

April 9, 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 Macomb Daily: State Supreme Court to hear Macomb molestation case

"The Michigan Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Wednesday in a key issue in a child sexual molestation case against the operator of a former Fraser day care center and her husband. The top court will hear from appellate prosecuting and defense attorneys in the case of Stanley Duncan, 66, and his estranged wife, Vita, 63."

Full story

MLive.com: Wayne County judge contends 180-day suspension for lying under oath, forgery

"Wayne County Circuit Judge Deborah Ross Adams is contending findings that she signed her attorney's name on court documents without permission and lied under oath. The Michigan Supreme Court is hearing the challenge that Adams brought forth against the state Judicial Tenure Commission after it issued a recommendation she be suspended for 180 days."

Full story

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: MSC to hear ethics charges against Wayne County judge

Full story

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Ethics charges against Wayne County judge to be heard in oral arguments this week

Full story

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

Press release

Crain's Detroit Business: EDITORIAL: Biz courts will speed process, save money

"At last, Michigan will have a system of business courts that focus solely on business cases.... Wayne, Washtenaw, Macomb and Monroe counties each now has a specific judge assigned to the business docket. In Oakland's case, two judges -- James Alexander and Wendy Potts -- were assigned."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Foster leads circuit, probate and business courts

"Macomb County Circuit Court Judge John C. Foster has been appointed chief judge of that bench as well as Macomb County Probate Court and, at the same time, has been selected to preside over the county's 'business court.' Michigan Supreme Court justices elevated Foster to the chief judgeship in a unanimous vote that took effect April 3."

Full story

Also see:

"Business Court" judge assignments announced by Michigan Supreme Court

Press release

Detroit Legal News: Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference set for April 24-26

"Every three years appellate justices, judges, practitioners and court staff come together at the Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference to share information on appellate advocacy. The conference this year will be held April 24-26 at the Inn of St. John's in Plymouth."

Full story

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Bench Bar Conference coming April 24-26

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Judge Lightvoet named to Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review by MSC

"Hon. Pamela L. Lightvoet, a judge of the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court, has been appointed to the Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review by the Michigan Supreme Court.... [Judge Lightvoet] was appointed to a term ending March 31, 2017.... The Court also reappointed court reporter Denise M. Kizy of Beverly Hills and court recorder Bonnie L. Rozema of Byron Center. Both will serve terms ending March 31, 2017."

Full story

Also see:

Judge Pamela L. Lightvoet of Kalamazoo Circuit Court named to Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review by Michigan Supreme Court Reappointed: Denise M. Kizy of Beverly Hills, Bonnie L. Rozema of Byron Center

Press release

Detroit Legal News: Michigan courts taking case management into 'Next Gen'

"The Michigan Supreme Court, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), and its Judicial Information Systems division (JIS) continue to implement technological renovations to Michigan courts that are expected to produce long-term dividends for the judiciary."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Ingham County Legal News, the Muskegon County Legal News, and the Oakland County Legal News.

Bay City Times: Bay City man pleads no contest in 2009 sexual assault case the day trial was to begin

"After four years of litigation that saw the Michigan Supreme Court intervene, a Bay City man charged with sexually assaulting a girl accepted a plea offer the day his trial was to begin.... In pleading no contest, [Richard] Pullen did not state his guilt. The court will treat him as guilty for purposes of sentencing."

Full story

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: Judge orders cooperation in Adrian Steel dispute

"A judge told attorneys to stop putting up roadblocks to a review of financial information in a dispute over Adrian Steel stock values. 'I thought I made it really clear I wanted everything turned over,' Lenawee County Circuit Judge Margaret M.S. Noe said at a hearing Monday."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Probe sought of judge's 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

Detroit Legal News: Nationally Renowned Women's/Civil Rights Advocate to speak at Book Cadillac, April 12 (second article)

"... Other distinguished speakers on the agenda include Senator Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Rebekah Warren, Mr. Bruce Courtade, State Bar of Michigan, and Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly. Justice Kelly joins Judge Marianne Battani, Judge Cylenthia LaToye-Miller, and Judge Angela Sherigan on our Past-President's Judges Panel."

Full story

Dowagiac Daily News: Court of appeals affirms Eliason decision, orders resentencing

"The Michigan Court of Appeals last week affirmed the first-degree murder conviction of Dakotah Eliason, a Niles boy serving life in prison for killing his grandfather. The court of appeals, in Thursday's ruling, also said Eliason would be resentenced on the first-degree murder conviction."

Full story

Also see:

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Mich. Court of Appeals affirms Eliason conviction

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Court of Appeals affirms grandson's conviction

Full story

Grand Rapids Press: Obituary: Judge Albert Engel

"The Honorable Albert J. Engel, Jr., 89, passed away on April 5, 2013 from complications of lung cancer.... [I]n 1966, [he] won election to an open Circuit Court Judge post in Muskegon County. In 1970, President Nixon nominated him for Federal District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, and he was unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate in December of that year."

