



For Immediate Release
January 22, 2010

Contact: Leah Gurowitz
(202) 879-1700

SECOND FATHERING COURT GRADUATION TO TAKE PLACE FRIDAY

The Fathering Court Program was launched in 2008 to help men re-entering the community after prison to reconnect with their children and to pay child support. The Superior Court is pleased to announce the second Fathering Court graduation ceremony, which will take place Friday, January 29, 2010.

WHAT: Fathering Court Graduation Ceremony

WHERE: **Jurors' Lounge, 3rd Floor**
Moultrie Courthouse
500 Indiana Avenue NW

WHEN: **Friday, January 29, 2010 at 11am**

WHO: **Judge Zoe Bush, Deputy Presiding Judge, Family Court**
Magistrate Judge Milton Lee, Fathering Court judge

One in four D.C. prisoners owes court-ordered child support. They return to the community having had limited contact with their children, owing money and facing the challenge of finding employment in order to provide for themselves and their children. The Fathering Court combines needs-assessment, skill development opportunities, case management, peer support, completion of a mandatory curriculum and putting non-custodial parents in contact with community resources -- with an emphasis on employment -- to give those returning from prison the ability to meet the needs of their children. Other Fathering Court services include housing assistance and referrals, substance abuse treatment and counseling, mediation services, referrals for legal assistance and any other assistance necessary.

#

Note: Cameras and recorders will be allowed into the courthouse for this event.