



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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### **Chief Justice to attend drug court graduations in Harrison, Boone, and Wood Counties**

For immediate release Monday, July 8, 2013

Supreme Court Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin will attend juvenile and adult drug court graduations this week in Harrison, Boone, and Wood Counties.

The juvenile drug court events are closed to the public and media (because they involve juveniles) but Chief Justice Benjamin and other court officials will be available before and after the events for interviews.

The adult drug court events are public.

Chief Justice Benjamin will attend the following events.

- 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 10, juvenile graduation from the Harrison County Drug Court, courtroom of Fifteenth Judicial Circuit (Harrison County) Judge Thomas A. Bedell, Harrison County Courthouse, 301 West Main St., Clarksburg.
- 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, adult and juvenile graduation from the Boone County Drug Court, Coal Heritage Museum, 347 Main St., Madison. (Media should not identify juveniles but can attend adult portion of event.)
- 4 p.m. Friday, July 12, adult graduation from the West Central Regional Drug Court, Judge Black Annex, 319 Market St., Parkersburg.

There are sixteen operational juvenile drug courts and twenty operational adult drug courts in West Virginia.

Adult and juvenile drug courts are intensive supervision probation programs. Juvenile drug court participants are usually in the program for six to eight months. Initially, a participant meets with the drug court judge weekly and a probation officer several times per week. Juvenile drug court is intended for youth who are at risk of becoming addicted, not those who are already addicted.

Adult drug court is for those who already are addicted. Participants complete a treatment program of no less than twelve months. They are required to attend group and individual counseling, to take drug tests multiple times per week, and to do community service work. They meet with a probation officer frequently and see the drug court judge at least weekly in the beginning of the program.

The average annual cost incurred by the state for one adult drug court participant is approximately \$7,100 compared to \$18,000 in jail or \$25,000 in prison. About 10 percent of

drug court graduates return to jail, but 30 percent of traditionally incarcerated defendants return. Drug courts, there, are proven budget and recidivism solutions.

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