

April 13-15, 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.

Macomb County Legal News: High court justices take to the road once again

“Law Day”— the annual May 1 celebration of the rule of law in the United States — is scheduled early this year in Midland with a visit by the justices of the Michigan Supreme Court. The court will hold oral argument at the Midland Center for the Arts on Wednesday, April 17.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Law Day comes early to Midland: Michigan Supreme Court to visit April 17

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan judge holds self in contempt for his smartphone

“A Michigan judge whose smartphone disrupted a hearing in his own courtroom has held himself in contempt and paid \$25 for the infraction.... Judge Raymond Voet has a posted policy at Ionia County 64A District Court. It states that electronic devices causing a disturbance during court sessions will result in the owner being cited with contempt.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Ionia County judge holds self in contempt for his smartphone

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Judge holds self in contempt for his smartphone

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal, Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor, and the Times Herald/Port Huron.

Grand Rapids Press: Phone faux pas; Michigan judge fines himself \$25 when cellular device sounds during trial

[Full story](#)

Ionia Sentinel-Standard: Judge imposes fine on self for cell phone mishap; Judge Raymond Voet holds self in contempt of court, pays \$25 fine

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Ionia judge fines himself \$25 when his cellphone goes off at trial

[Full story](#)

ABA Journal/Chicago, IL: Oops. Judge holds himself in contempt when his own cellphone rings during court hearing

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Convicted grandma asks for short prison term in grandson's shooting

“A 75-year-old West Bloomfield woman convicted of killing her teen grandson is asking for just a year in custody for murder, on top of a mandatory two-year prison sentence for using a gun. Sandra Layne's attorney filed the request this week ahead of her sentencing April 18.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Attorney asks for light sentence for grandma guilty of murder

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Religious Liberty

"The Michigan Chapter and Wayne State University Law School Chapter of the American Constitution Society (ACS) presented 'With Religious Liberty for All: A Defense of the Affordable Care Act's Contraception Coverage Mandate' on Monday, March 18, at the Detroit offices of Miller Canfield.... Welcoming [Frederick] Gedicks to the program were Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Douglas Shapiro [among others.]"

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: April 16 event to aid RESTORE Foundation

"The RESTORE Foundation, which provides private funding support for the drug court programs in Oakland County, will be among the beneficiaries of a special dinner event Tuesday, April 16 at the soon-to-be-open Café ML in Birmingham."

[Full story](#)

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

Grand Rapids Press: Medical marijuana: Authorities target dispensaries after Michigan Supreme Court ruling

"Medical marijuana dispensaries in Grand Rapids have come under fire after a state Supreme Court ruling appears to have outlawed the businesses.... The latest legal blockade to medical marijuana dispensaries in Michigan is a February ruling by the Michigan Supreme Court in a Mt. Pleasant case."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Family, friends to celebrate the life of Farmington area district Judge Margaret Schaeffer

"Family and friends will celebrate the life of longtime former 47th District Judge Margaret Schaeffer at a memorial service at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Schaeffer, 92, passed away April 11 at her Farmington Hills home where she lived for 62 years."

[Full story](#)

Jackson County Legal News: Assembly will address justice selection, rules

"Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly will be talking about the selection of high court justices at the April 27 State Bar Representative Assembly meeting."

[Full story](#)

Jackson County Legal News: A tale of two kidneys: Michigan Supreme Court orders arguments in med-mal case

"The Michigan Supreme Court is considering whether to review a case that raises the issue of whether a medical-malpractice plaintiff can be compensated for the loss of a kidney when her other kidney is still functioning."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Ionia County board studies clerk staffing request

"The Ionia County Board of Commissioners listened to a proposal to add a full-time staff member in the county clerk's office, but chose to study the proposal further. The proposal was presented by Ionia County Clerk Tonda Rich and was based on recommendations from a management analysis of the clerk's office conducted by the State Court Administrative Office last November."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Government wasted \$835 million on overbuilt courthouses

"The federal government built out more courthouse space than the entire U.S. judiciary could use, according to the Government Accountability Office. All those wasted taxpayer dollars could have paid for nine additional federal courthouses."

[Full story](#)

Legal Newsline: Michigan appeals court rules mortgage registry's role is valid

"A three-judge panel of the Michigan Court of Appeals recently affirmed a lower court's decision in favor of the national mortgage registry known as MERS and three other defendants. The appeals court, in its unpublished decision Jan. 29, dismissed a five-count wrongful foreclosure complaint against the Virginia-based company, PHH Mortgage Corporation, Trott & Trott PC and the Federal National Mortgage Association, aka Fannie Mae."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Child Welfare Appellate Clinic to open in fall

"... Officials in Wayne County, where the majority of Michigan's parental rights terminations take place, received the prospect of working with Michigan Law students warmly. The Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Court Administrator's Office also were supportive of the idea."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Revamp of high court review standard may be foregone conclusion

"Last week, we told you that the Michigan Supreme Court was considering a court rule amendment that would raise the bar for litigants' motions seeking rehearing or reconsideration in the MSC. This would be accomplished by the Court's adoption, for itself, the post-appeal review standard that applies to the Michigan Court of Appeals, as contained in MCR 2.119(F)(3)."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: Clare court ignores rules, keeps key murder file secret

"Even the most basic details of the January murder of a Harrison man are suppressed, hidden away in closed court files in the magistrate's office at 80th District Court in Harrison, which serves Clare and Gladwin counties."

[Full story](#)

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

The Morning Sun: States line up in favor of federal adoption law

"The U.S. Supreme Court this week will hear an emotional family challenge to longstanding federal law on the adoption of Native American children, with several states, tribes and children's welfare groups lining up to support the current rules.... 18 states have signed onto a brief supporting the federal law [including Michigan.]"

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Appeal denied for Pontiac man convicted of murder in Waterford

"A Pontiac man who maintained his innocence after being convicted of murder has had his appeal denied by the Michigan Court of Appeals. Rolando Flores Jr., 33, was sentenced to life in prison in February 2012 in the stabbing death of John Ledbetter."

[Full story](#)

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Foster children create art in hopes of finding a family

“Next month is National Foster Care Month, so today foster children, served by St. Vincent Catholic Charities, gathered at Arts Unlimited in Okemos to paint art work for next month's Adoption Art Exhibit. The event will be an opportunity for foster children to share their artwork, in hopes of finding a family.”

[Full story](#)