

March 14, 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.

### **What's New for Trial Courts (4:42 minute video)**

State Court Administrator Chad C. Schmucker discusses Regional Offices, Judicial Conferences, and the 2013 Judicial Resources Recommendations.

[Video](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Former Jackson district judge gets probation for dismissing wife's tickets**

"A former Jackson district judge has received 18 months of probation for dismissing -- without just cause -- traffic tickets issued to his wife and court staff. James Justin pleaded guilty Feb. 5 to a reduced misdemeanor charge of neglect of duty before lawyers gave closing arguments in a felony jury trial that began a day earlier."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Associated Press: Probation for ex-judge who fixed wife's tickets**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal.

### **The MiLW Blog: Ex-Jackson judge gets 18 months probation, volunteer work**

[Full story](#)

### **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Judge Accused of Fixing Family Tickets Sentenced**

[Full story](#)

### **WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Former Judge Sentenced to Probation & Community Service**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Judge denies immediate hearing to block Detroit emergency financial manager**

"An Ingham County Circuit Court judge refused this morning to hold a hearing today on an attempt to block the appointment of an emergency financial manager for Detroit. A lawsuit seeking to block the appointment was filed March 8 by a group called Citizens United Against Corrupt Government."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Man who pleaded guilty in neglect of bedridden wife gets probation**

"A Warren man who pleaded guilty to felony neglect in the death of his bedridden, morbidly obese wife last year was sentenced Wednesday to two years of probation. Michael Brooks, 38, did not speak during or after his sentencing before Macomb County Circuit Judge Peter Maceroni."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Briefs: Judge spares husband jail in death of bedridden wife**

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: Probation for man in death of obese wife**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Oakland Press.

### **Detroit Free Press: Woman who charged police with knife is out on bond**

"A Sterling Heights woman convicted of charging at police with a knife was sentenced to prison today, but a Macomb County Circuit judge allowed her to remain out on bond pending an appeal of her case. Caroline Hocking-Sullivan, 49, was sentenced to four-20 years in prison for assault with intent to murder and two-four years for felonious assault."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Macomb Daily: Judge frees convicted woman shot by Sterling Heights cops**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Oakland Press.**

### **Associated Press: Lawyers suing epilepsy doctor can use state info**

"The Michigan appeals court says lawyers under certain conditions can use information from the state about hundreds of people who were treated by an epilepsy doctor who's the target of malpractice suits. The names were obtained by lawyers who are suing Dr. Yasser Awaad."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in WKRA News/East Lansing.**

### **Detroit Legal News: McCormack sees need for election reforms**

"Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack of Ann Arbor says she has enjoyed her first two months on the bench and reports that her new colleagues have all been warm and helpful. But she admits to being humbled recently."

[Full story](#)

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

### **Detroit Legal News: Panel recommends suspending judge for jailing defense lawyer**

"A state disciplinary board is recommending that [Hudsonville District Judge Kenneth D. Post] receive a 30-day suspension for sending a defense lawyer to jail for contempt of court."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **SBM Blog: JTC Recommends 30-Day Suspension for Judge Kenneth Post**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Asked and Answered: David Moran on Evans v. Michigan**

"The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-1 recently that Michigan cannot retry a defendant whose arson case had been thrown out by a trial judge who mistakenly required state prosecutors to prove more than they needed.... Prof. David Moran of the University of Michigan Law School represented [Lamar] Evans. In 2009, professors Moran and Bridget McCormack launched the Michigan Innocence Clinic."

[Full story](#)

### **Flint Journal: Flint's Eric Mays ordered to pay fines after conviction, says he'll appeal**

"Flint man convicted of a misdemeanor charge of disrupting a public meeting is appealing his conviction in hopes that he'll be able to use evidence that wasn't allowed in his February trial.... [Genesee District Court Judge Mark] McCabe heard the case because all the other Flint District Court Judges recused themselves."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Business Journal: Kent County 17th Circuit Court specialized business court pilot takes off**

"Initial results from the Kent County 17th Circuit Court's 10 month long specialized business court pilot program indicate that the courts is achieving its intended purpose. The 17th Circuit Court was one of three courts involved in the pilot program. Oakland and Macomb counties also participated."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Press: Woman sentenced to possible 90 years behind bars for brutal stabbing in Grand Rapids cemetery**

"A 34-year-old woman convicted in the June 2012 stabbing death of Robert Shields at Oak Hill cemetery will be nearly 65 before she has any chance at freedom. Christina Kipkorir pleaded guilty to second-degree murder this year and was sentenced on Thursday, March 14, to a minimum of 30 years and as many as 90 years behind bars."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Press: Grand Rapids police system scans license plates, searches for scofflaws**

"... The city has installed Automated License Plate Recognition equipment that continuously scans license plates of parked cars, and traffic in front of and behind a patrol car.... The license plates will be run through police databases, as well as Grand Rapids District Court, and the city's treasury and income tax departments."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Michigan Supreme Court enters electronic age**

"... Starting with oral arguments the first week of March, it is now possible to follow Court hearings through live streaming via the Internet. With a click of the mouse or a swoosh or tap of a finger, the courtroom appears on the screen."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: McCormack recipient of Purple Sport Coat Award at Tertzag dinner**

"... Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack was the 2013 recipient of the Purple Sport Coat Award. It was presented to her by last year's recipient, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge David J. Allen. She is the first woman to receive the award.... Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra was the keynote speaker at the event."

[Full story](#)

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

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson judge sentences man to 29 1/2 to 50 years in prison for sexually molesting young girl**

"Guilty of repeatedly sexually molesting the young daughter of his former girlfriend, Daniel Mix will be in his 70s before he has a chance at parole. Even then, Circuit Judge Thomas Wilson said he hopes the parole board lets Mix sit."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson County Legal News: 'It's a life-changer' Jackson County Recovery Court celebrates largest graduation class**

"During Friday's Recovery Court graduation ceremony at the Jackson County Courthouse, a woman in the rear of the courtroom stood up and reminded the graduates how lucky they were.... Last week, 16 men and women graduated from the program--the highest number since Recovery Court was established in Jackson in 2004."

[\*Full story\*](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: WSU professor honored for First Amendment law work**

“Former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly will moderate an event at Wayne State University Law School on Wednesday, March 20 honoring Distinguished Professor Robert Sedler’s work on First Amendment law. The event, set from 4-6 p.m. March 20 with a reception to follow, is free and open to the public.”

[\*Full story\*](#)

### **SBM Blog: Formal Judicial Tenure Commission Complaint Filed Against Judge Wade McCree**

“[The complaint] asks the Michigan Supreme Court to appoint a special master. The complaint arises from an affair Judge McCree had with a woman, Geniene La'Shay Mott, who was a complaining witness seeking child support in a case before him.”

[\*Full story\*](#)