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Special Points of Interest on DWI Courts.

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DWI Court is a Team Sport for Participants

By: *Carlton Biggs, Judge, DWI Academy Court, Newport Beach, California*

In traditional court proceedings the defendants are allowed to leave court after their matter is called. This is not the case however, in my DWI Court. I request that all the participants for that day remain during the "DWI Court Hour." I have committed to give DWI Court my undivided attention for the one hour session and I never hold the participants beyond the hour. However, I also am reluctant to allow anyone to leave early.

Having started both a Drug Court and this DWI Court

from scratch, I have witnessed the courtroom dynamics both when there were only a few participants, versus when there are 40 or 50 people in the courtroom. There is safety and a value in numbers. I have concluded that a full courtroom is conducive to a better court experience.

From experiences over several court sessions, participants grow together as a group and bond. By



DWI Court is a team sport for participants.

witnessing the entire "DWI Court Hour" the participants learn from each other's failures and are motivated from each other's successes. During the report back phase of the proceeding each participant is given the opportunity to comment on how they are doing. The comments are often profound. They have much greater impact than similar encouragement which is stated by team members. As witnesses it is

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Louisiana Highway Safety Commission Hires DWI Court Coordinator

In 2006, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission (LHSC) funded the state's first DWI court, as a pilot project in the 32nd Judicial District Attorney's Office. The Terrebonne Parish DWI Treatment Court, now in its second year of operation, has



demonstrated to the LHSC and the state's criminal justice system that combining intensive treatment with accountability is an effective method for addressing DWI.

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National DWI Court Leadership Award

The National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) is pleased to announce that it is taking applications for the annual “National DWI Court Leadership Award.” It will be used to shine a spotlight of commendation on an individual and/ or organization that through their tireless efforts have saved countless lives and made communities a safer place. The nominee must meet the eligibility requirements listed below. The qualifications of the nominee must be outlined in three (3) letters of nomination from three (3) different DWI court professionals.



Eligibility requirements and guidelines

The nomination must meet the following three criteria to be considered:

- The person and/or organization contributed to the advancement of the nation’s DWI Court effort, and demonstrated significant personal leadership and exemplary performance through both specific results and public recognition at the local, regional, state, or national level; and,
- The person and/ or organization must be named in a letter of nomination from three separate DWI Court practitioners, articulating how the nominee meets the foregoing criteria; and,

- Nominating individuals must be members of NADCP.

These three individuals should be well acquainted with the person being nominated for the award. They should be able to articulate in writing why the nominee should receive the award. They should also be ready to discuss their nominee with the director of the National Center for DWI Courts.

Important Dates

Nominations should be submitted to the Director of the National Center for DWI Courts no later than April 1, 2009. The winner will be announced during the NADCP 15th Annual Training Conference in June 2009, in Anaheim, California.

Time to Check the Engine?

Most all of us drive a car or some other motor vehicle. And there probably isn’t a person in this country that hasn’t seen the “Check Engine” light come on while driving down the road. It doesn’t necessarily mean that the engine is going to suddenly stop working, it means that there may be something wrong, and it should be examined. If we want the engine to continue working at its best, we take it in to the mechanic and have an analysis done.

It is no different with DWI Courts. DWI Courts start up, brand new, with the excitement of owning a new car. But over time, the engine needs to be checked. Is the court working at full capacity? Does the target population need to be adjusted? Are all the team

members actively participating? Do they all know their roles? Is there a new team member participating? Have the sanctions and incentives been examined for their effectiveness? What is the case management and how is it working? These and other questions need to be asked on occasion. And then, who is going to

answer these questions? At times, it is useful to have someone from the outside examine the process.

