



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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### **E. Panhandle Juvenile Drug Court to receive donation**

For immediate release Friday, May 24, 2013

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va. – American Restorative Justice will give \$6,500 to the Eastern Panhandle Juvenile Drug Court in a ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30, on the third floor of the Jefferson County Judicial Center, 110 N. George Street, in Charles Town.

The Eastern Panhandle Juvenile Drug Court has served about twenty youths since it began operating in June 2012.

Berkeley County Council Member Doug Copenhaver, who leads the nonprofit organization, will present the check. Berkeley County Sheriff Kenneth “Kenny” LeMaster is the vice-president of the group, which is being dissolved and its funds dispersed.

The Eastern Panhandle Juvenile Drug Court Treatment Team includes Twenty-Fourth Family Court Circuit (Berkeley and Jefferson Counties) Judge David Greenberg and Shannon R. Travis, the Drug Court Probation Officer in the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit (Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties).

There are sixteen operational juvenile drug courts and twenty operational adult drug courts in West Virginia.

Adult and juvenile drug courts are intensive probation programs. Juvenile drug court participants are usually in the program for six to eight months. Initially, a participant meets with the drug court judge weekly and a probation officer several times per week. Juvenile drug court is intended for youth who are at risk of becoming addicted, not those who are already addicted.

Adult drug court is for those who already are addicted. Participants complete a treatment program of no less than twelve months. They are required to attend group and individual counseling, to take drug tests multiple times per week, and to do community service work. They meet with a probation officer frequently and see the drug court judge at least weekly in the beginning of the program.

The average annual cost incurred by the state for one adult drug court participant is approximately \$7,100 compared to \$18,000 in jail or \$25,000 in prison. About 10 percent of drug court graduates return to jail, but 30 percent of traditionally incarcerated defendants return. Drug courts, there, are proven budget and recidivism solutions.

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