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News
James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts



For Immediate Release

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Macomb Circuit Court Adult Drug Court Proven Highly Effective

Based on the statistics released by the State Court Administrative Office, the Adult Drug Court of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court is working. The Adult Drug Court was evaluated for recidivism rates in 2014. The evaluation used case data from the 16th Circuit Court to compare drug court graduates with a similar group of comparison members.

The data shows that two years after admission to the program, only 3.4% of the drug court graduates reoffended with any new conviction, compared to 14.4% of the comparison cases that did not complete the drug court program. The statewide average showed 8.5% of circuit court drug court graduates had a new offense, compared to 17.9% of comparison groups that did not complete a drug court program. Additionally, four years after admission, only 11.0% of Drug Court graduates reoffended with a new conviction, compared to 29.0% of the comparison group. The 16th Circuit Adult Drug Court was implemented in 2003 with Judge James M. Biernat, Sr. and Judge Deborah Servitto. Judges Diane Druzinski and John Foster also served as drug court judges. Chief Judge James Biernat and Judge Jennifer Faunce currently preside over the Adult Drug Court docket.

“I am pleased that our results show that we are making a difference. Our Judges and staff, particularly Christina Wohlfield, Drug Court Coordinator, and Lisa Ellis, Court Services Director, devote a great deal of time to making the program a success. It is very rewarding for us to know that we truly are helping participants get their lives back on track for their own benefit and for the safety of our community in reducing recidivism,” stated Chief Judge James Biernat. “I would like to thank the State Court Administrative Office, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and County Executive for their continued support of our treatment court programs.”

The statewide performance measures data on problem solving courts can be found at the State Court Administrative Office website:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/Publications/Reports/PSCAnnualReport.pdf>

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