The National Center for DWI Courts will do “technical assistance” for DWI Courts. With grant funding from NHTSA, the Center can bring in an expert in the DWI Court field to work with a team and ensure that all cylinders are running properly. If you would like to look into this further, have questions about the procedure, or you want the Technical Assistance Form to request a possible site visit, contact Cliff Jacobs, the DWI Court Training Coordinator for the National Center for DWI Courts. He can be reached at (703) 575-9400 ext. 34, or cjacobs@nadcp.org.



Is it time to look under the engine?

Beam Global and the National Center for DWI Courts Celebrate the Success of Georgia DWI Courts

October 24th, Beam Global Spirits & Wine, Inc. and the National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC) joined forces to raise awareness about the effectiveness of DWI Courts in Georgia. With more than 17,000 alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the United States every year, Beam Global and NCDC have partnered together since 2007 to bring national attention to the effectiveness of DWI Courts in addressing high-risk impaired driving.

DWI Court judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials assembled at the state capitol building to highlight the success of DWI Courts and their valuable contribution to the State of Georgia.

“DWI Courts are saving lives,” stated the Honorable Kent Lawrence, State Court of Athens-Clarke County, Athens, Georgia. “Georgia DWI Courts have proven that blending long-term treatment with the accountability, immediacy and certainty of court response is more effective than punishment alone. These courts truly promise better long-term outcomes and their success has changed the mindset of criminal justice professionals. Georgia is a powerful example of how effective these courts can be.”

NASCAR® driver and team owner, Robby Gordon, joined Beam Global in thanking Georgia judges, law enforcement, and legislators for their support and to acknowledge the life-saving efforts of DWI Courts.

“I am truly impressed with how successful DWI Courts have been in reducing drunk driving,” commented Robby Gordon who was in Atlanta for the NASCAR Pep Boys Auto 500. “I would like to offer my appreciation to Beam Global

for supporting the National Center for DWI Courts and for including me in their efforts to help raise awareness for this life-saving program. I congratulate Georgia judges, law enforcement, and

legislators for their efforts throughout the state and encourage other states to follow Georgia’s lead.”

David Wallace, the Director of the NCDC acknowledged that partners like Beam Global Wine & Spirits, Inc. are

vital to the growth of DWI Courts. “We have been fortunate to partner with some very dedicated people who are interested in making our roads safer,” he said. “We now have 445 DWI Courts

across the country changing the behavior of hardcore impaired drivers, but statistics show an immediate need for further growth. Through events like this we will continue to raise awareness for DWI Courts nationwide with a goal of making them available to the drivers who need

them most.”

High-risk drunk drivers (drivers with a high blood alcohol concentration of .15 and above and/or a prior DWI charge) are responsible for 58 percent of alcohol-related traffic fatalities and are 380 times more likely to be involved in a crash. Statistics demonstrate that conviction without treatment is not effective in addressing high-risk drunk driving. Fortunately, DWI Courts like those in Georgia are highly successful in ensuring that these drivers never get behind the wheel of a vehicle impaired again, as illustrated by the event’s most stirring moment.

The final speaker was David, a graduate of DWI Court, who shared his story of restoration. “I entered a DWI Court after my second DWI offense. I was in a desperate place and needed help,” he said. “It was through the DWI Court that I was able to get the help I needed. It was not easy work, but the nearly two years I was enrolled were vital to my survival...I am forever grateful for the help the court provided me to help get my life back.



The Honorable Kent Lawrence speaks about DWI Courts in Georgia.



NASCAR driver Robby Gordon supporting DWI Courts

Something Unexpected—How DWI Court Changed A Judge

By: Brian MacKenzie, Judge

As a judge with a significant drunk driving docket I have seen people at their worst. They came to court charged with getting drunk and then risking other people's lives by driving. Many, perhaps most, had no wish to be held accountable for their actions. Even when pleading guilty they sometimes made it obvious that the plea was only the better of bad options. During sentencing they attempted to justify their actions, minimizing their culpability. Many who received a probationary sentence failed in performing the most basic of their obligations. They violated the prescribed terms and conditions of the Court's Order and still minimized their behavior. My response, as a judge, to this cycle of failure was the liberal use of jail. Even as I imposed significant jail time to increasing number of defendants I knew that it was futile. Many of the defendants would resume drinking immediately upon release. On a personal level I questioned both my effectiveness and that of the judicial system.

