

April 6-8, 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.

Ethics charges against Wayne County judge to be heard by Michigan Supreme Court in oral arguments this week

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Reform for sign language interpreter rules criticized

"In April 2005, a deaf Roseville woman confessed to police to killing her boyfriend without knowing she had a legal right to have a lawyer present and remain silent through an interpreter. The Michigan Supreme Court later tossed out the confession, concluding Mary Ann McBride's unqualified interpreter failed to communicate through sign language McBride's Miranda rights."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Probe sought of judge's 'inappropriate comments' to female staff

"Midland County court officials have asked Michigan's judicial disciplinary board to investigate a judge accused of making 'inappropriate comments' to some female court employees."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Probe sought of judge's comments to female staff

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.

Midland Daily News: Judges confirm Hart investigation; Daily News FOI request denied by county

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Farmington Hills lawyer to help businesses, unions navigate right-to-work laws

"As the state implements Michigan's controversial right-to-work laws, Travis Calderwood is the man tasked with communicating how the new policies will affect business owners, labor leaders and workers statewide.... During law school, Calderwood had an internship as a clerk in the Michigan Court of Appeals, serving under Brian Zahra, who now is a Michigan Supreme Court justice."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: Michigan's right-to-work specialist 'not here to pick sides'; State attorney vows fairness in enforcing right to work

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Press & Argus.

The Daily Tribune: More courts use cameras to charge distant prisoners

"Macomb County is partnering with the state to expand its video arraignment technology to other jurisdictions, reducing the need to transport criminals from jails to courtrooms. Sheriff Anthony Wickersham said that video arraignment of defendants who are being held outside county borders is safer and cost-effective."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily.

Grand Rapids Press: Grand Rapids marijuana dispensary remains open while owner fights recent arrest, drug charges

"Dave Overholt will fight his case all the way to the Michigan Supreme Court if he must. The founder of the Mid-Michigan Compassion Club and a strong advocate of the state's medical marijuana program, Overholt said his recent arrest and the charges against him could clarify Michigan's law once they are dismissed."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Obituaries Today: Albert J. Engel, 89, federal judge who presided over Grand Rapids schools integration lawsuit

"Distinguished jurist Albert Engel, who presided over a lawsuit that sought the integration of Grand Rapids schools before a 28-year stint on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, died on April 5, 2013, at age 89."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Former 6th Circuit judge dies at 89

[Full story](#)

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Teen's murder conviction upheld; State appeals court tells Berrien court to resentence Eliason in light of U.S. Supreme Court ruling on parole

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has affirmed the first-degree murder conviction of Dakotah Eliason, who is serving a mandatory life prison term for the 2010 slaying of his sleeping stepgrandfather in a house near Buchanan. Eliason was 14 when he shot and killed Jesse 'Pappa' Miles."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Court ruling may allow Cooley critic to remain anonymous

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled that an anonymous critic of Thomas M. Cooley Law School should get another crack at convincing an Ingham County judge to keep his real name out of the public record."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Ingham Co. judge featured in national documentary (second article)

"Ingham County Judge Tom Boyd is featured in a national documentary film. Boyd is the chief judge of the 55th District Court, which covers Ingham County except Lansing and East Lansing. The film, 'Defending Gideon,' was released last month on the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, issued March 18, 1963."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Warren-Detroit kidnapping, murder upheld by appeals court

"... The state Court of Appeals affirmed the Macomb County murder, kidnapping and weapons convictions of Herbert J. Witherspoon III, who was among four men — including his cousin, Kenneth — who stormed a Warren home at night in January 2008 and abducted Rico White, Samantha Wright, and her two children, one fathered by White."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: WLAM names King, Coleman award winners

"Former Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly and Lorraine Weber, executive director of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation, have received awards from the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Circuit court judges in Kent, Ottawa counties will begin hearing 'business court' cases in July

"A pair of trial court judges in Kent and Ottawa counties will begin hearing special docket cases related to business disputes this summer after being appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court this week. Judge Jon Van Allsburg of Ottawa County 20th Circuit Court, and Judge Christopher Yates of Kent County 17th Circuit Court were among 18 Michigan judges assigned to the new special 'business courts' enabled under 2012 legislation. In Muskegon County, Judge Neil G. Mullally was appointed."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

"Business Court" judge assignments announced by Michigan Supreme Court

[Press release](#)

Saginaw News: Convictions upheld for Saginaw man who shot man on Christmas after cigarette refusal

"A Saginaw man will continue serving a 30-plus-year sentence for a Christmas Day 2010 shooting after the Michigan Court of Appeals upheld his convictions. Appellate judges Jane E. Markey, Christopher M. Murray, and William C. Whitbeck last month upheld a jury's December 2011 verdict against Simmion M. Brown."

[Full story](#)