Enforcement Court and a Domestic Violence Court. The Adult Drug Court will hold a graduation ceremony on May 17, 2012, for 20 graduating participants. The Family Treatment Drug Court will hold graduations weekly throughout May. The Veteran Trauma Court will hold a graduation ceremony on May 3, 2012, and the HEALS Court will hold its second graduation ceremony on June 15, 2012, with 9 participants set to graduate.

Additionally, the district has organized a “Sock it to Addiction: Get Clean with Drug Court!” donation drive and will have bins located throughout the El Paso County Courthouse for the donation of socks and personal hygiene products. At the end of May the items will then be donated to local charitable organizations. For more information, please contact Nicolle Rugh at 719-448-7653 or nicolle.rugh@judicial.state.co.us

Eighth Judicial District (Jackson and Larimer counties) – In Fort Collins, Judge Daniel Kaup will preside over an Adult Drug Court graduation on May 18, 2012, at 2:45 p.m. in Courtroom 4C. Six participants are set to graduate. Magistrate Matthew Zehe and the DUI Court will also hold a graduation on May 18, 2012, at 11 a.m. in Courtroom 1A with three participants set to graduate. Throughout the month, the Adult Drug Court program will be collecting personal hygiene items to be donated to local charities and shelters. For more information, please contact Alison Newcomer at 970-498-6249 or alison.newcomer@judicial.state.co.us

Ninth Judicial District (Garfield, Pitkin and Rio Blanco counties) – In Glenwood Springs, the Ray Combest Drug Court will hold a graduation ceremony on May 18, 2012. This celebration will mark the completion of an intensive program of probation supervision, substance abuse treatment and community accountability for two participants in the Ray Combest Drug Court. The Ray Combest Drug Court has been operated by the Ninth Judicial Probation Department since 2001 and has become one of the community’s most innovative and successful programs for dealing with substance-abusing offenders. For more information, please contact Terry Shanahan at 970-384-3014 or terry.shanahan@judicial.state.co.us

Nineteenth Judicial District (Weld County) – The district will celebrate National Drug Court Month with three court graduations, a donation drive and volunteer graffiti clean-up project. The DUI Court will hold a graduation ceremony on May 3, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. in Division 17 for one graduate, and another ceremony on May 17, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. in Division 17 for an additional two graduates. Also on May 17, 2012, the Adult Drug Court will graduate two participants at a ceremony in the Plaza West Jury Assembly room at 4:15 p.m.

In addition to the graduation celebrations, the Nineteenth Judicial District has organized a “Getting Clean with Drug Court!” donation drive. Donation bins for the personal hygiene products will be available to collect items through the end of the month and will then be donated to local charitable organizations. The district is also working with the City of Greeley to organize a graffiti clean-up day involving members of the court and probation department, along with court participants and community volunteers.

For more information on the DUI Court, please contact Joseph Milano at 970-351-7300 x. 4425 or joseph.milano@judicial.state.co.us. For more information on the Adult Drug Court, please contact Marci Hoffman at 970-351-7300 x. 5502 or marci.hoffman@judicial.state.co.us

Colorado is home to 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, and a veteran trauma court.

Editor's Note: Any news media organizations wishing to record audio and/or video, or take still photographs, of the proceedings must receive prior approval from the Court, and participants will have the choice to decline to be taped or photographed. Click [here](#) for rules governing expanded media coverage, as well as an application form.