In the summer of 1999 at a judicial retreat I attended a presentation about drug courts by Judge William Schma. I had read about drug courts, but had concluded that the target population was drug addicted felons and not the defendants that I sentenced. After listening for about an hour I learned that I had been completely and utterly wrong. The target population was any defendant whose criminal activity was driven by addiction. Drunk drivers, of whom I had many, were my target population. As I listened to judge



**Brian MacKenzie,
Judge**

As a result, I go home at night feeling like I have accomplished something real.

worked and would work for drunk drivers. Our DWI Court (known in Michigan as a Sobriety Court) targets only high risk drunk drivers, those who have had at least one prior drunk driving conviction or who have a blood alcohol content (“BAC”) above a .20. In other words, we sought out the group most likely to drink and drive repeatedly. The success was startling. Not only did the drug court model work for drunk drivers, it worked beyond our expectations. Only three percent of our graduates are convicted of a new drunk driving offense. As a result, I go home at night feeling like I have accomplished something real.

This sense of accomplishment also comes from the day to day contact I have with the people who make up our DWI Court. By that, I mean the probation supervisor and officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys and therapists who meet weekly at the DWI Court staffing session.

The DWI Court probation staff has

Schma, I began a journey of personal and professional change that has lasted from the fall of 1999 to the present day.

This change started with the sense, yet to be proven, that the drug court model

shown an impressive dedication to their jobs. They take calls from defendants on evenings and weekends. They work hours not asked of them, doing far more than they are asked to do. The therapists who come to the staffing sessions to support their clients or to suggest ways of helping those who are struggling without compensation, often do so on their own time. Both prosecution and defense attorneys have become so committed to the team concept at the core of the staffing session that the prosecutor sometimes advocates a lesser sanction for a defendant than the defense counsel thinks is appropriate. These team members do things they never imagined they would do because they have come to believe. They have come to believe in the possibility that these defendants in DWI Court can be helped to overcome the affects of their addiction. As a result, I have gained a new and better sense of their roles and a deeper respect for those who make up our criminal justice system.

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Something Unexpected

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As to the defendants, most only agreed to enter our drug court to avoid a sentence they feared more than treatment. As a DWI Court judge I see their progress, from entering DWI Court as the lesser of two evils, to embracing the program and transforming themselves. The miracle of personal change that happens every day in drug court is a healthy reminder that not every person who has committed a crime must remain a criminal. Often they are simply good people caught in the net of addiction.

As I listened to Judge Schma, I saw the possibility of a more effective way to sentence a drug addicted defendant. I did not see how it would change me. I did not see how I would be more effective as a judge. I did not see how my faith in both the criminal justice system and the people who work in that system would be enhanced. I did not see how my interaction with defendants would change. I now take pleasure in their individual victories, and I share the joy and sense of accomplishment they must feel at their graduation. Finally, I was not prepared for the final pronouncement of sentence I would make; that of respect. I look forward to my DWI Court docket and the simple gift of hope that it gives me.

Editor's Note: Chief Judge Pro Tem Brian W. MacKenzie of the 542nd District Court, 1st Division, Oakland County, Michigan is the current judicial fellow by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and the American Bar Association. In 2001, Judge MacKenzie started the DWI Court for the 52-1 District Court. He is currently the President of the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals.

First LHSC DWI Court Coordinator

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“Traditionally, repeat DWI offenders were brought to justice in a criminal court system ill equipped to deal with the underlying causes of the offense - substance abuse and addiction,” said Lieutenant Colonel John LeBlanc, Governor’s Representative for Highway Safety. “With DWI courts, offenders are now held accountable for their actions while receiving the help that they need to break the pattern of addiction.”

