



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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## **Chief Justice to attend Brooke County Adult Drug Court graduation**

For immediate release Friday, June 21, 2013

WELLSBURG, W.Va. – Supreme Court Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin is scheduled to attend a graduation ceremony for one adult who has completed the Brooke County Adult Magistrate Drug Court program.

The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. Monday, June 24, on the top floor of the Progressive Bank Building, 744 Charles Street, in Wellsburg.

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

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, therefore, are proven budget and recidivism solutions.

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