

The Attorney General of the United States, Eric H. Holder, Jr. will address graduates of Court Assisted Recovery Effort (C.A.R.E.) of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts on June 18, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in Courtroom 10 on the 5th Floor of the John J. Moakley Courthouse. Chief Judge Mark L. Wolf, Judge Nancy Gertner, the Court's liaison with the Probation Office, and Magistrate Judge Leo T. Sorokin, the judicial officer assigned to C.A.R.E., and the graduates will also make brief remarks. A brief reception will follow the event.

C.A.R.E. is one of the first programs of its kind in federal court. Over the past several years, many federal districts have established similar programs. The District Court established C.A.R.E. in an effort to promote public safety by reducing recidivism, and to assist defendants under federal supervision to establish and to maintain sober, employed and law abiding lives. The United States Probation Office, United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Defender's Office and several treatment providers participate in the program. The program, which requires a minimum commitment of one year, accepts defendants with serious substance abuse problems who are serving terms of Supervised Release after completion of their prison sentence.

Participating defendants must appear regularly in court to review their progress and conduct before United States Magistrate Judge Leo Sorokin. At these weekly hearings, success is encouraged while any non-compliance is met with immediate sanctions ranging from verbal reprimands to short jail terms. Before graduating, a defendant will appear in court at least twenty-six times, meet with a Probation Officer another forty times and submit to frequent drug testing. Defendants in the program are subject to much closer supervision than other defendants and upon graduation earn a one year reduction of their term of federal supervision. To date, we have found the mix of close attention, prompt sanctions and treatment, and employment assistance promotes better results than the traditional approach to supervising defendants with drug addictions. While we were one of the first federal courts to take this innovative approach to defendants with drug addictions on Supervised Release, other federal courts are now following our lead and establishing similar programs.

Please let Sarah Thornton, Clerk of the District Court, know if we can look forward to seeing you on June 18, 2009.

Contact: Sarah Allison Thornton
Clerk of the Court
U.S. District Court, District of
Massachusetts (617) 748-9165
Sarah_Thornton@mad.uscourts.gov