Full story

Hometown Life Newspapers: Men get jail time in theft of Garden City judge's snow blower

"Two Ypsilanti men have been sentenced to jail after pleading no contest to a charge that they stole a snow blower from the home of a Garden City judge. The charges filed against brothers Justin Burton, 21, and Austin Burton, 19, were heard in Westland's 18th District Court by Judge Mark McConnell. Garden City 21st District Court Judge Richard Hammer Jr. was the victim in the case and recused himself due to conflict of interest."

Full story

HOM TV/Okemos: Courts Are Going Paperless (see video: 18:22-19:28 minute mark)

"Courts across Michigan are looking to go paperless. Instead of dealing with things like tickets, court related documents and filing complaints in the clerk's office, people may be able to handle those things online."

Full story

Ingham County Legal News: Spencer Abraham addresses students

"Former U.S. Secretary of Energy and former United States Senator Spencer Abraham spoke during the 59th Annual National Conference of Law Reviews on March 21.... Some of the speakers at the program included: ... U.S. Supreme Court; Judge Richard F. Suhrheinrich, senior judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; Justice Stephen J. Markman, Michigan Supreme Court; Judge Jane Markey, Michigan Third District Court of Appeals."

Full story

The Macomb Daily Judge to rule on judge girlfriend's drunken driving case

"A judge will decide by the end of the week whether to toss out key evidence in the drunken driving arrest of a Macomb County judge's girlfriend while he and two of his minor children were in the vehicle. Judge Debra Nance of 46th District Court in Southfield said she will issue a decision 'by Friday' in the case against Brenda Conway, 50, of Troy, girlfriend of Macomb Circuit Judge Richard Caretti."

Full story

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

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County Veterans Court marks one year

"... [Jeffrey] Whitty, 40, who works full time, early this year gained entry into the Macomb County Veterans Treatment Court, a specialized probationary program for military veterans charged with one or more felonies. Whitty is among 23 participants in the court, which started one year ago this month with just three, and was one of the first of its kind in the state."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Detroit-area attorney honored by WLAM

"Lorraine H. Weber will receive the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan's prestigious Jean King award during WLAM's 95th annual conference Friday, April 12 in Detroit.... In August 2009, she was appointed the first Michigan Supreme Court Director of Access and Fairness."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Legal People

"Matthew Schneider, the Michigan Supreme Court's chief of staff and general counsel, has been recognized as a 'Leader in the Law' by Michigan Lawyers Weekly."

Full story

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

Macomb County Legal News: WMU and Cooley consider formal alliance

"Western Michigan University and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School are discussing the possibility of a stronger alliance that would create a formal affiliation between the two schools. Officials say the initiative would build on more than a decade of cooperation that has led to a number of joint degree programs and shared facility initiatives in Grand Rapids and Lansing."

Full story

The MiLW Blog: COA: Wrong party, wrong case puts \$2M+ probate dispute back to square one

"... The Michigan Court of Appeals recently dealt with in a barn-burner involving a western Michigan ranch and a brother-sister dispute concerning repayment of loans their now-deceased father made to the ranch."

Full story

The MiLW Blog: Tougher sign language interpreter rules on the horizon

"In an effort to prevent interpreter mistakes, new certification rules in Michigan will require sign language interpreters to either be nationally certified or pass a state exam.... The Michigan Supreme Court ultimately tossed out [Mary Ann McBride's] confession, finding that her unqualified interpreter failed to communicate her Miranda rights through sign language."

Full story

Muskegon County Legal News: Honorable John C. Ruck retires; The changing face of the 14th Circuit

"The courtroom was packed with standing room only on March 27, 2013, as the Honorable John C. Ruck was honored by his peers and associates. Ruck's retirement follows closely on the heels of retiring circuit court judge James M. Graves, Jr., at the end of 2012."

[Full story](#)

The National Law Journal: Cooley Law loses bid to unmask online critic on appeal

"A Michigan trial court erred when it allowed the Thomas M. Cooley Law School to unmask an anonymous Internet critic, an intermediate state appeals court has ruled. The decision by the Michigan Court of Appeals was the latest in the saga of the blogger known by the handle Rockstar05 and his former school — Cooley — which is suing him for defamation."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Convictions upheld for Saginaw woman who assaulted, tortured mentally disabled man

"A judge did not err in the trial of a Saginaw woman convicted of torturing and assaulting a mentally disabled man, the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled.... [Henretta] Little, now 31, was convicted of torture, kidnapping, and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and was sentenced to 18 years and nine months to 41 years and eight months in prison."

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Stewart Supreme Court appeal denied

"Douglas Harrie Stewart's appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court on his conviction in the death of his estranged wife Venus was denied on April 1, according to attorney Susan Meinberg of the State Appellate Defender Office who represented Stewart on the appeal."

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Trial date set for Wayne County Judge Wade McCree; McCree accused of misconduct; admits having sex in his court chambers

"A Wayne County judge who has admitted to having sex with a woman in his chambers will go to trial May 20 in Washtenaw County Circuit Court. The Michigan Tenure Commission announced the court date Tuesday afternoon."

[Full story](#)