

SPECIALTY DOCKETS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025 Issue

October



Judicial Services
Office of the Executive Secretary
Supreme Court of Virginia



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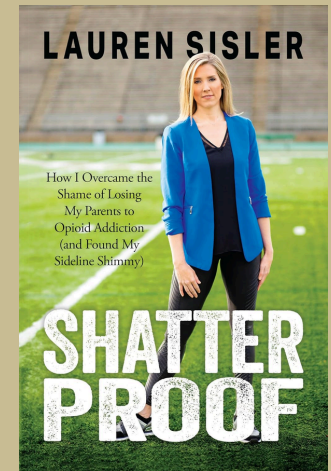
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2025 Annual Specialty Dockets Training

The 2025 Specialty Dockets Training, at Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, Virginia on August 4-6 was reported as a resounding success. With 390 attendees from Specialty Dockets across the Commonwealth, included 55 judges and 36 presenters. The event marked the 16th year, which was made possible by the Highway Safety Office grant award from Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles. This year's theme was, "Celebrating Connections, Inspiring Change," set the tone for a dynamic and impactful series of sessions.

This year's training featured 31 sessions addressing topics primarily developed using daily evaluations feedback from prior years' trainings. Concurrent breakout sessions, allowing for more focused and interactive discussions. Plenary and breakout topics from All Rise's research and best practices on lasting recovery; Coordinator essential practices; engaging families; and utilizing Peer Supports. Expert presenters delivered insights on trauma-de-escalation; community outreach and marketing; drug trends; handling grief in Specialty Dockets; Behavioral Health Docket academic research, and more. This year's training highlighted the inclusion of three special guest speakers who shared their personal lived experiences with Virginia's Specialty Dockets, adding a deeply impactful and inspiring perspective. Please direct any questions to dlivengood@vacourts.gov.



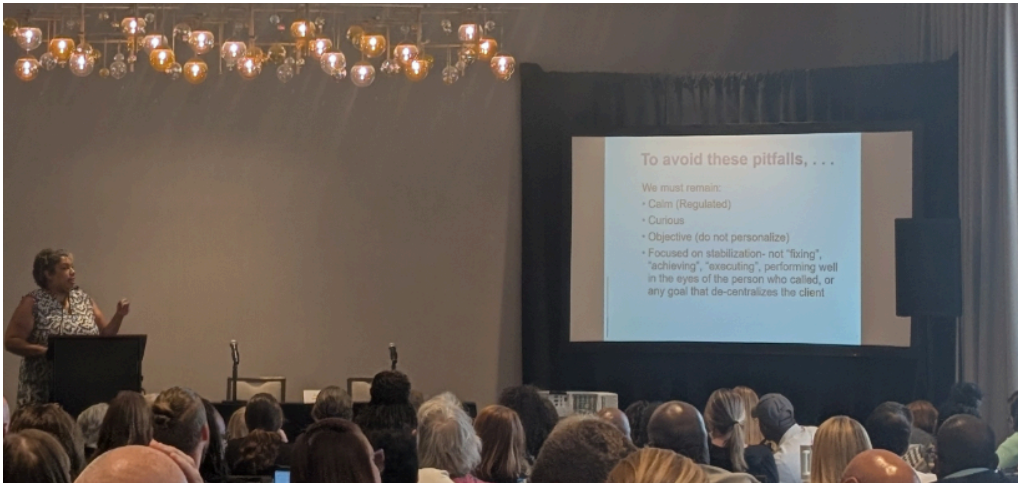
“ I found the "Becoming Shatterproof" presentation to be very inspiring. ”



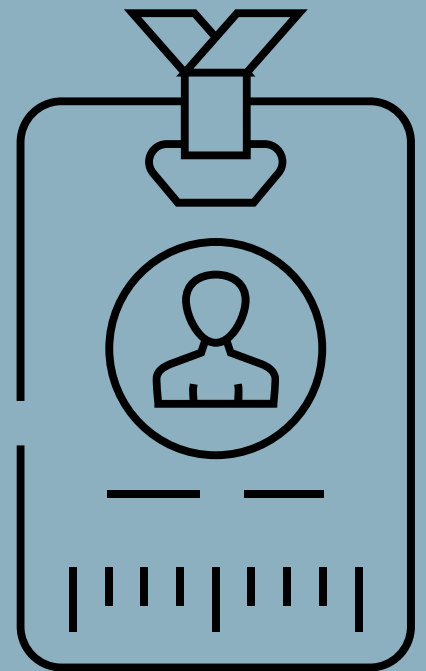
“ Great speakers! & Great presentations! ”

2025 Annual Specialty Dockets Training

Thank you to all the attendees and speakers who contributed to the success of the 2025 Annual Specialty Dockets Training. We're grateful for your engagement, insights, and dedication to advancing best practices across our specialty dockets.



