



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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### **Justice Benjamin to attend Mercer County drug court graduation**

For immediate release Monday, April 30, 2012

PRINCETON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Brent Benjamin will attend a ceremony honoring four adult graduates of the Southern Region Drug Court at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 3.

The event will be held in the courtroom of Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge William J. Sadler in the Mercer County Courthouse, 1501 W. Main St., Princeton. Circuit Judge Omar Aboulhosn is the presiding judge of the drug court.

This is the thirteenth graduation ceremony honoring adults who have completed the drug court program since it opened in 2006. The Southern Region Drug Court serves McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Summers, and Wyoming Counties.

The West Virginia court system continues to add drug courts throughout the state and to celebrate graduates who complete such specialty court programs.

The goal of drug courts is to help participants overcome addictions and mental illnesses that may have led them to commit crimes, thus improving the quality of life for them and their families. Turning people who might have become repeat offenders into productive citizens also improves public safety. The programs can be more productive, cost-effective, and humane than incarceration for those who have committed non-violent crimes and are a low to moderate risk to be released into the community.

People who are registered as sex offenders or who have a prior conviction for a felony crime of violence are not eligible for treatment court programs. Prosecutors and judges choose which offenders may participate.

West Virginia has eleven adult drug courts serving twenty-eight counties.

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