



Contact: Amanda Marshall  
Phone: 678-522-9261  
Email: [amanda.marshall@cobbcounty.org](mailto:amanda.marshall@cobbcounty.org)

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## **Cobb Intermediate Drug Court Graduates Two Participants** Judge Tain Kell invites special guest to address graduates

Marietta, GA, Jan. 29, 2020 --- Superior Court Presiding Judge Tain Kell graduated two participants from the Cobb Intermediate Drug Court (IDC) during an emotional ceremony held at the Superior Court on **Jan. 29 at 2:30 p.m.** The Cobb IDC began in 2017 under the direction of Judge Kell, as a low risk track under the umbrella of the Cobb Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADC), led by Senior Judge George Kreeger.

While assisting Judge Kreeger with the ADC, Judge Kell recalled an experience that motivated him to become more involved with the program. "I will never forget. A mother of one of the graduates approached Judge Kreeger to thank him for giving her son back to her," recalled Judge Kell. He continued, "I got to witness first - hand how programs like this were affecting participants, their families, and also our communities. So when the opportunity to lead the Cobb IDC became available, I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of."

Judge Kell invited the first graduate of the Cobb IDC to address the graduates and current participants during the ceremony. She began by recalling her own graduation day, and the feelings of accomplishment she felt once she had successfully completed the program. She credited the Cobb IDC program for life skills gained, and how they have continued to help her become the best version of herself. "I still wake up today, three years clean, and can't believe this is my life," she stated. Her message was one of hope and encouragement, for both graduates and participants of the program. "Embrace the journey and know there is no destination of being cured of addiction, but a lifetime of recovery awaiting you, should you choose to do it."

Mazi Mazloom, attorney for both graduates, reflected on how the Cobb IDC program changed his clients for the better. "They both are truly different folks today than they were the day they came into my office; trembling and scared about what they were facing," stated Mazloom. He continued, "I want to thank Judge Kell, District Attorney Joyette Holmes, along with everyone involved with this program for the benefits you are providing participants and the Cobb Community."

One of the graduates, Tyler, credited Mr. Mazloom for finding Cobb IDC. "He was a big proponent of drug courts, and viewed them as a much better alternative to incarceration for people who made bad decisions, but weren't necessarily bad people," stated Tyler. "I only wish programs like this were around sooner to help more people."

The Cobb IDC has graduated 22 participants since it began in January 2017. The mission of the Cobb IDC is to enhance public safety by targeting certain low risk drug offenders for placement in an educational program of treatment, judicial supervision, and individual accountability. The goal of the program is to reduce participant recidivism and enable participants to contribute to and function within the community.

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For more information, please contact Amanda Marshall at 678-522-9261 or [amanda.marshall@cobbcounty.org](mailto:amanda.marshall@cobbcounty.org).