



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Southern Regional Drug Court to hold graduation

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PRINCETON, W.Va. – The Southern Regional Adult Drug Court will hold a public graduation celebration at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 18, in the courtroom of Ninth Judicial Circuit (Mercer County) Judge Derek Swope in the Mercer County Courthouse, 1501 W. Main St., Princeton.

Five people are scheduled to graduate from the drug court, which serves McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Summers, and Wyoming Counties.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin is scheduled to attend and speak.

The drug court is one of fourteen adult drug court programs serving 30 counties in West Virginia. It was founded in 2006 and takes pre-plea, post-plea, and probation violation cases. This will be its fifteenth graduating class.

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.

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 at a high risk of recidivism due to substance abuse problems, but present a low to moderate risk to the community.

Prosecutors and judges choose which offenders may participate.