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PRESS ADVISORY

October 2016 DC Drug Court Commencement Ceremony

WHAT: **Drug Court Commencement Ceremony**

WHEN: Wednesday, October 19, 11:30AM

WHERE: Moultrie Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Courtroom C-10

WHO: General Julia J. Cleckley, President and CEO of Cleckley Enterprises,

Motivational Speaker

Drug Court is a special court calendar designed to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent substance-abusing defendants. The program also strives to increase the defendant's likelihood of successful habilitation through early, continuous, and intense judicially-supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, and use of appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation services.

Eligible drug-addicted persons may request to be transferred to Drug Court in lieu of traditional criminal justice system case processing. <u>Drug Courts</u> keep individuals in treatment while supervising them closely. While in drug court, participants are

- provided with intensive treatment and other services they require to get and stay clean and sober;
- held accountable by the Drug Court judge for meeting their obligations to the court, society, themselves and their families;
- tested for drug use;
- required to appear in court frequently so that the judge may review their progress; and
- rewarded for doing well or sanctioned when they do not live up to their obligations.

NOTE: Judges will be available for interviews.

Participants may be photographed or interviewed with their permission.

Please coordinate with on-site Court or PSA staff for assistance identifying participants.