



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
18th Judicial Circuit Court - DuPage County, Illinois

KENNETH L. POPEJOY
Chief Judge

SUZANNE H. ARMSTRONG
Court Administrator

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PRESS RELEASE

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Office of the Chief Judge
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CHIEF JUDGE ANNOUNCES \$568,748 DOJ GRANT AWARD TO FUND RECOVERY CENTERS AND EXPAND DRUG AND VETERANS COURT PROGRAMMING

Chief Judge Kenneth L. Popejoy is pleased to announce the 18th Judicial Circuit Court has been awarded \$568,748 in grant funds by the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to expand treatment programming in Drug Court and Veterans Court.

Under the leadership of Drug Court Presiding Judge Kavita Athanikar working with Veterans Court Presiding Judge Paul Marchese and Deputy Director of Probation, Tim McGavin, a plan was put into place to scale up the Drug Court and Veterans Court programs and to work to secure federal funding to expand both programs. The program expansion includes medication assisted treatment, developing two recovery community centers, and increasing the use of recovery coaches and peer support specialists for the DuPage County Drug Court program and the Veterans Court programs over the next four years. “Our Drug Court and Veterans Court are very effective in reducing drug and alcohol related crime, creating safer communities with more productive and engaged citizens whose underlying substance use disorders and mental illnesses are treated and monitored by our dedicated Drug and Veterans Court teams,” stated Chief Judge Popejoy.

The DuPage County Drug and Veterans Courts were implemented as an alternative to incarceration for non-violent offenders to break the cycle of arrest, drug addiction, mental health issues, and recidivism. These certified programs address the root of the substance abuse and trauma by using a multidisciplinary team approach with a standardized regimen of treatment. Through the coordinated efforts of the judiciary, the Probation Department, and Drug and Veterans Court team members, the participant is integrated back into the community to become a productive, law-abiding member of that community.

Specialty Courts Presiding Judge Ann Celine Walsh stated “I am so proud of the effort put forth by the Drug and Veterans Court teams, particularly Judges Athanikar and Marchese and the Probation Department, to seek much needed continual funding for our Specialty Court programs. Ultimately, the balance of utilizing strong collaborative efforts along with the accountability that is required for the program participants make our courts successful.”

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