

# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Kathleen Rapone, Deputy Court Administrator  
(215) 683-7290

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Philadelphia Judge Unanimously Elected as Chair of National Association of Drug Court Professionals

### DRUG COURTS NATIONALLY:

- *1100+ ACTIVE DRUG COURTS WITH 400+ IN PLANNING STAGES;*
- *OVER 1,000 DRUG FREE BABIES BORN;*
- *3,500 PARENTS WHO REGAINED CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILDREN;*
- *4,500 RE-ENGAGED IN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS;*
- *73% RETAINED OR OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT;*
- *73,000 ADULT AND 4,000 JUVENILE GRADUATES;*
- *70% RETENTION RATE;*
- *75% PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED;*

**PHILADELPHIA, June 15, 2004** — President Judge Louis J. Presenza, Philadelphia Municipal Court was unanimously elected to serve as the Chair of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. This recent national election makes him the fourth Chair and the first Pennsylvanian to hold this prestigious office. NADCP held its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Drug Court Training Conference in Milwaukee stressing its mission to reduce substance abuse, crime, recidivism and enhance public safety, by providing advocacy, education, and training to drug court professionals throughout the United States and abroad.

United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and President Bush's Office of National Drug Control Policy Director, John P. Walters, the nation's "Drug Czar", participated in the conference and are steadfast supporters of the organization and the Board Judge Presenza now Chairs.

NADCP members represent all facets of the drug court field, including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, rehabilitation experts, researchers, educators, law enforcement representatives, correctional representatives, pre-trial officers and probation officers. NADCP has become a national voice in promoting the effectiveness of drug courts, advocating for the creation of drug courts and implementing drug court policy since its inception in 1994.

Judge Presenza, the presiding Drug Treatment Court judge in Philadelphia, helped establish the first drug court in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1997. The Philadelphia Treatment Court, designated as a mentor court in July 2000, continues to train national and international professionals, in planning, implementing and operating drug treatment courts within their home jurisdictions. In 2000, President Judge Presenza collaborated with other drug court leaders to organize the Pennsylvania Association of Drug Court Professionals and is serving a second term as the organization's president.

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