



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justice Bunn to Attend Treatment Court Graduation

For immediate release Thursday, May 19, 2020

Information EMBARGOED until 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 20

SPENCER, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice C. Haley Bunn will attend a Roane-Calhoun County Adult Drug Court graduation for three people at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 20, in the circuit courtroom of the Roane County Courthouse in Spencer.

The event is open to the media and the public.

Governor Jim Justice, Dr. Matt Christiansen, the state coordinator of drug control policy, and Jeff Sandy, cabinet secretary for Homeland Security, also plan to attend.

Judge Anita Ashley of the Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties) oversees the drug court.

Judge Ashley said she invited Governor Justice to attend a drug court graduation when she saw him the same day there was a graduation ceremony for people who participated in the heavy equipment training offered by Jobs & Hope.

“I told him how much I loved the program and that practically all of my Adult Drug Court participants had benefited from Jobs & Hope services. I told him it would be nice if he could attend a graduation and hear from our folks about how much they appreciated this opportunity. He immediately told me to let him know when we are having a graduation and he’d love to attend,” Judge Ashley said.

West Virginia has 29 Adult Drug Courts that serve residents of every county. There are several types of treatment courts in West Virginia, including adult drug courts, juvenile drug courts, and family treatment courts.

The goal of treatment courts is to help participants overcome addictions and mental illnesses that may have 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. The programs can be more productive,

cost-effective, and humane than incarceration for those who have committed non-violent crimes and are a low-to-moderate risk to be released into the community.

People who are registered as sex offenders or who have a prior conviction for a felony crime of violence are not eligible for treatment court programs. Prosecutors and judges choose which offenders may participate.

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