Beginning October 1, 2008 burgeoning DWI courts now have a person assigned to them by the LHSC to assist them with implementation of their projects. The LHSC has demonstrated its commitment to the support and expansion of DWI courts in Louisiana by hiring a DWI Court Coordinator, former MADD State Executive Director Cathy Childers. In addition to assisting existing DWI courts, Childers has been tasked by the LHSC with developing a strategic plan for expansion of the DWI court project to additional jurisdictions.

“The possibilities this new position create are very exciting,” said

David Wallace, Director of the National Center for DWI Courts. “DWI courts are an important tool in the fight against high-risk impaired drivers and the fact that LHSC has decided to specifically hire a DWI Court Coordinator to ensure their growth in Louisiana is fantastic. With Cathy’s knowledge

on impaired driving issues, and now with the support of the LHSC, Louisiana could be the first state to have a DWI court in reach of every high-risk DWI offender, making every community a safer place to live.

The success of the Terrebonne Parish

DWI Treatment Court has since prompted four additional courts in Louisiana to apply to LHSC for funding to establish projects in their own jurisdictions. The trend is expected to continue. The DWI Court Coordinator will assist any court in Louisiana that has a desire to reduce the carnage on Louisiana roadways, stemming from impaired driving, in implementing a program.

“This is a great example of the leadership role a state highway safety office can play in promoting and supporting DWI courts,” concluded Mr. Wallace. “I hope this is followed by other states.”



Louisiana: Standing out from the rest of the crowd.

The Graduate Corner—Part I

Editor's Note: *As a new feature of the DWI Court Reporter, I felt it was important for the public to hear from DWI Court Graduates on what DWI Court meant to them,. So I'm starting this column: The Graduate Corner.*

I recently had the opportunity to meet with one graduate in particular and hear his story. I asked him to write the following article for me. I have edited the personal information in it. DJW

As a resident of _____ County, I was recently (December, 2006) given the opportunity to attend the DWI Court in _____ County, as this service is not available in my county. I was extremely fortunate to have been given this chance and I am grateful to all of those involved with that decision. Judge _____ and the entire DWI/Drug Court Team are extremely knowledgeable and enthusiastic in helping all the clients that participate in the program. It is because of people that I have met in this progressively high profile treatment program that I have been able to remain in sobriety for as long as I have. High profile in the sense of identifying repeat DWI offenders who are troubled or addicted to alcohol and getting the proper help that is needed for them and satisfying the need for justice. Not an easy balance, I'm sure.

Recently, I was invited to attend a luncheon with Judge _____ and a dozen other members of the team. I was able to speak personally with David Wallace, Director of the National Center for DWI courts. As a recent graduated alum of DWI court, I felt very honored to be among such company. I was able to

share my views as a participant of this program. I believe, from this alcoholic's perspective that this program will only continue to produce amazing results so long as the drive and passion for their mission, such that the _____ County DWI Court team possesses, remains intact. Their efforts will affect more people than they can possibly fathom.

Since my acceptance into DWI Court and the beginning of my sobriety, I

have participated in and have accomplished many things. Not the least of which has been reuniting with my father's family. I had only a small memory of meeting one of my aunts which I was young.

My mother rarely, if ever, spoke of them. I have since learned that my father had 3 brothers and 9 sisters! I have countless cousins that I still haven't met.

March 21, 2008, my wife and I celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary. We were able to fly to _____ and celebrate with her parents as they celebrated their 50th on the same day. I was able to spend time with them and talk about my

sobriety of over 2 years at that point.

Early this year, I registered my own woodworking business with the state. I have built and sold several projects since my established date and I look forward to a promising future. I have a contact presently that is in a position to commission me to construct the judge's bench for a municipal court. Life does have its ironies.

I attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings regularly. I have a host of friends through this program of sobriety, and enjoy the companionship whether we are in a 12-step workshop or spending time elsewhere non-AA related. They have

taught me that I am worth every effort that I put forward into recovery. I have maintained and now fully enjoy a life without alcohol and its consequences since January 30, 2006.

Life is good today. I must humble myself **ALWAYS** to remember those that allowed me the opportunity to participate in a life that I could not imagine possible three years ago. And certainly the DWI Court team is no exception.

I have maintained and now fully enjoy a life without alcohol and its consequences since January 30, 2006.



The Graduate Corner—Part II

Editor's Note: *This article is by a different graduate—from a DWI Court graduation I recently attended. It was an honor to be present and to listen to where the graduates had come from and where they are now. If you have the opportunity, I highly recommend that you go to a graduation and see what is possible. What you will read is what was spoken to the people in attendance.*
DJW

Graduation Speech

Gandhi once said, “Be the change you want to see in the world.” With much gratitude, I can say that because of DWI Court, I have become the change I want to see in my life. Because of this change, I feel confident I can take on the world next.

Reflecting back on my life prior to DWI Court, it's hard to believe that it was me, me that stands here today, feet firmly planted on the ground, which led such a negligent and destructive existence.

I was a girl who was certain that she knew it all, a girl that acted before she thought, and a girl that had no regret for the repercussions of her behavior, and quite

frankly didn't care what havoc she was creating in her world. I say a girl, because I am not that girl anymore. She is a perfect stranger.

It has not been an easy road. I met the program with a great deal of resistance, resentment, and fear. It

was the first time in my life I was being held accountable for my actions, the first time in my life that someone wasn't going to clean up the mess I had made, the first time in my life that I was solely responsible for making right of wrong.

After a few stumbles and one or two falls, I began to notice something; I noticed that I was getting up. And not just getting up, I was dusting myself off. And I realized that for the first time in my life, that I was strong.

To those just starting out in the program, my advice to you is to embrace it for all that it is and whether you trust just yet or not, embrace it for what it will become; embrace it for who you will become. Listen to the stories of those around you; feel compassion for the person you sit next to in-group; give guidance to an uncertain newcomer; and acknowledge someone you always cross paths with at probation and have yet to say hello.

What I find to be the most beautiful thing about this program is, while we are all here because of different heart aches, different defeats, but we all ended up here...together. Take the time to look at those around you; they have so much to teach you.

I want to thank my first one-on-one therapist, _____. Thank you _____ for not just listening to me but really hearing me and for caring about me so much that I began to care about myself. You played a profound role in this

program for me and I am eternally grateful to you.

I want to thank my second one-on-one therapist, _____. Thank you _____ for taking over for my first therapist with open arms. Thank you for listening to me with patience when I talked, and talked, and kept talking. And most importantly, thank you for your unyielding support.

I want to thank my probation officer _____. Thank you _____ for becoming a friend and a confidant.



Thank you for genuinely caring about how I showed up in this program and more importantly about how I was showing up in my life. Thank you for supporting and encouraging my hopes and aspirations and taking them on as if they were your own.

I want to thank Judge _____, thank you Judge _____ for being the guiding light for this program, thank you taking on each and every case with care and compassion, thank you for giving us all a second chance to meet our full potential.

And finally, I want to thank all of the DWI Court participants; those that have come and gone and those that are still here, thank you for sharing this journey with me.

Collecting the Sample

By: Paul Cary

The importance of witnessed collection (for urine monitoring) cannot be over-emphasized. Put another way, urine collections that are not witnessed are of little or no assessment value because of the propensity of drug court participants not to provide a legitimate sample (denial; efforts to hide relapse). The definition of "witnessed collections" is direct line-of-sight observation - basically, staring at a participant's genitals while they produce a urine sample. Difficult? - yes! Uncomfortable? - no doubt! Necessary? - absolutely critical. If programs don't directly observe urine collections, they should not waste their time and money on testing efforts! It's THAT important!



