



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Juvenile drug court probation officer hired in Kanawha County For immediate release Tuesday, January 17, 2012

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Kanawha County Chief Circuit Judge Louis H. “Duke” Bloom will swear-in a juvenile drug court probation officer at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, in his courtroom on the fifth floor of the Kanawha County Judicial Annex.

Michelle Hanchosky has been hired to be the probation officer for the Kanawha County Juvenile Drug Court when it opens in a couple months.

Kanawha County Family Court Judge Mike Kelly will oversee the program with Kanawha County Family Court Judge Ken Ballard assisting him.

“In family court we see the devastation that drugs does to a family and while many adults are still able to be reached with rehabilitation, I believe we see a higher rate of success with juveniles,” said Judge Kelly. “Parents come in with kids who have drug problems and are actively using drugs and it disrupts the entire family.”

Judge Bloom said ninety percent of adult crimes committed in Kanawha County are in one way or another related to drug activity.

“Catching juveniles at the early stages of drug addiction will ensure they have a bright, prosperous and fulfilling life ahead of them,” Judge Bloom said.

By swearing-in Ms. Hanchosky, “this is the initial first step in setting up a juvenile drug court in Kanawha County and the circuit judges here are confident that the program will be successful and avert long-term drug abuse for individuals in the program.”

Currently, there are ten juvenile drug court serving twelve counties in West Virginia: Hancock, Brooke, Monongalia, Randolph, Wood, Putnam, Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Logan, Boone, and Mercer Counties.

Juvenile drug courts are cooperative efforts of the juvenile justice, social service, law enforcement and education systems in West Virginia. They divert non-violent youths ages 10 to 17 who abuse alcohol or drugs from the juvenile court system into an intensive, individualized treatment process which includes parental involvement. Juvenile drug court programs provide intensive out-patient drug and alcohol treatment, intensive probation case management and compliance monitoring.