

February 23-25, 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.

The Detroit News: Michigan Court of Appeals: No-parole sentence thrown out in attack on parents in Yale

"A Michigan Court of Appeals decision in a family murder case that shook the small town of Yale could lead to a new sentence for the daughter convicted in the stabbing death of her father. Tia Skinner was charged in 2010 at age 17 for orchestrating the stabbing of her mother and father in their bedroom."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Young woman sentenced to life in father's murder may get new sentence

[Full story](#)

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Court: Tia Skinner must be re-sentenced; Could face life behind bars

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: No-parole sentence thrown out in attack on parents

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Slain Farmington woman, 29, identified as court employee

"A Farmington woman found slain in her home Sunday has been identified by police as Kaitlin Elizabeth Hehir, 29, an employee of 47th District Court in Farmington Hills.... The boyfriend is in custody and expected to face charges in the death after charges are determined by the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, Schulz said."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Police identify Farmington woman killed in domestic dispute with boyfriend

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Police: Man held in death of Farmington woman; Kaitlin Elizabeth Hehir found dead at home on Colchester

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Farmington murder victim worked at 46th [sic] District Court, case being moved because of her connection

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Detroit's chief judge pledges to redouble efforts to collect fines

"The chief judge of Detroit's 36th District Court said he is taking new steps to get hundreds of millions of dollars in uncollected fines after a state review team cited it as one of several indicators that the city has 'serious financial problems.' The Detroit-funded court has failed to collect \$279 million in traffic tickets, drunk driving violations and misdemeanor fines — with \$199 million of it owed to the city."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Financial pinch forces Detroit suburbs to scramble

"... Under Emergency Financial Manager Joyce Parker, appointed in 2009, Ecorse has recovered from a \$14.6 million deficit. The city consolidated police and fire services, merged court services with River Rouge and Lincoln Park and implemented a police and fire special assessment."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: MediSwipe cashing in on medical pot laws; Tech company looks to assist patients

"... A bill introduced last week, for example, seeks to legalize medical marijuana distribution centers. The proposal would let individual communities decide whether to allow such centers -- and where they can be located. But a Michigan Supreme Court ruling was interpreted to ban public facilities that distribute medical marijuana."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Oakland Press: Medical marijuana back in the legislature

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Press & Guide/Dearborn and the News Herald/Southgate.

Detroit Free Press: Groups back attorney's free speech against McDonald's

"Two civil rights groups requested this week that [Wayne County Circuit Judge Kathleen Macdonald] rescind her order earlier this month that clamped down on the Facebook page of a Dearborn attorney who criticized McDonald's, saying she violated his First Amendment rights."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Daily Press & Argus: Groups back attorney's free speech in Michigan McDonald's case

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Group wants Michigan judge's Facebook ruling overturned

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Group wants judge's ruling on Facebook comments overturned

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Mitch Albom: Judge Damon Keith, a man for mankind, made his mark through fairness and optimism

"... Tucked away on the second floor of the federal courthouse in Detroit, a cold monolith of concrete and steel, sits one more treasure: a treasure of a man. His name is Damon Keith. Born on the Fourth of July, he has graced this Earth for more than 90 years, nearly all of it here in Detroit."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Book excerpts: The Education of Damon Keith

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Editorial Quick Hits: Monkeying around is costly

"An Ingham County Circuit Court judge has fined the Michigan Department of Human Services \$21,000 in a discrimination lawsuit that involves a 5-foot toy ape. The toy was placed atop the cubicle of a black employee."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Commentary: Juvenile lifer ruling not retroactive

Attorney General Bill Schuette writes "Much of the debate over the U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding teenage murderers sentenced to life without parole leaves out some very important people: the murder victims."

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor.com: Judge: Case against homeowners charged with pumping 'intense' medical marijuana odor can go forward

"Ypsilanti Township's case against a man officials charge has been pumping strong medical marijuana fumes out of his house will be heard by a Washtenaw County Circuit Judge. A defense attorney for Michael Engle and Deborah Klochubar asked Judge Archie Brown to dismiss the case, but that motion was denied."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Grand Blanc attorney offering alternative business plan to keep medical marijuana dispensaries open in Burton, Flint

"Burton officials have approved a proposal from a Grand Blanc-based attorney that could set the stage for medical marijuana dispensaries to remain open in Genesee County following a recent state Supreme Court ruling regulating the way they operate."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson County medical marijuana dispensaries ordered to shut down immediately

"Medical marijuana dispensary owners were forced to close their doors this weekend after receiving a cease and desist letter from the Jackson County prosecutor. Prosecutor Jerry Jarzynka sent letters to the 18 county locations that dispense medical marijuana on Friday. In that letter he states the recent Michigan Supreme Court ruling banning patient-to-patient sales."

