

Taylor Elected President of State Drug Court Association

The Tennessee Association of Drug Court Professionals (TADCP) has elected attorney Richard Taylor to serve as President of the statewide group.

Taylor has been affiliated with the Tennessee Public Defenders Conference since 1997. He has been involved with drug courts since 1999 and served as the Program Coordinator and Evaluator for the 23rd District Drug Court Program and the Program Manager for the Davidson County Drug Court Program. He has served TADCP in the past as a Board member and an officer, and has assisted the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs in presentations regarding program sustainability. Taylor is a past member of the Drug Court Advisory Committee. He has served as a delegate from Tennessee to Washington, D.C. for the Congress of State Drug Court Associations.



Richard Taylor

Taylor outlined his goals for the coming year. “I hope to serve the TADCP in my capacity as an officer by emphasizing the free exchange of ideas between programs and professionals, by enhancing the range of training opportunities for members working with addicted offenders, and by nurturing the present good standing of our drug court programs with all elements of the Tennessee criminal justice system, particularly with law enforcement agencies and corrections.” Taylor added, “I believe these are all critical elements of further validating therapeutic courts as cost effective and humane solutions for many of the challenges confronting criminal justice today, and if fully realized, drug court programs will economically promote public safety across our state.”

Drug courts integrate chemical dependency treatment and community resources with the criminal justice system. Drug Court participants are involved in counseling sessions to help them recover from their drug and alcohol dependency. The goal is to give these

non-violent offenders a new lease on life, with the skills to be productive, law-abiding citizens.

Drug Courts are a collaborative link between the courts, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement, probation officers, treatment providers, social service agencies, and community-based non-profit organizations.

Drug Courts have proven to be effective alternatives to expensive incarceration. The programs require strict accountability from participants through frequent in-person court hearings and intensive monitoring. Drug Courts require total abstinence from illicit and illegal drugs and alcohol.

National statistics indicate that 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after graduation. On average, Drug Courts across the country save taxpayers between \$4,000 and \$12,000 per participant by reducing the cost of trials and incarceration.

(Photo and electronic copy available by e-mail. Send request to TADCP@comcast.net)