



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. H. Patrick Leis III  
District Administrative Judge,  
Tenth Judicial District (Suffolk Co.)**

**Contact: Warren G. Clark,  
Public Information Officer**

**(631) 853-5368  
[www.nycourts.gov/courts/10jd/suffolk](http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/10jd/suffolk)**

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### **Suffolk County Drug Treatment Court Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary by Honoring Graduates**

**CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y.** - Suffolk County's Administrative Judge, H. Patrick Leis III, is pleased to announce that the Suffolk County Drug Treatment Court will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary when it holds graduation ceremonies on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 10:30 a.m., in the Central Jury Room of the Cohalan Courthouse.

The ceremonies will be presided over by the Honorable Patricia M. Filiberto, who is also the presiding judge of the Suffolk County Drug Treatment Court, and will feature Presiding Justice A. Gail Prudenti, Appellate Division, Second Department, who will be delivering the keynote address. Also expected to be in attendance to mark the occasion is the Honorable Judy Harris Kluger, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Court Operations and Planning.

The twenty graduates have all successfully completed the Suffolk County Drug Treatment Court's program. In order to graduate, participants must be active in the program for a minimum of one year, be drug and alcohol free for the last six months, complete major goals and objectives

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in the treatment plan, pay all fees, complete an aftercare plan, and be active in employment, treatment, school or training.

The Suffolk County Drug Treatment Court began operation in September of 1996 as one of a handful of problem solving courts across New York State. Today, there are over 1,500 of these courts in existence. The goals of the drug court are to reduce drug addiction, drug abuse, and drug-driven criminal offenses in Suffolk County; to obtain immediate and effective treatment for those residents of Suffolk County whose drug addiction has brought them into contact with the criminal justice system and, lastly, to improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system in Suffolk County. Studies have shown this specialized court is extremely cost effective because it costs less to rehabilitate than to incarcerate and, in addition, those who graduate have a much lower recidivism rate compared to non-program participants.

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