[Full story](#)

Jackson County Legal News: The Lincoln lawyer- Judge becomes story-telling Lincoln

"Every February, 35th District Court Judge Ron Lowe of Plymouth dons a stovepipe hat and black suit and becomes a storytelling Abraham Lincoln. And last week, he enjoyed it all the more as he spoke for the first time to law school students at a 'Dinner with Lincoln' presentation."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Siding with car wash in dispute over ice (second article)

"A car wash in the winter? Look out for ice. The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of a Pontiac car wash in a lawsuit by a customer who fell when he got out of his car to adjust the mirrors."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Court bars retrial of Michigan arson suspect (third article)

"The Supreme Court has ruled that a Michigan defendant cannot be retried for arson even though his initial acquittal was based on a judge's mistake. The court voted 8-1 Wednesday in favor of Lamar Evans, who was charged with arson after he was seen running away from a burning vacant house in Detroit with a gasoline can in his hand."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Judge draws lines over power in Detroit schools (fourth article)

"A judge says the Detroit school board has authority over academic policies, at least for the next five weeks before a new emergency manager law kicks in. The recent decision by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Annette Berry means the board and emergency financial manager Roy Roberts must talk more and work together on some key issues."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Richmond Township wins a round in Rondigo legal dispute

"The Court of Appeals last week upheld Richmond Township's prevention of owners of a farm and compost site from using two driveways that it says were improperly constructed."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Gov. Rick Snyder to appoint successor to Muskegon County Circuit Judge John C. Ruck

"Muskegon County 14th Circuit Judge John C. Ruck is retiring after nearly 17 years on the bench. Ruck's retirement will be effective March 31.... Ruck turns 70 this month. That makes him ineligible to run for a new six-year term in 2014, when his current term expires."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Melching negotiating with groups interested in purchasing Sappi site on Muskegon Lake

"... [Muskegon County Circuit Court Judge Timothy] Hicks declared the Proposal 4 vote invalid in a lawsuit Melching brought against the city of Muskegon to clear up legal issues the vote created in the property's current zoning. Voters do not have the power to rezone property in Michigan, Hicks found, pointing to a 1972 Michigan Supreme Court decision establishing that legal precedent."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Interfaith Dinner hosted

"On Tuesday, Feb. 12, Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus conducted its third annual Interfaith Dinner. Several judges and attorneys spoke about how their religion affects their practice and careers."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Judge trims 2 years off sentence in girl's slaying

"[Grand Traverse County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Power] has trimmed two years off a sentence for a young man convicted of fatally stabbing a teenage girl in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula and burying her in a sand pile.... The Michigan Court of Appeals, however, recently told Power he failed to explain why he exceeded the guidelines."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: Adultery and the Paternity Act

"... In 2011, the Michigan Legislature amended [rewrote] the Paternity Act to open the door, slightly, for an unwed biological father who sires a child with a married woman. The bachelor's parenting rights, however, are contingent upon the consent of the mother."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Appeal denied for Mark Abraitis, convicted of murdering Francine Conversa-Redburn

"The Saginaw man convicted of murdering Francine Conversa-Redburn in 2011 will not get a new trial. The Michigan Court of Appeals on Thursday, Feb. 21, denied the appeal of Mark A. Abraitis, convicted of first-degree premeditated murder in the April 25 shooting death of Conversa-Redburn, his girlfriend."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: TV Judge Greg Mathis to speak at Saginaw Valley State University for Black History Month

"Judge Greg Mathis, star of the TV show 'Judge Mathis,' will speak at Saginaw Valley State University on Tuesday, Feb. 26, as part of the school's celebration of Black History Month. A Detroit native and retired Michigan 36th District Court judge, Mathis will share 'an inspiring story of how his life transitioned from stints in and out of jail to becoming the youngest judge in the history of the State of Michigan,' according to a news release from the university."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: AT&T to donate \$20,000 to support abused children in Saginaw County courts

"AT&T Michigan will join Saginaw area families, volunteers and local lawmakers in presenting a \$20,000 contribution to help provide support for abused and neglected children in the court system, the company announced."

[Full story](#)

The State News/East Lansing: ASMSU advocates to amend student jury duty rule

"ASMSU, MSU's undergraduate student government, officials are looking to improve students' studies after passing a bill at Thursday night's general assembly meeting to postpone jury duty for full-time students."

[Full story](#)

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Schooled with the law; Mock trial tournament is a 'great educational opportunity'

"The reason why judges, lawyers, law enforcement officers and teachers give up their free time to sit in a courtroom on a Saturday in February is 'because of kids,' said Judge Cynthia Platzer.... The St. Clair County Bar Association's 2013 St. Clair County High School Mock Trial Tournament was Saturday."

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Appeals court upholds township's septage law

"A state appellate court upheld East Bay Township's septage control ordinance that requires treatment of all septic tank waste at the Grand Traverse County septage treatment plant."

[Full story](#)