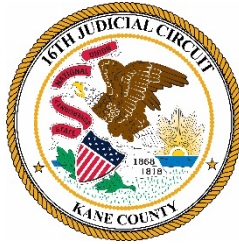

16th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
37W777 Route 38
St. Charles, IL 60175



Office of the Chief Judge Robert K. Villa

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 6, 2025

Kane County Drug Rehabilitation Court celebrates 13 graduates and 25 years of problem-solving courts

Kane County, Illinois - The Kane County Drug Rehabilitation Court (DRC) will hold a special graduation ceremony on **October 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Kane Branch Court** to honor 13 graduates and commemorate 25 years of problem-solving courts in Kane County.

The event highlights Kane County's leadership in problem-solving courts, being one of only two counties in Illinois to establish all four such programs:

- Drug Rehabilitation Court (established 2000)
- Treatment Alternative Court for mental health (2006)
- Veterans Treatment Court (2018)
- DUI Treatment Court (2023)

Special features of the ceremony will include:

- A video address from IL Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth M. Rochford
- National Anthem performance by First Assistant State's Attorney Christine Bayer
- Chief Judge Robert Villa's recognition of Kane County's first Facility Dog, Forrest, and his handlers, Honorable Marmarie J. Kostelny, Pamela Ely, Randy Reusch, and Philip Wessel
- A presentation to honor long-serving Drug Court pioneers

Drug courts, also known as treatment or specialty courts, aim to reduce, substance use disorder and related crimes in our community. For the graduates, this ceremony marks the completion of an intensive, judicially supervised treatment-focused probation. Participants undergo a rigorous 24–36-month program under close supervision by Judge Christine Downs and a multidisciplinary team including treatment partners, probation officers, law enforcement, the Kane County State's Attorney's Office, and the Kane County Public Defender's Office.

“These courts are effective in reducing recidivism by providing the opportunity for real, long-lasting change in the lives of the graduates,” said Judge Downs. “We are grateful to our community partners for their support of all of the treatment courts in Kane County.”

Program requirements include:

- Employment, school enrollment, or community service
- Completion of substance abuse treatment and other recommended therapies
- Regular and random drug testing

- Frequent court appearances for progress review
- Home visits and regular contact with probation officers
- Payment of restitution, fines, and fees

The graduation ceremony will be held at **5:00 p.m. on October 8 at Kane Branch Court, 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, IL**. The public is invited to attend either in person or virtually at <https://www.youtube.com/@kanecountycourtroom2179>.

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