



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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DATE: May 2nd, 2016

TO: Media Contacts FAX #: _____

FROM: Judge Jamie Jameson FAX #: _____

RE: Drug Court Graduation Press Release

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DRUG COURT GRADUATIONS SET FOR THIS THURSDAY BY JUDGE JAMIE JAMESON

Benton/Murray, KY (May 2nd, 2016) – Circuit Judge Jamie Jameson and the staff of the Drug Courts for Marshall and Calloway Counties have set this year’s graduation for Drug Court participants for this Thursday, May 5th, 2016. The public and all public officials are invited to come and support these members of our community as we celebrate their sobriety and re-entry into society as contributing citizens.

“At a time when many jails are struggling to find space to house inmates, it is critical that we find options for dealing with drug addiction in Kentucky; drug court is one of those very successful options,” said Circuit Judge, Jamie Jameson. Jameson is referring to reports that have been coming in from places like Jefferson County where temporary facilities are having to be opened to relieve overcrowding in Kentucky’s jails and prisons. *See* <http://www.wdrb.com/story/31809242/release-louisville-metro-corrections-filled-to-capacity-some-inmates-to-be-moved-to-unused-jail-built-in-1950s>. “Besides dealing with overcrowding, providing drug treatment for those that are willing is just the right thing to do. Drug Court is one way to do that,” continued Jameson.

“We invite the members of the community that are interested in recovery, a problem that affects us all, to come join us this Thursday and see what we’re about,” stated Jameson. “Our drug court is very proud of the individuals that will be graduating. It’s important for members of the community to encourage these graduates as they transition,” continued Jameson.

Drug Court is a court-administered program developed by the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) several years ago to address the growing drug addiction problem in Kentucky. Circuit Judge Jamie Jameson serves voluntarily as chief administrator of the Marshall & Calloway drug courts. However, the program is administrated by two separate county-specific panels consisting of representatives from law enforcement, probation & parole, the Commonwealth attorney’s office, drug court staff, and most recently, Jameson asked representatives from the Social Work program of the Ky. Dept. of Public Advocacy and the Ky. Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation to join the team as well.

The Marshall Co. drug court graduation will be at 3:00 PM in the Circuit Court room at 80 Judicial Drive, Benton, KY. The Calloway graduation will be on the 3rd Floor of the MSU Fine Arts Building at 6:00 PM.

Drug Court Team Members:

Judge James T. Jameson; Circuit Staff Attorney, Adam Sandefer; Drug Court staff Jeanie Carson & Shelly Groves; Comm. Attorney Mark Blankenship & his assistants Hon. Jacob Ford & Hon. Cirris Hatfield; KSP Detective Trey Green; Marshall Co. Deputy Sheriff, Eddie Mcguire; Public Defender Social Worker, Mikayle Walker; Ky. Vocational Rehabilitation representatives Ronda Thomas & Cheryl Son, Probation & Parole supervisor, John Cooper