

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Release Date:
June 8, 2017

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District Court Honors Four Graduates of Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Re-entry Program
Former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan Delivers Keynote Address

CHICAGO, Ill. – Today the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois honored four graduates of the James B. Moran Second C.H.A.N.C.E. (Court Help and Assistance Network for Community Entry) Program at a graduation ceremony. Program graduates, joined by their families, the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program team, a number of district judges and magistrate judges, and elected and community leaders, received certificates and a reduction in the length of their court-ordered supervised release for successful completion of the court’s re-entry program.

Arne Duncan, former U.S. Secretary of Education and current Managing Partner at Emerson Collective, delivered the keynote address.

“We are so proud of the hard work and commitment of this year’s Second C.H.A.N.C.E. graduates. They have made amazing strides toward living healthy, productive, and law-abiding lives,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo and member of the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Team.

“Today we are also particularly grateful to the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Team and the program’s community partners who serve justice through their compassionate leadership,” added Judge Castillo.

The James B. Moran Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program, named after the late U.S. District Judge James B. Moran, is designed to help former inmates reintegrate into the community and live law-abiding lives after they are released from prison. The program is supported by a dedicated team comprised of district judges, magistrate judges, probation officers, attorneys from the

Federal Defender Program, assistant U.S. attorneys, and drug treatment specialists who are there to assist participants with the social, employment, and other challenges that confront individuals returning to the community from prison.

Bi-monthly court sessions address participants' progress and performance on federal supervision. Each participant is given the opportunity to speak about current challenges, to share experiences and to receive feedback from other participants and from program team members. In addition to the participants' original federal supervision requirements, all participants are expected to follow through with individualized goals set by the court team and to comply with the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program requirements. Participants receive rewards, incentives and sanctions, when necessary, to promote positive efforts and encourage a drug-free lifestyle. Individuals who successfully complete the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program are rewarded with a reduction of federal supervision.

The Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Program is now in its seventh year. Chief Judge Rubén Castillo, Judge Sara L. Ellis, Magistrate Judge Susan E. Cox, and Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier all serve on the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Team.

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Chief Judge Castillo with U.S. Probation Officers and Second C.H.A.N.C.E. team members Jennifer Colanese and Jennifer Novak



Judge Ellis and Latif Jones, Second C.H.A.N.C.E. graduate, in front of one of Mr. Jones' paintings.