

January 10, 2014

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Interpreters for all in Michigan courts

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget M. McCormack writes "Michigan's court system needs qualified foreign language interpreters to make sure all people have consistent, meaningful access to the courts. Justice requires that all parties have the ability not only to tell their side of the story, but to understand the opposing side. Interpreters make that happen. The Michigan Supreme Court's new rule requiring all courts to provide interpreters brings an urgency to the search for qualified interpreters."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Grand Rapids Legal News: Foreign language interpreters needed; Supreme Court wants non-English-speaking to have meaningful access to court system

[Full story](#)

Translation Industry News: Michigan courts seeking more interpreters after new policy requiring translation help

[Full story](#)

Foreign language interpreters needed for courts; Supreme Court seeks to ensure those who can't speak English have meaningful access to justice system

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge Leonard Townsend, tough on violent offenders, dies at 79

"As a Wayne County circuit judge, Leonard Townsend was known for issuing stiff sentences for serious felonies, and he once made waves with a controversial ruling involving former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. He loved his job.... Mr. Townsend, who retired from the bench several years ago, died Dec. 30 of complications stemming from a heart attack he had about six weeks earlier. He was 79."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Judge denies Bashara laptop, scolds his attorney

"Robert Bashara was denied a laptop in jail but could get a new lawyer in an attempt by the judge to avoid an appeal on grounds of ineffective counsel should he be convicted of first-degree murder.... [Wayne County Circuit Judge Vonda Evans] expressed concern that Bashara, 56, of Grosse Pointe Park, who is charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of his wife, Jane, isn't getting proper representation from his court-appointed attorney, Mark Procida."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Judge questions effectiveness of Bob Bashara's legal counsel

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Bashara denied laptop but may get new attorney

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Bob Bashara denied computer access in jail; judge considers removing his attorneys

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Detroit art conservators restore, repair family treasures

"Whatever you do, don't compare Ken Katz to a medical doctor. Yes, Katz, a well-known local art conservator, along with his team at Conservation and Museum Services in Detroit, fixes and restores art and antiques and comes up with treatment plans.... The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society hired Katz's team in the 1990s to restore the frames of paintings of old justices. The gold-leafed frames had been painted over with spray paint. They've also restored the frames of some paintings in the state Capitol."

[Full story](#)

The Arab American News: Mayor, city council sworn in at inauguration ceremony

"A snow emergency did not stop hundreds of locals from turning out to the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center on the evening of Thursday, January 2 to witness the inauguration ceremony of Dearborn's elected officials....Master of Ceremonies Debbie Dingell navigated through the evening's program, and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra swore in Mayor Jack O'Reilly and the seven city council members."

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Doctors prevail in dispute over blood transfusion

"Doctors can't be held liable for the death of a Detroit-area woman who turned down a blood transfusion after a troubled kidney transplant because of her religious beliefs, the Michigan appeals court said Friday. In a 3-0 decision, the court said the 'doctrine of avoidable consequences' applies in the case of Gwendolyn Rozier of Oak Park, who died in 2007 after complications from a transplant."

[Full story](#)

Bay City Times: Bay County judge exceeds guidelines in sending Bay City man who used girl as 'sex toy' to prison for up to 50 years

"A Bay County judge exceeded sentencing guidelines in sending a 41-year-old man convicted of repeatedly sexually assaulting a young girl to prison for up to 50 years. Bay County Circuit Judge Harry P. Gill on Thursday, Jan. 9, said he found substantial and compelling reasons to deviate from the sentencing guidelines of nine to 15 years in the case of Casey J. Mateos."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Tried and true: Wayne Law grad knows value of 'never giving up'

"Consider him a late bloomer. Darnell Jackson, a Saginaw Circuit Court judge, certainly had his struggles in high school, where he posted a 1.97 grade point average, barely good enough to merit a diploma from Saginaw Buena Vista. So how does he explain his eventual rise to the circuit court seat? 'Perseverance, he proclaimed."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Chief Judge Murphy shares Court of Appeals expertise nationally

"William B. Murphy's position as Chief Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals (COA) will end as of Jan. 1, 2015, but he will continue to be immersed in Chief Judge issues for years thereafter. Chief Judge Murphy was elected as 2014 treasurer of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal, the first step in a succession which will see him serving as president in 2017 and Immediate Past President the following year."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: New Michigan law exempts process servers from trespassing laws

"In Michigan, people can no longer use trespassing laws to avoid being served court papers at their doors. At the end of 2013, a new law took effect to exempt process servers from trespassing laws."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Oakland Mediation Center provides mediator training opportunities

"Anyone intrigued by the idea of being a mediator or seeking additional mediation training can come to the Oakland Mediation Center (OMC) to find a local mediation training expert. OMC offers 40-Hour Domestic and Civil Mediator Trainings as well as Advanced Mediator Training to any individual who wishes to learn and enhance their skills to help others work out their disputes.... OMC's Trainings are approved by the State Court Administrative Office and are designed to be highly interactive and skill based."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Liem announces candidacy for Circuit judge

"Ann Arbor attorney Veronique Liem has announced her candidacy for Washtenaw County Circuit Court judge. The August 5 primary for the open seat vacated by Circuit Court Judge Donald Shelton will be followed by the general election on November 4."

[Full story](#)