

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2011

**SUPERIOR COURT OF DELAWARE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE
VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT**

Kent County- The Superior Court of Delaware held the inaugural session of the Diversionary Veteran's Treatment Court on February 18, 2011. The Veteran's Treatment Court is a collaborative project between the Superior Court of Delaware, the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Delaware Department of Justice, Office of the Public Defender and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Service's Treatment Access Center.

According to the Department of Veteran's Affairs, 1.16 million or nearly 10% of all adults arrested in 2009 have served in the military. The goal of the Veteran's Treatment Court is to divert this specialized population of veterans with mental illness who are charged with non-violent felonies and misdemeanor crimes away from jail and into appropriate rehabilitative programs.

Veterans in the program must attend regular status conferences in Court, participate in the development of their treatment plans, and engage in community groups as required by their treatment. After completion of the program, prosecution for the offense will not proceed and the charges against the veteran will be dismissed.

At the inaugural session, Resident Judge Witham, who will oversee the Veteran's Treatment Court, thanked the project's partners for their dedication in assisting justice-involved veterans. Many of these partners have served in or have a direct connection to the armed forces.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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