

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
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DISTRICT COURT ANNOUNCES HISTORIC HIRING OF JAMES B. MORAN SECOND CHANCE REENTRY PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced today that the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office has hired a participant of the James B. Moran Second Chance Reentry Program. The 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. Chief Judge Castillo stated that "the Court must lead by example in hiring persons who have minor felony convictions. Our Court has sent many persons to jail but we are also trying to help former offenders on federal supervision get their lives back in order. The key to successful reentry is steady employment and we are hopeful that other employers will follow the Court's example."

The participant hired by the Court will serve in the position of Supply Clerk, and is scheduled to begin work on June 1, 2015. This newly created position will be part of the Procurement Department, and the participant will report directly to the Court's Procurement Officer. Among other duties, the participant will handle supply requests from Court employees,

maintain an inventory system, and staff a service desk to field calls about building maintenance issues. The Procurement Department is a team-based environment, and the participant will be working alongside several other Court employees, some of whom have been with the Court as long as 20 years. Upon joining the Court, he will receive training related to the functions of the Court, the role of Procurement Department employees, and the duties of the Supply Clerk position. He will be mentored and coached by other Court employees while working in this new position. The participant was selected through a formal Position Vacancy posting open to the public, although preference was given to participants of the Reentry Program.

The Reentry Program has been in existence for about five years, and typically has approximately twelve participants per cycle. The participants are subject to intensive supervision, including having two assigned probation officers. They also attend bi-monthly meetings with federal Judges and representatives of other federal agencies, including the U.S. Attorneys' Office, the Federal Defender, and the U.S. Marshals Service. The goal of these meetings is to encourage and support intelligent life choices among participants. At the meetings, each participant is given the opportunity to speak about current challenges and share their experiences. They are then given feedback, encouragement, and suggestions from the group. Participants receive rewards and incentives, as well as sanctions when appropriate, geared toward promoting positive efforts and encouraging a drug-free lifestyle. Successful "graduates" of the Reentry Program typically receive a reduction in the length of their Court-ordered supervised release.