**Total
Attendees:
390**



TRAINING UPDATES

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Training Coordinator, Danny Livengood

VIRGINIA SPECIALTY DOCKETS



Behavioral
Health
Dockets



Recovery
Courts



Veterans
Treatment
Dockets

The Specialty Dockets Services (SDS) Division team has created a **Training Request Form** on our website under the Specialty Docket Services page used to request trainings for you to use to request trainings (e.g., How Being Trauma informed Improves Criminal Justice Outcomes training, Behavioral Health Dockets implementation training, Specialty Dockets Refresher trainings, etc.). The training menu available includes the options the SDS Division can coordinate and facilitate with you. We expect the training menu will grow as we continue to expand training options and curriculums. **Please use this form to request the trainings listed.**

The Training Request Form is not needed for special trainings facilitated by other organizations (e.g., MRT facilitator training, All Rise Treatment Provider Training, etc.). We will continue to organize and send announcements via the listserv as these other training opportunities are available.

This training request form link also appears on the vacourts.gov website under the Specialty Dockets Services page.

All Rise Conference:

The RISE Conference is scheduled in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 20-23, 2026. If you are attending, please share with us.

We hope to see you there!

GRANTS & BUDGET UPDATES

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Grants Management Analyst, Auriel Diggs & Budget Analyst, Renee Rosales

Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grant

The Office of the Executive Secretary has been awarded \$563,091.00 from the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) for PP25-26 for drug testing costs. The goal of this grant is to provide funding to localities that partner with a leading drug testing provider in the criminal justice field that adheres to drug testing best practices. **This new round of funding is available from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026.** During the performance period 2024-2025, the Specialty Dockets Division awarded \$500,000.00 in funding to (13) Recovery Courts and Behavioral Health Dockets for compliance with drug testing standards.

Invitations for the next round of funding, which **started October 1, 2025**, have been sent out to the field. If you would like more information about this funding opportunity, please contact Renee Rosales at rrosales@vacourts.gov.

Need Budget Assistance?

Need budget assistance? Budget development is crucial during the application process, but throughout the entire fiscal year too. The Specialty Docket Budget Analyst is available to assist specialty docket teams with budget development, locate possible funding sources, research current funding sources, provide feedback on budgeting and spending strategies, and aid in keeping track of your budget throughout the fiscal year. Budget worksheets are available upon request.

If your team would like assistance with preparing itemized budgets for the Specialty Dockets Grant, the Statewide Universal Drug Testing Grant, or any budgeting tasks, please reach out to Renee Rosales at rrosales@vacourts.gov.



GRANTS & BUDGET UPDATES

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Grants Management Analyst, Auriel Diggs & Budget Analyst, Renee Rosales

Grant Updates

We are excited to share our FY26 grant award through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) was approved. This grant is extremely important as it funds the annual Specialty Dockets Training Event and supports staff to the national All Rise Conference. Please be on the lookout for the scholarship opportunity to attend the 2026 All Rise national conference in Nashville, Tennessee. This opportunity will be shared with all specialty docket teams as it becomes available.

One of the goals for the DMV grant is to reduce alcohol and impaired driving. We have asked specialty dockets to drug screen participants on certain holidays throughout the year. The holidays are chosen based on data for the highest fatality rate on Virginia roadways. This fiscal year, we are asking specialty dockets provide testing on the following holidays: Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorial Day, and Labor Day. More information will be sent out before each holiday so specialty dockets can plan if you choose to participate.

We are still finalizing FY26 Specialty Docket Grant Awards. If you have a funding need, please reach out to Auriel Diggs, adiggs@vacourts.gov, for more details. We accept grant applications throughout the year.

The first round of progress reports for the FY26 Specialty Docket Grant is due October 15. All requirements must be completed through the grants database, <https://vacourts.smapply.us>.

Program Resources

If your Specialty Dockets needs MRT participant workbooks, please reach out to specialtydockets@vacourts.gov to request and coordinate delivery/pick up.

Best Practices Updates

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Best Practices Specialists, Liane Hanna and Monica DiGiandomenico

Best Practices Specialists Formerly Compliance Analysts

Best Practices Specialists deliver implementation guidance and expert technical assistance to ensure your team stays aligned with the latest Best Practice Standards. Whether you're optimizing docket processes or enhancing broader operations, we provide support, virtually or on-site, customized to meet your specific goals and challenges.

If you have any questions or need support related to best practices, we're here to help in every way we can. Feel free to reach out to our Best Practices Specialists:

Liane Hanna – lhanna@vacourts.gov

Monica DiGiandomenico –
mdigiandomenico@vacourts.gov



Your success is our priority—don't hesitate to connect.

“Drug & Alcohol Testing”

- Drug and alcohol testing should be administered at least twice per week until participants have achieved early remission of their substance use disorder and are reliably engaged in recovery management activities and preparing for graduation.
- The schedule of drug and alcohol testing is random and unpredictable.
- Participants are required to produce a test specimen as soon as practicable after being notified that a test has been scheduled. Urine specimens are delivered no more than 8 hours after the participant is notified that a urine test has been scheduled. For tests with short detection windows, such as oral fluid tests, specimens are delivered no more than 4 hours after the participant is notified that a test has been scheduled.

All Rise Best Practice Standards can be found on AllRise.org.

Is your docket celebrating an upcoming graduation or milestone?

We'd be honored to help recognize your participants and highlight your docket's achievements.