Collection Methods

The success of monitoring depends on a legitimate urine specimen for testing. The most likely guarantee that a valid specimen will be produced is direct-observation collections. Remember, a program can employ the absolute best testing methods available, but that testing is worthless if the sample has been tampered (by the participant) prior to the testing process. Every criminal justice reference with which I am familiar DOES promote the utility of observed urine collections. A few examples are listed below:

- OJJDP - Drug Testing Guidelines and Practices for Juvenile Probation and Parole Agencies, April 1992, Page 45, Section 12-6: "Collection of the specimen should be observed by a person of the same gender as the juvenile providing the specimen."

- BJA - American Probation and Parole Association's Drug Testing Guidelines and Practices for Adult Probation and Parole Agencies, Pages 44-45: "The collection personnel will directly and continuously observe urine passing from the offender into the specimen container. Any specimen not given under direct and continuous observation should be considered invalid for testing."
- OJP- Drug Testing in a Drug Court Environment: Common Issues to Address, May 2000, Page 7: "Direct observation of the sample submission is also essential."
- Drug Identification and Testing in the Juvenile Justice System - Appendix C, by Ann H. Crowe, American Probation and Parole Association, and Shay Bilchik, Administrator, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Published by the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice in May 1998: "To avoid the possibility of specimens being adulterated or otherwise tampered with, urination should be observed by a staff member who is the same sex as the youth. It is recommended that collection of specimens be observed to rule out any potential for adulteration,

switching of samples, or tampering with collection cups."

It seems unlikely that these and other organizations would be so adamant about observed collections if they were unnecessary. In any population where a high adulteration potential exists, urine collection should be witnessed. There are two issues that drive participants to attempt to "beat the test".

Issues for Participants

First, if you accept that substance abuse is a disease, then you have to acknowledge that denial is a huge component of the disease process. Combating denial represents a cornerstone of nearly ALL drug treatment modalities. Those who abuse drugs will allow the entire fabric of their lives to disintegrate rather than to confront their addiction - DENIAL! A positive drug test provides the "proof" of substance use and creates an environment in which denial can be confronted. In order to avoid that confrontation (extend denial) participants often utilize whatever measures are necessary (except abstinence) to elude detection.

Second, the ramifications of a positive drug test result are significant

(sanctions, imprisonment, program expulsion, etc.). This fact, in and of itself, creates a powerful stimulus for a participant to

attempt to "beat the drug test" by tampering with the sample. In order to evade the inevitable sanctions that will accompany a positive drug test, participants will use every opportunity

Because the stakes for participants are so high if the results of sample testing are positive, avoiding detection becomes a paramount endeavor for those participants.

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Collecting the Sample

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to thwart the court's drug surveillance efforts.

Given that sanctions are critical to positive therapeutic outcomes, tampered samples that fail to provide accurate data about relapse seriously compromise the recovery process. Not to mention that the failure to identify drug use within the family milieu can result in devastating family recuperations.

The Best Method

As a result of denial and the threat of sanctions, sample tampering by participants represents a significant challenge to a court's mission and can threaten to undermine the legitimacy of court policies and procedures. The direct observation (witnessing) of urine specimen collection is the most certain method of ensuring that the sample being collected is legitimate (un-tampered)! Because the stakes for participants are so high if the results of sample testing are positive, avoiding detection becomes a paramount endeavor for those participants. Attempts to alter the results of urine testing almost always occur just before or during specimen collection. That's why unobserved urine collections are of little or no assessment value in determining a client's drug usage patterns -

The success of monitoring depends on a legitimate urine specimen for testing. The most likely guarantee that a valid specimen will be produced is direct-observation collections.

because oftentimes these samples have been tampered. In fact, it is my contention that a court program that

does not witness urine collections should not even bother drug testing (because the results of that testing DO NOT accurately

reflect the drug use of the population being tested)! Direct observation is THAT important!

