



*SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SOLANO*

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Press Release

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SOLANO COUNTY'S FIRST VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

The Superior Court of California, County of Solano, is pleased to announce that beginning on September 24, 2014, current and former military service members who are involved in the criminal justice system will have a new option emphasizing treatment, rehabilitation, and solutions for military service-related needs.

The new Veterans Treatment Court will address the underlying causes of criminality among this population by focusing on treatment and rehabilitation. A judge will closely monitor participants as they engage in treatment, look for a job or educational opportunity, find stable housing, and give back to their community. Participants who successfully complete this 18 month program may have their case dismissed, consistent with California Law.

A special feature of Veterans Treatment Courts is the use of veteran mentors. Each participant in Veterans Treatment Court will be assigned a peer mentor, to inspire them to succeed and to help them reintegrate into the community. The motto of all veteran mentors is to "leave no veteran behind."

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This program is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Solano County Superior Court, the Solano County District Attorney's Office, the Solano County Public Defender's and Alternate Public Defender's Office, the Solano County Probation Department, clinicians from the Veterans Administration, and Solano County's Veteran Services Department.

Ted Puntillo, Director of Solano County's Veteran Services Department, who has been involved in the planning of this court from the very beginning stated, "The Veterans Service Office is very excited about the Veterans Treatment Court that is being established by the courts in Solano County. This will help the veterans who run afoul of the law address their problems with some alternatives to incarceration if the situation is right. This will save the county money and hopefully lower the recidivism rate for these veterans who have served their country and have gone astray. I see it as a road back to the honor they had while serving our country. Thank you Solano Courts."

The court will be heard by Presiding Judge E. Bradley Nelson every other Wednesday at 1:30pm. Judge Nelson stated, "I am excited and honored at the prospect of presiding over Solano Superior Court's first ever Veterans' Treatment Court. Our mission is to promote public safety by helping veterans, active duty service members, reservists and National Guard members involved in the criminal justice system obtain the treatment they need to reconnect to our community and honor their service to our country. Special thanks to all of the people and agencies whose efforts have made this court possible, to the Solano County Board of Supervisors, and to Judges Wendy Getty, Peter B. Foor and Robert Fracchia for their support and encouragement."