



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Bldg. 1, Room E-316
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
(304) 558-4219 / TTY
(304) 558-1212 / FAX
Web Site: www.courtsvw.gov
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)
Information Services Division
Email: Jennifer.Bundy@courtsvw.gov
Email: April.Harless@courtsvw.gov

Justice Benjamin to attend Monongalia County juvenile drug court graduation

For immediate release Thursday, April 26, 2012

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Brent Benjamin will attend a ceremony honoring the graduation of three people from the Monongalia County Juvenile Drug Court.

The ceremony will be at 4 p.m. on Monday, April 30, in the courtroom of Seventeenth Judicial Circuit (Monongalia County) Judge Russell M. Clawges, Jr., in the Monongalia County Courthouse in Morgantown.

Circuit Judge Phillip D. Gaujot is the presiding judge of the drug court, which began operating in October 2010 and has had one previous graduate.

The juvenile drug court is among eleven active juvenile drug courts in West Virginia now operating, serving a total of thirteen counties. Another four juvenile drug courts are in development, including those in McDowell County, Harrison County, Greenbrier/Pocahontas Counties, and Berkeley/Jefferson/Morgan Counties.

The West Virginia Juvenile Drug Court Program is a cooperative effort of the juvenile justice, social service, law enforcement, and education systems. Juvenile drug courts divert non-violent juvenile offenders exhibiting alcohol or substance abuse behavior from the traditional juvenile court process to an intensive, individualized treatment process. The goal is to reduce future court involvement for these youth.

On any given day in West Virginia, approximately 7,000 youths are under some form of court-ordered diversion program or supervision by a probation officer.

Annual West Virginia juvenile probation reports demonstrate that controlled-substance violations are the third-largest category of offenses charged. This fact is the motivating reason behind the development of juvenile drug courts in West Virginia.