



DWI Court: Making Your Community A Safer Place

A Publication by the  **NCDC**
NATIONAL CENTER
FOR DWI COURTS

Holland DWI Court Named NCDC DWI Academy Court

The **HotSheet** is a NCDC publication to provide important information in a timely fashion.

It is published on an as needed basis.

If you have any suggestions or items to be disseminated for this publication, please contact David Wallace, Director, National Center for DWI Courts.

February 14, 2011—In a DWI Court in Holland, Michigan, there were a lot of smiling faces and it wasn't for a DWI Court graduation for the participants. However, it was a graduation—for the DWI Court team. The Ottawa County DWI Court was named as a DWI Academy Court by the National Center for DWI Courts (NCDC).

DWI Academy Courts serve as primary NCDC training locations, hosting training and technical assistance sessions, and demonstrating best practices for visiting DWI Court professionals and teams.

The team is headed by Chief Judge Bradley Knoll and Judge Susan Jonas with each judge having a docket; Judge



The Holland DWI Academy Court Award Ceremony

Jonas presides over a morning session and Judge Knoll's session is in the afternoon.

Some of the dignitaries in attendance for the announcement included National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Regional Administrator Mike

Witter, Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Director Mike Prince, Ottawa County Prosecutor Ron Frantz and Sheriff Gary Rosema, Holland Police Chief Matt Messer, State Representatives Amanda Price and Joe Haveman, along with the Holland city mayor, a

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Left to Right: NCDC Director David Wallace, Chief Judge Bradley Knoll, Judge Susan Jonas, NHTSA Regional Administrator Mike Witter, and OHSP Director Mike Prince



Judge Jonas making some remarks during the ceremony while the audience and media look on.



NHTSA Regional Administrator Mike Witter providing some comments during the ceremony.



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1029 North Royal Street, Suite 201
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

(703) 575-9400

(703) 575-9402

E-mail: dwallace@dwicourts.org



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number of county commissioners, and other officials.

In receiving the recognition, Chief Judge Knoll said: "We are very gratified by the DWI Academy Court designation as it positively reflects the dedication and efforts of the entire DWI Court Team. We look forward to working with NCDC in the future to continue to improve our DWI Court and to pass on our experiences during the training sessions." Judge Jonas echoed those comments noting that they "look forward to providing assistance to new programs so that treatment courts are available to all those in need."

A DWI Court is dedicated to changing the behavior of the hardcore DWI offender. As stated by Mike Witter, "Offenders in these courts are held at the highest level of



Mike Prince, director of OHSP making some remarks during the Award Ceremony

accountability while receiving long-term, intensive treatment and compliance monitoring."

"This kind of recognition does not happen by accident," said Mike Prince. "It happens because of a tremendous commitment to reducing the cycle of addiction that destroys lives, families, and makes our roadways more dangerous. The judges and staff of the 58th District Court should be commended for this tremendous accomplishment."



David Wallace, director of NCDC presenting the plaque to Judges Jonas and Knoll

The Holland DWI Court will be a DWI Academy Court for three years. The three other Academy courts are: Greene County DWI Court in Springfield, MO; Athens-Clarke DWI Court in Athens, GA; and, the Harbor Justice Center DWI Court in Newport Beach, CA. They will be presented with their plaques in the upcoming weeks.