



# Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

## News

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### **Justice Benjamin attends drug court graduation in Romney**

For immediate release

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Brent D. Benjamin will attend a graduation ceremony today for ten adults who have completed the South Branch Valley Drug Court program.

**The Ceremony is being held at 1 p.m. today, May 15, at the Hampshire County Judicial Center, 50 South High St., Romney.**

Rigorous evaluation and research has demonstrated that, where adult drug courts are implemented consistent with models and procedures developed based on objective studies, they significantly reduce recidivism and substance abuse among high-risk substance abusing offenders.

Properly implemented adult drug courts increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation while simultaneously reducing the cost to the public below the historic costs of addressing these problems in the criminal justice system.

There currently are twenty-four adult drug court programs serving forty counties and sixteen juvenile drug court programs serving twenty counties.

The goal of juvenile drug courts is to intervene early in the life of a young person and to use the drug court model to prevent future involvement of that young person in the court system.

In 2009 and 2011 respectively, the West Virginia Legislature enacted legislation which codified adult and juvenile drug courts in West Virginia under the administration, control and responsibility of the Supreme Court. As part of the Justice Reinvestment Act passed in 2014, adult drug courts will be established in all of West Virginia's counties by July 1, 2016.

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