



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Supreme Court Report Spotlights Effectiveness of Veterans Treatment Courts

These problem-solving courts reduce unemployment among those who have served

HOLLAND, MI, May 4, 2018 – Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth T. Clement today highlighted a new [Supreme Court report](#) that says veterans treatment courts are very effective in solving problems and saving lives. For example, the new report showed that unemployment among graduates of Michigan veterans treatment courts (VTC) was reduced by more than half. Justice Clement made the announcement as she helped to celebrate Military Appreciation Month and National Drug Court Month at a graduation ceremony for the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court in Holland.

“Court data support what we already knew from the many individual success stories – that Michigan veterans treatment courts are working well,” said Justice Clement, who is the MSC liaison to problem-solving courts. “Not only are these courts strengthening their communities with every graduate they help, but they are also effectively serving the men and women who have so bravely served our nation.”

Based on a wide range of data collected during Fiscal Year 2017, the Problem-Solving Court Annual Report, “[Solving Problems, Saving Lives](#),” also found that upon completing a program:

- Adult drug court grads were more than 3 times less likely to commit another crime after two years;
- Sobriety court grads were more than 5 times less likely to commit another crime after two years;
- Sobriety court graduates who used an ignition interlock device were 7 times less likely to commit another crime after two years;
- Unemployment among adult drug court graduates was reduced by 100 percent;
- Unemployment among mental health court graduates was cut by more than half; and
- Nearly 100 percent of mental health court graduates (adult and juvenile) reported improved mental health.

While problem-solving courts provide a second chance, the requirements are rigorous. For example, VTC graduates, on average, had their cases reviewed in 21 scheduled court hearings and had 190 drug or alcohol tests, according to the report.

Veterans treatment court programs integrate principles from both drug courts and mental health courts to serve military veterans who suffer from mental illness, substance use disorders, or traumatic brain injuries. They also involve volunteer veteran mentors, who are extremely helpful in assisting participants with their transition back into civilian life.

Problem-solving courts are nontraditional courts that focus on nonviolent offenders whose underlying medical and social problems have contributed to recurring contacts with the criminal justice system. Click [here](#) to find out more.

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