

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES**



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Grand Opening of Judiciary Café

Washington, DC - The D.C. Department on Disability Services (DDS) Randolph Shepherd Blind Vendors program today officially opened the Judiciary Café at the Judiciary Square office building located at 441, 4th St, NW. The Judiciary Square location houses several high traffic District Government agencies including the DC Office of Human Resources, the Office of Human Rights, Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining, and the Office of the Attorney General. The Judiciary Cafe is part of a complex of restaurants located on the first floor of the building and expands the lunch-time options for individuals working and visiting the Judiciary Square location.

The Judiciary Café is a snack bar operated by Brenda Beaty a licensed blind vendor in the DC Randolph Sheppard Vending Facilities Program (RSVFP). Ms. Beaty was educated in DC Public Schools and is a graduate of the Small Business Administration Certification Program sponsored by Howard University and the DC RSVFP. Licensed in 1979 as a blind vendor, Ms. Beaty has managed over ten (10) vending facilities throughout her tenure, served on the elected Blind Vendor Committee, and has been a training mentor to blind vendor trainees. Andrew Reese, Deputy Director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of DDS stated “Ms. Beaty truly embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of the Randolph Sheppard Program. We are proud of her accomplishments and the role model that she has become for all individuals with disabilities who have the desire to create their own business.”

The Randolph Sheppard Act (Act) of 1936 established the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) for placing blind entrepreneurs in lobbies of the federal office buildings. Currently, the RSVFP employs over 700 blind persons and contributes over \$758 million dollars into the United States economy. The District of Columbia RSVFP has 34 vending facilities all managed and operated by the eighteen licensed blind vendors of the program. The Judiciary Square location is the second location on District Government property following the opening of the Deanwood Café at 4058 Minnesota Avenue, NE in April 2012.

Laura Nuss, Director of the Department on Disability Services praised the efforts of the Randolph Shepherd Blind Vendors programs to continue to expand the network of vending facilities throughout the District and to provide opportunities for individuals with blindness to become successful entrepreneurs.

Persons interested in learning more about the Randolph Shepherd Blind Vendors program or other opportunities and services for individuals with disabilities should contact the Department on Disability Services at 202-730 1700 or visit the DDS website at www.dds.dc.gov.

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