One final comment: Understand the disease of substance abuse! If you do, then you will appreciate the requirement of full-frontal, direct observation of urine collections. Once participants understand that they cannot beat the system, they are much more likely to engage in the therapeutic process toward recovery.

Paul L. Cary, M.S., is director of the Toxicology and Drug Monitoring Laboratory at University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia Missouri. For the past thirty years, Mr. Cary has been actively involved in the

management of a nationally-recognized toxicology laboratory (SAMHSA certified) that performs drug testing for drug courts, hospitals, mental health facilities, attorneys, coroners and medical examiners, athletic programs, and public and private employers. Mr. Cary has been a resource to drug court teams throughout the nation and overseas and serves as visiting faculty for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Center for Court Innovation, the National

Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National Drug Court Institute.



A New Addition to NCDC!

On December 16, 2008, Cliff Jacobs started working at the National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC), a professional services division of NADCP. Cliff comes from Loudon County Sheriff's Office, working in the Court Services and Corrections Division. Before that he worked for the American Historical Association (AHA), a non-profit association located in Washington D.C. While at the Sheriff's department, he had the chance to see the criminal justice system working in a traditional way.



Cliff Jacobs

At the NCDC, Cliff will be the DWI Court Training Coordinator, responsible for organizing the NHTSA/NCDC DWI Court training programs. These programs provide the necessary tools for established drug courts and traditional courts to become DWI Courts. In addition, Cliff will supervise providing Technical Assistance (TA) for established DWI Courts. TA provides those courts with assistance to ensure they are working at their best. (For more information on TAs, see the article on page 2, "Time to Check the Engine?")

When asked what Cliff hoped to achieve while at NCDC, he stated: "As the Training Coordinator for NCDC, I would like to see an expansion of DWI courts within the judicial system that would allow repeat offenders to participate in "constructive" rehabilitation, and become productive members of society and serve as mentors for those that enter into the system. I believe DWI courts serve a greater purpose than just sentencing a repeat offender, and the benefits are far greater than incarceration."

Welcome aboard Cliff!



NCDC

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We're on the web
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DWI Court:

A Team Sport for Participants

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my hope that the participants gain respect for the program and for the team. Finally, by the end of the program, the senior participants have become mentors for those new to the program. The mentors provide emotional support and often rides to those newer participants who still have a suspended driver's license.

Several times per year our court has graduation programs to acknowledge and celebrate the graduation of participants from our program. In these programs the graduates give speeches (which usually consists of a statement of where they were prior to DWI Court and the successes they have experienced while in the program). These speeches are often very good. They provide motivation for the team and for the other participants. For all the reasons above, we require 100% attendance at graduations.

I believe that our program is enhanced, and the participants benefit from this attendance policy. Witnessing the entire "DWI Court Hour" gives the participants a stake in the outcome of not only their cases but the cases of their fellow participants. They grow together as a team and everyone benefits.

A Funding Opportunity for DWI Courts and other Drug Courts

Government and tribal agencies may apply for grants of up to \$350,000 to establish or enhance adult drug courts and related services for nonviolent offenders with addiction problems. **This opportunity includes DWI Courts.**

The U.S. Department of Justice will award funds under the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program to support state and local drug courts. Implementation, enhancement, and statewide grants will be awarded.

Drug courts help reduce recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent offenders and increase an offender's likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially

supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, and appropriate sanctions and other habilitation services. A drug court can be a specially designed court calendar or docket as well as a specialized court

program. Drug courts funded through the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program are required by law to involve nonviolent offenders and must implement an adult drug court based on the BJA and National Association of Drug Court Professionals' publication: *Defining Drug Courts: The Key Components*. Implementation grants may also serve DWI/DWI offenders. The FY 2008 solicitation offers three drug court grant categories: Implementation, Enhancement, and Statewide.

The application deadline is Jan. 29, 2009.

For more details, see the [grant announcement](#) online.

