



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

### NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Pennsylvania Veterans Courts Recruiting Veteran Mentors**

**HARRISBURG** – Recruitment efforts are currently underway for veterans interested in playing a critical role as volunteer mentors in Pennsylvania’s Veterans Treatment Court program.

“Volunteer veteran mentors serve as role models and coaches for justice-involved veterans participating in veterans courts,” Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd said. “Through their time and commitment to their fellow service members, these mentors make a life-long impact at a time when it is most needed.”

Veterans Treatment Courts assist veteran defendants who are struggling with addiction, mental illness or co-occurring disorders, who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Using the drug court model, these courts combine treatment and personal accountability, with the goal of breaking the cycle of addiction and criminal behavior.

“Pennsylvania has the fourth highest population of veterans in this country, nearly 800,000, and their struggles affect all of our communities and the need for men and women who have served our country to help their fellow veterans continues to grow,” Justice Todd said. “The success of veterans participating in veterans courts depends in great part on the availability of mentors to support them as they navigate their way through the court, treatment and VA systems.”

Pennsylvania currently has 25 county Veterans Court programs, the first of which opened in [Lackawanna County in Nov. 2009](#).

More information about Pennsylvania’s Veterans Treatment Courts and [becoming a mentor](#) is available on the PA Courts’ [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Those interested in serving as volunteer veteran mentors are encouraged [to learn more](#) and submit an application to the [office of the court administrator or the Veterans Court coordinator](#) in the county in which they would like to volunteer.

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