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NEWS RELEASE

Supreme Court Justice joins Treatment Court graduates

March 23, 2017, Novi, Mich. – Nine individuals will celebrate their sobriety with their families, the judges and staff at 52-1 District Court, and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra on Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00 p.m. as they graduate from the Treatment Court program. Treatment Court is a rigorous alternative sentencing program that focuses on overcoming addiction and the factors that contribute to it.

“Treatment Court is an effective tool for significantly reducing the number of repeat drug and alcohol offenders,” said 52-1 District Court Presiding Judge David Law. “Since we began the program 16 years ago, we estimate that about nine out of 10 Treatment Court graduates continue to lead sober lives.”

Treatment Court is specially designed to reduce the number of repeat nonviolent, substance-abusing offenders and to increase their likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially-supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, and use of appropriate sanctions.

“Courts exist to carry out justice,” said 52-1 District Court Judge Robert Bondy. “In some cases, justice comes in the form of truly transforming individuals who want to improve their lives rather than go to jail. Treatment Court gives us that option.”

Drug treatment courts evolved to address the revolving-door cycle in which drug and alcohol offenders moved in and out of the justice system. Drug treatment courts treat addiction as a complex disease and provide a comprehensive, sustained continuum of therapeutic interventions, treatment, and other services to increase a participant's periods of abstinence and reduce the rate of relapse, re-arrest, and incarceration.

“To graduate from Treatment Court is an incredible achievement which is why we are recognizing these nine individuals,” said 52-1 District Court Judge Travis Reeds. “Our program is very tough, almost like a boot camp for probation. A little more than half who enter Treatment Court actually graduate.”

The graduation ceremony will take place at 52-1 District Court which is located at 48150 Grand River Ave. in Novi. The nine graduates will join a pantheon of 718 past graduates. Michigan currently has 84 drug treatment courts in Michigan operating in 40 counties.

For media inquiries only, please contact Alexandra Black, 52-1 District Court administrator, at 248-305-6147.