



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

Administrative Office  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Bldg. 1, Room E-316  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy  
(304) 340-2306 April Harless  
(304) 558-4219 / TTY  
(304) 558-1212 / FAX  
Web Site: [www.courtsvw.gov](http://www.courtsvw.gov)  
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)  
Information Services Division  
Email: [Jennifer.Bundy@courtsvw.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Bundy@courtsvw.gov)  
Email: [April.Harless@courtsvw.gov](mailto:April.Harless@courtsvw.gov)

### CORRECTION

## Two justices to attend Boone County drug court event

For immediate release Tuesday, June 5, 2012

MADISON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Brent D. Benjamin and Justice Robin Jean Davis will attend a ceremony at 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, to honor graduates of the Boone County Adult Drug Court.

The event will be held at the Coal Heritage Museum, 347 Main St., Madison.

The Boone County Adult Drug Court is part of the Southwestern Regional Adult Drug Court, which also serves Lincoln and Logan Counties. Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit Judge William S. Thompson presides over the drug court in Boone and Lincoln Counties while Seventh Circuit Judges Eric H. O’Briant and Roger L. Perry preside over the drug court in Logan County.

There are **thirteen** adult drug courts and **fifteen** juvenile drug courts in West Virginia.

Adult drug courts serve eligible substance-abusing or drug-addicted offenders who receive treatment and other services in lieu of going through traditional justice system case processing. West Virginia adult drug courts keep individuals in treatment for at least a year, allowing treatment plans time to work. Participants are closely supervised in the community. Offenders are regularly and randomly tested for drug use and appear frequently before a judicial officer where they are held accountable for meeting program requirements. They are rewarded for doing well and sanctioned when they fail to live up to their obligations.

The goal of drug courts is to help participants overcome addictions that 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 and can be more cost-effective and humane than incarceration for those who have committed non-violent crimes and are a low to moderate risk to the community.

People who are registered as sex offenders or who have prior convictions for felony crimes of violence are not eligible for drug court programs. Prosecutors and judges choose which offenders may participate.

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