



Superior Court
Of the State of California for the
County of Yolo
725 Court Street, Room 308
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 406-6838/Fax (530) 406-6835
Shawn Landry
Court Executive Officer

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Court Executive Office
Phone: 530-406-6838
Woodland, CA 95695

Felony Probation Drug Court Graduation

The Yolo Superior Court will hold a court proceeding and formal ceremony on October 21, 2013 for graduates of the Court's Felony Probation Drug Court. Judge Janet Gaard will preside over the ceremony which will be held at 10:30 a.m. in Dept. 1 of the Courthouse located at 725 Court Street in Woodland.

The Felony Probation Drug Court has been operating in Yolo County since 1999. Felony Probation Drug Court is a special court given responsibility to handle cases involving substance-abusing offenders through comprehensive supervision through the court and probation, drug testing, and treatment services. Felony Probation Drug Court offers individuals facing criminal charges for non-violent crimes, an opportunity to enter a substance abuse recovery program in lieu of state prison. The requirements of Felony Probation Drug Court are strict because the road to recovery is not easy. Each client is tested frequently, must attend substance abuse recovery meetings and make regular court appearances in order to comply with the requirements of Felony Probation Drug Court.

All graduates have successfully completed an intensive residential treatment program, have a minimum of 18 months of sobriety, are gainfully employed, have committed no new crimes, and have satisfied all other Felony Probation Drug Court requirements.

Four men are scheduled to graduate, potentially saving taxpayers up to \$1,436,567.00, based on the annual cost of \$59,037.00 for incarceration as determined by the Legislative Analyst's Office of California 2012/2013 budget. Collectively the four graduates were subjected to suspended sentences of 24 years, 4 months in state prison.

According to Judge Gaard who presides over the Felony Probation Drug Court calendar, "This successful program reflects a strong collaboration between local governmental agencies and treatment providers to make a real difference in people's lives." Representatives from these agencies and providers will attend the ceremony to offer their congratulations to the graduates.

"Felony Probation Drug Court reduces crime, saves money, combats substance abuse and restores families. The four graduates have worked very hard over the past 18+ months. Through hard work and dedication, each graduate has made positive steps toward re-entering into the community as productive, self supporting citizens," added Rane Carter, Yolo County Deputy Probation Officer and Drug Court Coordinator. Several former graduates are also expected to attend the ceremony and show their support.

Over the years, the Felony Probation Drug Court program has provided treatment and drug rehabilitation to dozens of local residents, has enabled them to reconnect with their families and communities, has saved taxpayers millions of dollars in prison costs, and has allowed these folks to get jobs, earn money, pay their own taxes, and become productive members of society.