

STATE OF FLORIDA
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
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NEWS RELEASE

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Internationally recognized substance abuse expert to train drug court professionals Oct. 27

ST. AUGUSTINE -- Drug court teams from across the state will join the St. Johns County Adult and Juvenile drug court programs Wednesday, Oct. 27, to hear from Michael Nerney, an internationally recognized substance abuse prevention and education consultant with more than 30 years in the field. From St. Augustine, Nerney will present a statewide distance learning session that highlights current drug trends and how they're linked to high-risk behavior. He will also talk about how to work with drug court participants with multiple mental health disorders.

“Without continuing education, drug courts cannot meaningfully combat substance abuse and the crime related to it,” said Circuit Judge Wendy W. Berger of the St. Johns County Adult Drug Court Program. “Judges and drug court professionals need to stay current with the latest trends and research in order for programs to be effective.”

The session will be broadcast live from the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center via videoconference to viewing sites throughout the state. The program is sponsored by the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals, Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA), Seventh Judicial Circuit, Florida Department of Corrections, National Drug Court Institute and Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The Seventh Judicial Circuit – which includes Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties – has graduated more than 1,100 participants from its seven drug court programs. Florida has been a leader in the drug court movement and operates more than 100 of the nation’s 2,459 programs.

For more information about Wednesday’s training, contact Aaron Gerson with OSCA at gersona@flcourts.org or (850) 488-4920.

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