



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Justice McHugh to speak at opening of Brooke-Hancock Juvenile Drug Court

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WEIRTON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Thomas E. McHugh will be the keynote speaker at the opening of the Brooke-Hancock Juvenile Drug Court at 11 a.m. on Friday, October 15.

The ceremony will take place at the Brooke-Hancock Youth Reporting Center, 3551 ½ Main Street, in Weirton.

Other speakers will include Dale Humphreys, director of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services; First Circuit Judge Martin J. Gaughan, who will oversee the drug court; First Circuit Chief Probation Officer James Lee; Mike Lacy, Director of Probation Services for the Supreme Court Administrative Office; and Larry Patrick, Substance Abuse Coordinator at Healthways.

Cabell and Wayne Counties have had juvenile drug courts since 2007, and Mercer and Logan Counties opened them in 2009. The Brooke-Hancock program is the first to open this year, but five more are in the development stage.

The programs target non-violent youths between the ages of ten and seventeen who face delinquency or status offences related to drugs or alcohol. They also must have a clinical determination of substance abuse or dependence that can be treated through out-patient services. Some youths will be in the program before adjudication and some after.

The West Virginia court system is moving to develop treatment court programs for juveniles in an attempt to help them end their drug abuse – which is often in the earliest, most experimental stage – before they become adult drug offenders and possibly addicted to drugs, and crime. There is both a criminal justice and a health incentive.

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