



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Chief Justice to attend adult drug court graduation in Hampshire County

For immediate release Wednesday, May 29, 2013

ROMNEY – Supreme Court Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin will attend a graduation ceremony of the South Branch Valley Drug Court at 2 p.m. Friday, May 31, in the circuit court courtroom in the Hampshire County Judicial Center, 50 South High St., in Romney.

Ten adults will graduate from the program, which was established in 2011 and serves Hampshire, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties. Seth Haines is the drug court coordinator.

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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