

January 23, 2013

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.

Valerie White of Hillsdale appointed to Attorney Grievance Commission

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Former Michigan Supreme Court justice expected to plead guilty

"Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway will find herself on the other side of the bench on Tuesday when she's likely to plead guilty to bank fraud charges related to questionable real estate transactions, legal experts say."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Hathaway due in court on fraud charge (second article)

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Former state Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway due in court next week on fraud charge

[Full story](#)

Michigan Lawyers Weekly: Judgment day looms for Hathaway: Ex-justice should face judge 'within days'

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Diane Hathaway In Court Next Week On Fraud Charge

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: Vacancy Tarnishes Michigan Supreme Court

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: What Does The Hathaway Criminal Information Actually Say?

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Southfield student hurt in chemistry class can't sue teacher

"A student whose chest and face were burned during chemistry class can't sue a teacher who lit a dish of alcohol and copper chloride, the Michigan appeals court said Wednesday. Carrie Weingartz, who was teaching chemistry for the first time in 2009, was not grossly negligent and has governmental immunity under state law as a public school employee, the court said in a 3-0 decision."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Student hurt in chemistry class can't sue teacher

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Teen foster care program gets a re-start

"In Wanda Miller's perfect world, her grassroots program to help teenagers lost in the child welfare system would produce the kind of results that make the stress, the time, the effort all worthwhile.... And, to be sure, Miller has seen her share of former students attending Kellogg Community College or holding down a solid job and she knew the effort was indeed worth it."

[Full story](#)

Bay City Times: A Bay County judge has dismissed a citizen's Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed against Bangor Township

"On Thursday, Jan. 17, Bay County Circuit Court Judge Harry P. Gill dismissed the lawsuit attorney Kim A. Higgs filed on behalf of Bangor Township resident Marti Murphy, who alleged the township illegally withheld security camera footage recorded at the township hall."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Couple asking for state's help in Brighton housing dispute

"A Northville couple is asking the state to intervene on an emergency basis to inspect their two vacant houses in downtown Brighton and grant permits to make repairs.... Meanwhile, the city has filed an appeal before the Michigan Supreme Court to challenge a recent decision. In December, a Michigan Court of Appeals ruled part of a Brighton ordinance unconstitutional."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: MLK Day

"... The [Martin Luther King Jr. Day] event included song, a panel discussion, an original skit, and a tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. Panelists Judge Shannon A. Holmes of the 36th District Court; attorney Timothy Gardner, general counsel for the Pontiac School District; and 14A District Court Judge Cedric J. Simpson discussed the rising cost of college."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: MCCA subject to FOIA; Area attorney files application for leave to appeal

"Judge Clinton Canady III said that the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association must open up records related to its financial standing, in two lawsuits filed by the Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan.... Ann Arbor attorney Joseph Erhardt, who represents the MCCA, said that the organization 'respectfully disagrees' with Canady's analysis."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Washtenaw County Legal News.

Also see:

MLive.com: Michigan's catastrophic claims fund appeals court ruling, lawmakers working on no-fault auto insurance reform

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: MCCA appeals Ingham FOIA ruling

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Tim Skubick: MCAA wants to continue raising auto insurance fees in private

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Deadline for judicial applications extended (second article)

"The deadline for interested individuals to apply for consideration to fill federal judicial vacancies on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan has been extended one week, to Feb. 1. The Judicial Advisory Committee established by Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow will accept applications through 5 p.m. EST on Friday, Feb. 1."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Detroit Legal News: Family Law 101: Panelists will focus on best practices during presentations starting Jan. 29

"... The March 19 presentation will be a discussion of settlement options, including mediation, collaborative law, attorney negotiation, Friend of the Court, and the court. Panelists will include Zumeta and Slank, as well as Washtenaw County Trial Court Judge Darlene O'Brien; attorney Naomi Woloshin; and Washtenaw Friend of the Court mediator Alan Zoltowski."

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: New Circuit Court judge receives a royal salute

"Karen McDonald, as the new judge with the Oakland County Circuit Court, knows she is walking in some big shoes, metaphorically speaking those left behind by the retired Edward Sosnick."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb County Legal News.

