

## Court Information Release



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

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the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **District Court Honors Graduates of Sentencing Options that Achieve Results (SOAR) Program**

*Collaborative initiative of U.S. District Court, U.S. Pretrial Services, Federal Defender Program and U.S. Attorney's Office graduates six federal pretrial defendants*

Chicago, Ill. – Today the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois honored a new class of graduates of the Sentencing Options that Achieve Results (SOAR) program.

“Our Court is proud that the SOAR program is providing non-violent offenders a compassionate alternative to incarceration. Through intense supervision and treatment resources, SOAR allows families and communities to remain intact, helps offenders find a path to lawful and healthy living, and saves tax payers from the growing costs of incarceration,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

“We are inspired by the determination of this class of SOAR graduates and proud of their growth toward becoming healthy, law-abiding, and productive members of the community,” said Circuit Judge Amy J. St. Eve, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

In today’s ceremony, Circuit Judge Amy J. St. Eve and U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland spoke about each of the six graduates. Christopher Mallette, Executive Director of the Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy, delivered a keynote address to the graduates.

Through treatment, sanction alternatives, and incentives to reinforce positive behavior, the SOAR program provides an alternative to incarceration for federal pretrial defendants.

Participants in the SOAR program meet in bi-monthly court sessions with members of the SOAR Team to discuss each participant’s progress in his or her efforts to succeed: sobriety, constructive employment, education, crime-free and productive lifestyle. SOAR provides a higher level of supervision, programming, and judicial oversight for participants through a collaborative team

approach, which involves judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, pretrial services officers and treatment providers. Participation in the SOAR program lasts from eighteen to twenty-four months. Successful completion of the program results in the imposition of a non-custodial sentence. The U.S. Attorney's Office may also reduce the felony to a misdemeanor conviction or possibly dismiss the criminal charges.

Established in October 2016, SOAR was created through the collaborative partnership of the United States District Court, the United States Pretrial Services Office, the Federal Defender Program, and the United States Attorney's Office. Members of the SOAR team include U.S. Circuit Judge Amy J. St. Eve; U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland; Ann Marie Carey, Chief U.S. Pretrial Services; Vicki Kindred Meredith, Deputy Chief U.S. Pretrial Services; Patrick J. May, U.S. Pretrial Services Officer; Shoba Pillay, Assistant United States Attorney; Meghan Stack, Assistant United States Attorney; Geoffrey Meyer, Staff Attorney, Federal Defender Program; and Christina Farley Jackson, Deputy Director, Federal Defender Program.

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Chief Judge Castillo



Magistrate Judge Rowland and Circuit Judge St. Eve



Christopher Mallette, Executive Director of the Chicago Violence Reduction Strategy