Reach out to us at:
specialtydockets@vacourts.gov

Virginia has 91 Specialty Dockets

- 22 Behavioral Health courts
- 10 Veterans Treatment courts
- 59 Recovery courts



Since its founding in 1994, the treatment court movement has undergone a profound evolution. Originally centered on drug courts, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) laid the foundation for evidence-based standards that shaped the field. Today, that vision has expanded: NADCP now operates as All Rise, reflecting a broader mission to support all treatment courts, including those focused on mental health, veterans, family, DUI, and juvenile populations. Over the past decade, national standards have shifted from narrowly defined drug court protocols to a dynamic, inclusive framework rooted in evidence-based research and adaptable across diverse court models.

Key Milestones

1994–2010s: NADCP and its research arm, National Drug Court Institute, consolidated national drug court research and laid the groundwork for formal standards.

2013–2015: NADCP publishes the original Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, Volumes I & II, setting the “gold standard” for drug courts nationwide.

2021: NADCP rebrands as All Rise, expanding its mission to include mental health, veterans, DUI, and other specialty courts. Standards renamed: Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards.

2023: Second Edition launched—updated, reorganized, and broadened best practices standards to support all treatment courts.

2025: Latest update released (July 28, 2025), featuring expanded commentary/guidance on key areas like judicial roles, recovery services, community supervision, and program evaluation.

National Recovery Month started in 1989 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and is observed every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery possible.

In Virginia, treatment courts began in 1995 when the first drug court was established. The framework Virginia used was strongly influenced by the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts, published by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.



All Rise Recovery Resources

[Incorporating Peer Recovery Support into Treatment Courts](#)
[Practice Guidelines for Treatment Court Professionals](#)

[Standards of Justice Podcast](#)

[National Treatment Court Alumni Association:](#)
[Sharing Personal Stories](#)

From the Field:

Celebrating Local Impact

Graduations Spotlight



On June 6, five individuals were recognized at the Fairfax County Courthouse for successfully completing the Behavioral

Health Docket program. The Honorable Judge Tina Snee presided, and Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis addressed the graduates, who were celebrated for their hard work and commitment to change.

On June 12, six veterans were honored at the Fairfax County Courthouse for completing the Veterans Treatment Docket. With support from mentors and the Veterans Docket team, including Judges Susan F. Earman and Stephen C. Shannon.



From the Field: Celebrating Local Impact

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Graduation Celebration



On July 30, three individuals were honored at the Henrico County Courthouse for successfully completing the Mental Health Docket program. The Honorable Judge Lauren Caudill presided over the ceremony, offering heartfelt remarks that recognized the graduates' perseverance, growth, and commitment to positive change.

This event marked a special milestone: the first official graduation hosted by Henrico's Behavioral Health Docket (BHD). In a meaningful touch, the newly unveiled program logo, designed by two of the graduates themselves, was revealed during the ceremony, symbolizing both personal and collective progress.



Specialty Docket Milestones

Congratulations to Chesterfield Veterans Docket and Western Tidewater BHD on their first graduations!

celebrate

Cheers to Roanoke Recovery Court (RC) for celebrating 35 years of impact, and to Chesterfield RC for reaching an incredible 25th anniversary!

Specialty Dockets DIMS Database

The Specialty Dockets DIMS Database (SDDD) continues to function effectively, with new users being successfully added to the system. We are pleased to see staff actively utilizing SDDD. As a reminder, the Virginia Specialty Dockets Standards require that data be kept current in the system to ensure the generation of accurate reports.

Useful Reports

Key performance indicators (KPI) give you a snapshot of your docket performance. It provides statistics of all the participants in your docket collectively. KPI reports show different statistics like the percentage of participants attending scheduled court sessions, the active participants employed, participants with stable housing, along with the number of participants having MAT.

KPI report is one of the reports that can be found in the program reports section under settings.

The Specialty Dockets Team is responsible for onboarding new users, which occurs when coordinators submit SDDD access request forms. We offer both virtual training for new users and refresher training for current users. To schedule training for your team, please reach out to Celin Job at cjob@vacourts.gov.

Staff Reports

Provides detailed information about specific participants in specific court dates. You can customize each report using report profiling in DIMS. Accuracy of staff report depends on accurate data entry in fields like journals, incentives, sanction, phase review, ancillary services, etc. Staff and docket reports can be found in DIMS settings.



ANNA POWERS, SPECIALTY DOCKETS COORDINATOR
apowers@vacourts.gov

AURIEL DIGGS, GRANTS MANAGEMENT ANALYST
adiggs@vacourts.gov

CELIN JOB, DATABASE ANALYST
cjob@vacourts.gov

DANNY LIVENGOOD, TRAINING COORDINATOR
dlivengood@vacourts.gov

LIANE HANNA, BEST PRACTICES SPECIALIST
lhanna@vacourts.gov

MONICA DIGIANDOMENICO, BEST PRACTICES SPECIALIST
mdigiandomenico@vacourts.gov

RENEE ROSALES, BUDGET ANALYST
rrosales@vacourts.gov

HEATHER BORLAND, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
hborland@vacourts.gov