Grand Rapids Press: Conviction upheld in 1993 killing of Lativia Johnson, 8-year-old Grand Rapids girl

"The state Court of Appeals has upheld the second-degree murder conviction of Robert Lee Gaines II in the 1993 killing of 8-year-old Lativia Johnson, who was shot while in her kitchen getting a glass of milk."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Kent County judge rejects prosecutor's injunction to halt marijuana decriminalization in Grand Rapids

"A judge has rejected a motion for preliminary injunction against a voter initiative that decriminalizes marijuana in Grand Rapids. The decision, issued Wednesday, Jan. 23, by Kent County Circuit Judge Paul Sullivan, allows the city to implement the charter amendment decriminalizing marijuana pending final resolution of the case or other court orders."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: George Mertz named to 46th Circuit Court

"Gov. Rick Snyder appointed Gaylord resident George Mertz to the 46th Circuit Court, serving Kalkaska, Crawford and Otsego counties. The appointment fills the vacancy created by the death of Judge Dennis Murphy."

[Full story](#)

Jackson County Legal News: Juvenile case records discussed

"Rules for retaining and destroying case files and other court records in various juvenile cases--such as child protection, personal protection orders against juveniles, and juvenile delinquency--would be clarified under proposed changes to Michigan Court Rule 3.925."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Retention, destruction of juvenile case records is subject of proposed court rule change on agenda for Supreme Court Jan. 30 public hearing

[Press release](#)

Lansing State Journal: Lansing attorney Mark Canady charged with embezzling from client

"Local attorney Mark Canady has been charged with embezzling \$45,000 from a client, court records show. Canady, 51, was arraigned Tuesday in 54A District Court on one count of embezzlement, court records show."

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Seita Scholars Program Helps Foster Care Alumni

"... John Seita's a former faculty member at WMU. Against long odds he earned three degrees from the school, after he aged out of the foster care system. His story inspired a program bearing his name. Now the Seita Scholars Program helps students facing similar challenges. It's a full scholarship for people who've aged out of the foster care system."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Tim Skubick: A judge's decision on Bolger-Schmidt case could blow any chance at bipartisanship

"Despite the bruised feelings and the lingering anger that permeates the Democratic caucus yet today, you can see the possibility of Democrats putting the Right to Work angst behind them. And if you look even closer you can actually see a path toward bipartisan cooperation taking shape."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Court says Detroit Public Schools' emergency chief can stay

"The Michigan Supreme Court [last Friday] rejected a lawsuit seeking to remove the state-appointed emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools.... [Robert Davis] argued that voters' general election defeat of the state's previous emergency law meant the act that replaced it no longer existed and Roy Roberts wasn't lawfully appointed."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Nicholson to give State of the Court speech for 52nd District

"Oakland County 52nd District Court Chief Judge Julie Nicholson will deliver the annual State of the Court address to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23, in the Board of Commissioner's Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, in Pontiac."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Clean slate: Street Outreach Court offers fresh start for those at risk of homelessness

"... The Street Outreach Court (SOC) offers county residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness the chance to be relieved of unpaid fines, tickets and arrest warrants for non-violent misdemeanors.... Elizabeth Hines, 15th District Court judge for the city of Ann Arbor, came up with the idea of the SOC in 2005, with wide support from the Washtenaw County criminal justice community."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: ASKED & ANSWERED: Kim Thomas on life sentences for juveniles

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled that a U.S. Supreme Court decision that said juveniles convicted of murder can be eligible for parole should not be applied retroactively for most youths sentenced in Michigan. The ruling came in the case of Raymond Carp, a man convicted of a murder committed when he was 15."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Supreme Court Grants Cert in Michigan Habeas Case

"Even if the defendant's name wasn't Burt Lancaster this would be an attention-grabbing case. Lancaster, a former police officer with a history of mental illness, killed his girlfriend in 1994 in a Southfield shopping plaza parking lot using a gun he stole from his mother. Lancaster admitted the killing but claimed insanity and diminished capacity."

[Full story](#)