MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Justice Viviano Honors First Graduates of the 3rd Circuit Court's Veterans Treatment Court

LANSING, MI, September 14, 2015 – Michigan Supreme Court Justice David F. Viviano helped mark a milestone today at the 3rd Circuit Court in Detroit by speaking at the court's first Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) graduation. Two graduates were recognized during the event.

"Your service never stops, so our service to you should continue here at home," said Justice Viviano to the graduates. "That's why I am so proud of the work of this court, the mentors, the judges and everyone who has helped make this day possible."

One of the strategic priorities of the Michigan Supreme Court is measuring court performance to improve outcomes, which includes supporting the state's 164 problem-solving courts that solve problems and save lives.

The MSC Problem-Solving Court report, Solving Problems, Saving Lives, shows that in 2014:

- Michigan has led the nation in veterans treatment courts with 22.
- Two years after admission to any type of drug court, graduates were 56 percent less likely to be convicted of any new offense.
- Participants in sobriety courts and adult district drug courts were 75 percent less likely to be convicted of any new offense after two years.
- 98 percent of mental health court graduates improved their mental health.

In addition, Michigan was the nation's first state court system to establish regionalized DWI courts and the second to establish regionalized mental health courts, providing broader geographical access.

The 3rd Circuit Court Veterans Treatment Court is led by Presiding Judge Timothy Kenny, Judge James Callahan, and Judge Deborah Thomas. Started in the fall of 2013, the VTC currently supervises 17 cases, with many more pending, and receives grant funding from the State Court Administrative Office.

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