

**NOTICE**  
**First Judicial District to inaugurate new Veterans Court**

The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania will formally announce the launch and details of its newest problem-solving court: Philadelphia Veterans Court. Building on the success of established treatment court programs in Philadelphia, the new Veterans Court will oversee a range of services offered to qualified veterans involved in the criminal justice system. Philadelphia Municipal Court Judges Patrick Dugan and Joseph Waters, both decorated veterans, serve as presiding judges of Veterans Court.

The charge to initiate the Veterans Court in Philadelphia and expand similar courts across the Commonwealth has been led by Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille and Justice Seamus P. McCaffery, both jurists on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and also decorated veterans. Criminal justice partners in the District Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender and the Court of Common Pleas provided invaluable assistance.

The Philadelphia Veterans Court will provide veterans with immediate access to representatives from the Veterans Administration (VA) to determine benefits eligibility and to perform an assessment to establish the appropriate level of care, as well as the veterans' suitability for an array of VA programs, including any required treatment (alcohol, drug, mental health or medical), housing, job training, job referrals and other ancillary services.