

March 16-18, 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.

Detroit Free Press: Snyder to fill circuit court judicial vacancy (second article)

"Gov. Rick Snyder plans to fill a vacancy on the Macomb County Circuit Court bench after appointing Judge David Viviano to the Michigan Supreme Court.... Viviano replaced Justice Diane Hathaway, who retired in January amid a scandal over a short sale of her Grosse Pointe Park home. Visiting judges are filling in until an appointment is made to the Macomb bench."

[*Full story*](#)

Detroit Free Press: Appointment of emergency financial manager for Detroit challenged in court

"Legal challenges are pending to Thursday's appointment of an emergency financial manager for Detroit, and an activist said Friday a new Michigan Court of Appeals opinion is helpful to one of his cases.... The Court of Appeals released an opinion Friday upholding a \$332,837 judgment against former Highland Park emergency financial manager Arthur Blackwell II, who was sued by the loan board in 2009 for breach of contract, conversion of funds and breach of fiduciary duty."

[*Full story*](#)

Detroit Free Press: Business briefs: People (third article)

"Paula Manderfield, a retired Ingham County Circuit Court judge, has joined law firm Fraser Trebilcock as a shareholder in its Lansing office. Manderfield retired at the end of 2012 after 20 years on the bench."

[*Full story*](#)

The Detroit News: Michigan courts making switch to electronic filing, paperless services

"Courts across Michigan are abandoning the use of paper for the convenience of electronic filing or e-filing documents, with Macomb County Circuit Court making a big push to go digital. The switch means improved court employee productivity, shorter lines at county clerk's offices and cost savings for personnel and storage for courts, the legal community and the public."

[*Full story*](#)

Also see:

The News-Herald/Southgate: Wayne County happy with e-filing at court (second article)

[*Full story*](#)

The Detroit News: Worthy, Ficano feud over funding for Wayne Co. prosecutor's office

"The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office is losing a sizable number of its investigative and judicial staff as a result of budget constraints.... The impact of the layoffs includes 36th District courtrooms not being fully covered, delays in felonies being charged, stalled major investigations and backlogs in the unit that produces warrants for the homicide and special victims units, [Wayne County Prosecutor Kym] Worthy said."

[*Full story*](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County prosecutors argue layoffs will threaten public safety

[*Full story*](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Wayne County prosecutor says cuts endanger public safety

[*Full story*](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Memorial bookaroos 'Saddle Up to Read'

"... [Teacher Michele] Woodard and Teacher Maryann Brewer put their heads together to come up with this year's reading month activities. It kicked off with a reading rodeo and the administering of the reading oath by 21st District Court Judge Richard Hammer Jr."

[*Full story*](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Islamic association leader says Eagle will not be sold

"... The Michigan Supreme Court ruled in early February that it would not hear an appeal from plaintiffs Mel Sternfeld and Eugene Greenstein against the school district's sale to the Islamic Cultural Association, which is led by [Dr. Nabil] Suliman. But the court also gave the plaintiffs, represented by attorney Robert Davis, 21 days to again ask the high court to reconsider its ruling. The 21-day window passed more than a week ago."

[*Full story*](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Honoring those who help keep the peace in school

"The Resolution Center has dispatched a sort of peace squad to various Macomb County high schools and the results, according to center director Craig Pappas, are exciting.... Because of the results [the Restorative Justice and Peer Mediation Team members have] achieved, they are being honored this month with the center's Conflict Resolution Advocacy Award."

[*Full story*](#)

The Macomb Daily: Appeals court reverses Shelby Township victory

"The state appeals court ruled against Shelby Township in overturning a 2009 jury verdict in the township's legal battle with its former technology company. The Michigan Court of Appeals on March 5 nixed a Macomb County jury's award of about \$2,100 for the township and instead ordered a judgment in favor of Technology Integration Group Services Inc. (TIGS)."

[*Full story*](#)

The Macomb Daily: Macomb Township moves court issue back to front burner

"Macomb Township officials wasted little time moving ahead with plans that could lead to construction of a building to house the 41A District Court in their community.... The 41A District Court serves Shelby and Macomb townships and the city of Utica. The court is housed in a building along Van Dyke north of 23 Mile Road in Shelby Township."

[*Full story*](#)

Midland Daily News: Appeals court: Conviction in 2009 fatal crash stands

"The Court of Appeals has affirmed the conviction of a Midlander found guilty of causing the death of his ex-wife in a 2009 crash on Bay City Road. Lewis Clifton Henderson, 57, is serving a prison sentence of 12 to 20 years for operating while intoxicated and causing the death of Kelly Shawn Deering, 49, Midland."

[*Full story*](#)

Midland Daily News: AT&T donates \$20,000 to support CASA program

"AT&T Michigan recently presented a \$20,000 contribution to support the Great Lakes Bay Children's Advocacy Network's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program that trains and equips volunteers to serve vulnerable Saginaw County children in need of foster care."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: "Super Probation" program planned for Gratiot County

"After successfully applying for a grant, Gratiot and Clinton counties' circuit courts are planning a new program to help people stay out of prison. It's been called, 'Super Probation,' and it's for felons on probation who are at risk of being sent back to prison, said Gratiot and Clinton County Circuit Court Judge Michelle Rick."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Baby Kate prosecutor: Sean Phillips trial was handled fairly despite appeal

"Mason County Prosecutor Paul Spaniola is confident the Baby Kate unlawful imprisonment case against Sean Michael Phillips was handled properly. 'I worked very diligently to ensure that Mr. Phillips received a fair trial and a just result,' Spaniola said Friday, March 15, in response to news accounts of a brief filed by attorneys appealing Phillips' conviction and sentencing."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon trial that was halted midstream in severe stabbing case to resume

"The trial of James Allen Tomas for assault with intent to murder, which came to a highly unusual halt March 7 just before jury deliberations should have started, will resume this week after a Michigan Court of Appeals ruling favoring the prosecution. Tomas, 51, is on trial for stabbing another man July 4, 2012, during a party at Tomas' home."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Cooley Law students help teens run their own court in Ypsilanti

"... [Dean Joan] Vestrand worked on setting up such a court in Ypsilanti High School using a template of sort from the Lansing Teen Court, and then introduced it to YHS administrators. The Student Court not only gives high school students the chance to consider careers in law, it lets them see a thoughtful way of handling conflict."

[Full story](#)