



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Supreme Court Honors Genesee County Mental Health Court 10th Anniversary

LANSING, MI, October 25, 2017 – The Michigan Supreme Court issued a proclamation today to Genesee County Probate Judge Jennie E. Barkey at a celebration marking the 10th Anniversary of the Genesee County Mental Health Court. Judge Barkey presides over the Mental Health Court, which has graduated 264 participants since 2007, and currently has 55 active participants.

“I am extremely proud to celebrate this Court’s special milestone because I believe in the work that mental health courts are doing to get nonviolent, troubled individuals the help they need and get them out of the criminal justice system,” said State Court Administrator Milton L. Mack, Jr., who has served on the state’s Mental Health Diversion Council since his 2015 appointment by Gov. Rick Snyder. “Michigan’s mental health courts are truly saving lives and strengthening communities across the state.”

During the ceremony, which included current program participants and program graduates, Judge Barkey presented commemorative plaques to three people who have been instrumental in supporting the program since its inception: Steven Mays, Diversion Administrator, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services; Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell; and Brian Swiecicki, Vice President of Business Operations, Genesee Health System.

The Genesee County Mental Health Court is a joint cooperative venture between the 67th District Court, the 7th Circuit Court, and the Genesee County Probate Court, where it operates.

Mental health court graduates were more than two times less likely to reoffend after two years, according to the latest MSC report, “[Solving Problem, Saving Lives](#).” In addition, 97 percent of mental health court graduates reported both improved mental health and improved quality of life.

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