

# Chippewa Valley Veterans Treatment Court by Judge Benjamin D. Proctor, Presiding Judge March 14, 2011

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Many veterans returning from active duty are experiencing a variety of mental health problems, including post traumatic stress disorder. This often leads to substance abuse and other criminal activity. In 2010, there were 278 people in the Eau Claire jail that said they were veterans.

Earlier this year, the Chippewa Valley Veterans Treatment Court was opened with the goal of reducing crime and helping these veterans get back on their feet.

According to **Judge Benjamin Proctor**, Presiding Judge of the Chippewa Valley Veterans Treatment Court, we owe it to our veterans to help them get healthy, stay out of trouble and become productive citizens and family members.

What makes a Veterans Court unique is that it provides trained mentors that are also veterans and from the same branch of the military. They are specialists in lots of different areas, and veterans with problems are more likely to open up and discuss these problems with other vets.

Proctor, a veteran himself, says that starting and working in the Veterans Court is a labor of love. He sees it as an exciting process that truly can and will make a difference.

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**Judge Benjamin Proctor**, Presiding Judge for the Veterans Treatment Court and **Susan Schaffer**, Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator