



# Las Vegas Township Justice Court Specialty Court Programs

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# What are Specialty Courts?

- \* **Problem-Solving Courts**
- \* **Designed to break the cycle of crime, incarceration, release and reoffending**
- \* **Promote Public Safety**

# What Problems?

- \* **Drug and Alcohol Abuse**
- \* **Untreated Mental Health**
- \* **Domestic Violence**
- \* **Veterans**
- \* **Homelessness**

# What do Problem-Solving Courts Do?

- \* **Alternative to Traditional Justice**
- \* **Intensive Treatment and Other Services**
- \* **Offender Accountability**

# What do Problem-Solving Courts Do?

- \* **Mandated Drug Testing**
- \* **Frequent Court Appearances**
- \* **Rewards**
- \* **Sanctions**

# What are the Outcomes?

- \* **Reduced Crime**
- \* **Saves Money**
- \* **Ensures Compliance**

# What are the Outcomes?

- \* **Combats Drug and Alcohol Addiction**
- \* **Restore Families**

# Las Vegas Justice Court Specialty Courts (LVJC)

- \* **Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court**
- \* **Drug Court**
- \* **Veterans Treatment Court**
- \* **Homeless Court**



# Facts About Homeless Court

- \* **Part of Project Homeless Connect**
- \* **LVJC has participated since 2007**
- \* **LVJC provides four Judges**
- \* **Twenty employees support these Judges**

# Facts About Homeless Court

- \* From 2001 to 2013:**
  - \* 1,918 Traffic Cases – Closed or Given Time Served**
  - \* 377 Criminal Cases**
  - \* 226 Criminal Cases Closed**



# Las Vegas Municipal Court Specialty Court Programs

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# What Populations Do We Serve

- \* Las Vegas Municipal Court has 5 Specialty Courts
  - \* Judge Susan Roger -DUI Court
  - \* Judge Heidi Almase -Habitual Offender Prevention & Education (HOPE) Court
  - \* Court Judge Cynthia Leung -Women in Need of Change (WIN)
  - \* Judge Cedric Kerns -Youthful Offender Court (YO) Court
  - \* Judge Martin Hastings -Veterans Court

# DUI Court

- \* The Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court is an intensive supervision program addressing the progression of a person's driving under the influence of alcohol and other substances; and reduces the likelihood of defendants committing a subsequent DUI offense.
- \* This court program was launched in April 2006.
- \* To be successful in the DUI Court program, defendants must agree to participate in the program, exhibit a change in attitude, a change in thinking and a change in behavior.

# Habitual Offender Prevention and Education program (H.O.P.E.)

- \* This program launched in March of 2005 in an effort to reduce arrests among chronic offenders.
- \* Most of these defendants are homeless and have a substance related diagnoses.
- \* The original targeted 25 defendants in the program had been arrested a total of 8,114 times in their combined criminal careers.
- \* This program provides intensive supervision and guidance to defendants as they work to make different and better choices for themselves.

# Women in Need (WIN) of Change Court

- \* This prostitution prevention program is designed to assist chronic female offenders who have amassed multiple prostitution related activities, drug based charges and other comparable misdemeanor offenses within the City of Las Vegas jurisdiction.
- \* These women have been identified as having a substance and mental health related diagnoses. Most of the defendants entering the program are homeless, with limited education and very few employable skills.
- \* The women must be at least 18 years old with a primary offense of soliciting and have no history of violence.

# Youth Offender Drug Court (Y.O.) Court

- \* The focus for this specialty drug court is on those defendants between the ages of 18 and 24, young offender
- \* The program was launched in July 2010 and follows an intensive supervision Drug Court model with a focus on family treatment.
- \* Requires family support and participation.
- \* Leadership Camp
- \* House Arrest/Monitoring
- \* Weekly activities, such as bowling, dance
- \* Community Services



# Veterans Court

- \* In 2007, Judge Hastings designated a part of his weekly court calendar to address the needs of Veterans.
- \* Judge Hastings partnered with Veterans Services to address the unique and different needs and experiences of veterans.
- \* On April 17, 2014 the Las Vegas Municipal Court Veterans Specialty Court will be recognized as a stand-alone program and the Court's newest Specialty Court.
- \* The marshal, evaluator and the public defender on this team are all veterans.

# What's Needed

The Specialty Court Programs face many challenges

## Funding

- \* grants
- \* donations

## Bed Space

- \* Residential Care
- \* Housing for Women and Children
- \* Housing for Mental Health Clients
- \* Sober Living

## Gainful Employment

## Medical/Dental Services

# ALL RISE

National Association of Drug Court Professionals

Whenever one person rises out of addiction and crime, we **ALL RISE**. When a child is reunited with clean and sober parents, we **ALL RISE**. When the intergenerational cycle of drug addiction in a family is broken and healing begins, we **ALL RISE**. Whether the charge is driving while impaired, theft, burglary or any number of other addiction-driven offenses, we **ALL RISE** when a Drug Court guides the offender past the chaos and wreckage and toward recovery.

# Thank You

Your continued support and understanding is appreciated.