



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Justice McCormack Commends New Graduates of Livingston County Veterans Treatment Court for Their ‘Courage and Sacrifices’

HOWELL, MI, February 22, 2017 – Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget M. McCormack spoke today at a Livingston County Veterans Treatment Court ceremony to honor the four newest graduates of the program.

“Your dedication to complete this program is inspiring,” Justice McCormack remarked to the graduates. “Through your commitment, strength, and perseverance, you have not only changed your own lives, but you have also given hope to those who now stand where the four of you stood just a year ago.”

Justice McCormack also commended Presiding Judge Carol Sue Reader for her “vision and leadership are creating opportunities for local veterans in need of help and a new direction.”

Some important facts about Michigan veterans treatment courts (VTC):

- Michigan is a national leader with 25 veterans treatment courts; four years ago, there were 8.
- Unemployment among graduates of veterans treatment courts was cut by more than half between entrance to the program and graduation.
- Sixty-four percent of VTC participants statewide successfully completed the program between Sept. 2013 and Oct. 2015.
- The retention rate of participants active in a VTC program for at least 12 months was 86 percent between Sept. 2013 and Oct. 2015, which increases the likelihood of success.

Founded in December 2014, the Livingston County Veterans Treatment Court has graduated four participants prior to today’s graduation. Veterans Treatment Courts work toward sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated effort that involves collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, volunteer veterans mentors and other organizations.

In November 2016, the Livingston County Veterans Treatment Court received a grant from the State Court Administrative Office to continue its mission of solving problems and saving lives.

Learn more about the success of veterans treatment courts in the most recent MSC Problem-Solving Court Annual Report, “[Solving Problems, Saving Lives.](#)”

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