



Attorney General Eric Holder and National Association of Drug Court Professionals CEO West Huddleston.

Photographer: Stephanie Green/Bloomberg

Bloomberg News

Eric Holder's Gavel, Ed Whitfield, Austin Kiplinger: D.C.

By Stephanie Green on May 25, 2012

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder was at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia yesterday to offer his congratulations and encouragement to graduates of the Washington Adult Drug Court. He had a gavel given to him by West Huddleston, chief executive officer of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, who had carried it on his World War II-era BMW motorcycle for the last leg of the cross-country All Rise America! National Motorcycle Relay for Recovery.

Since 1994, the Department of Justice has supported drug courts, which now number 2,600 nationwide, as a way to get treatment rather than jail time for convicted addicts. The gavel relay began in California on the first of May, which is National Drug Court Month, with about 1,200 concerned citizens, many of them drug-court graduates and judges, hopping on motorcycles in California for the first leg. Holder told the graduates that their ceremony was just as inspiring as the Harvard Law School graduation where he was the commencement speaker this week. Huddleston explained that the relay is meant to "raise awareness and make noise. What makes more noise than a motorcycle?"

(Stephanie Green is a writer and photographer for Muse, the arts and leisure section of Bloomberg News. Any opinions expressed are her own.)