



# Press Release

Alaska Court System, 101 Lacey Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Contacts: Amy Bollaert, [abollaert@akcourts.gov](mailto:abollaert@akcourts.gov), 907-452-9307  
Rebecca Koford, [rkoford@akcourts.gov](mailto:rkoford@akcourts.gov), 907-264-8570

## **25 Years of Treatment Courts in Alaska!** **Celebrating National Treatment Court Month in Alaska!**

**Fairbanks, Alaska, May 15, 2024** The Alaska Court System is proud to celebrate 25 years of therapeutic courts in Alaska offering a path to recovery and reintegration for Alaskans struggling with substance abuse and mental health challenges.

In recognition of 25 years of therapeutic courts in Alaska and National Treatment Court Month this May, the **Alaska Court System will host a celebration on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 3:30 in the Rabinowitz Courthouse jury assembly room.** The celebration will honor all of those who have been directly or indirectly involved with Fairbanks Wellness and Veterans Court, as well as those in our community who have supported these programs throughout the years.

*The therapeutic court model is an alternative justice model in which a collaborative team oversees and closely monitors participants who choose the treatment program in lieu of incarceration. Therapeutic court participants work hard over a lengthy multi-month process to address the underlying problems that led to their involvement with the criminal justice system.*

[Alaska's therapeutic courts](#) have demonstrably improved lives and communities. Successful completion of these programs leads to reduced recidivism rates, lower crime rates, stronger families and communities, and cost savings across the justice system.

Since the inception of Fairbanks' Therapeutic Courts in 2008, over 200 participants have benefited from these programs. "I would love to let everybody know how wonderful and blessed I am for entering wellness court," says Donnie Davis, a 2021 therapeutic court graduate. "It tremendously helped me in life and gave me the tools to live life in a successful manner."

"I have been blessed with another chance," says Jeremy Roberts, a 2018 graduate. "Anything is possible with hard work and dedication. A gift from one to another, a vision of a better life. The struggles of a rocky adventure led us to a valley of peace. This is our hope and our goal."

Alaska's therapeutic courts include [Drug and DUI Courts](#) in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Palmer; [Family Courts](#) in Anchorage and Palmer; [Mental Health Courts](#) in Anchorage, Juneau and Palmer; [Veterans Courts](#) in Anchorage and Fairbanks; and [State/Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts](#) in Kenai and Sitka.

**About the Alaska Court System:** The mission of the [Alaska Court System](#) is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.