

May 23, 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: Report: Detroit's 36th District Court millions over budget, may need new leadership**

"A stinging review of Detroit's 36th District Court describes a judicial system in crisis — with a projected budget overrun of millions of dollars and unacceptable delays in pending cases — and concludes the court may need new leadership to lead it out of the financial mess."

[Full story](#)

### **Ann Arbor.com: Graduates of Ann Arbor's sobriety court program give thanks for fresh start in life**

"... Jon G. is one of three graduates of the sobriety court in Ann Arbor's 15th District Court who shared their personal stories of getting clean and sober Wednesday at a rally as part of National Drug Court Month.... The National Association of Drug Court Professionals has decided to celebrate National Drug Court Month with a 3,500-mile tour from California to New York City — with 26 stops along the way — and the rally in front of the 15th District Court served as one of those stops. The event highlighted both the sobriety court Judge Joe Burke oversees, and the new veterans treatment court Judge Chris Easthope oversees."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Drug courts hold second annual Cross State Relay for Recovery**

[Full story](#)

### **WTVS-TV(56)/Detroit: Upcoming: Veterans Help on the Homefront Sunday May 26, 2 p.m.**

"... The documentary also focuses on the work of Oakland County Judge Brian MacKenzie who provides veterans' with assistance through his Veterans Court.... The program will debut on-air Sunday, May 26 at 2 p.m. on Detroit Public Television, WTVS."

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Michigan high court's medical marijuana ruling a 'big shakeup', attorney says**

"Medical marijuana patients can't be prosecuted for merely driving with the drug in their system, the state Supreme Court has ruled.... In a unanimous opinion released Tuesday, the court overturned an appeals court decision in the case of a Grand Traverse County man."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Lansing State Journal: Michigan high court's medical marijuana ruling a 'big shakeup', attorney says**

[Full story](#)

\*\* The article is available by subscription only.

### **Oakland County Legal News: Driver who uses medical marijuana wins appeal**

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland Press Blog: Driving Under the Influence of Medical Marijuana**

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record Eagle: Victory for medical marijuana patients**

[Full story](#)

## **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Attorney Says Supreme Court Ruling Could Help Change Marijuana Law**

[Full story](#)

## **WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Court Rules Driving After Smoking Medical Marijuana Not Necessarily a Crime**

[Full story](#)

## **Detroit Legal News: Asked and Answered: Chad C. Schmucker on Judges' Salaries**

"Michigan's judges have not had a raise since 2002 while inflation has increased by nearly 20 percent over the same period. It's not unheard of for new associates at larger firms to take home salaries exceeding those of judges.... Chad Schmucker is State Court Administrator of Michigan and a former Circuit Court judge for the 4th Circuit Court."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Detroit Legal News: Commission suggests 3% raise for judges**

[Full story](#)

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

## **Detroit Legal News: Family Joint**

"The Family Court Annual Joint Meeting of the Oakland County Bar Association Family Court Committee and the Wayne County Family Law Bar Association took place on Wednesday, May 15, at Regency Manor in Southfield. Among those gathering for the meeting were ... Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen McCarthy, Family Division; ... Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Joan Young, Family Division; [among others.]"

[Full story](#)

## **Ingham County Legal News: Business courts will debut in July**

"Governor Snyder recently signed into law a bill creating a special business court docket for business and commercial disputes where the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000. Circuit courts, such as Ingham County, which have three or more judges, are required to establish a business court. A request was sent out to the Ingham County Circuit judges seeking someone to take on the task. Hon. Joyce Draganchuk answered the call."

[Full story](#)

## **Ingham County legal News: SBM calls for end to age discrimination for Judges**

"The SBM Representative Assembly approved a resolution calling for SBM Representative Assembly Calls for End to Age Discrimination for Judges an end to Michigan's constitutional prohibition of appointment or election to judicial office of lawyers over the age of 70 at its April 27 meeting in Lansing."

[Full story](#)

## **Macomb County Legal News: Former chief justice to students: Ethics is the key**

"`Ethics, integrity and credibility are the keys to successful public service whether appointed or elected and is the key to being an outstanding lawyer,' said former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice and Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, speaking to a large group of lawyers, students and professors gathered in the Cooley Center Lobby [on May 10.]"

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: 'Comic book' murder figure loses appeal**

"A former Clinton Township comic book store owner convicted twice for the murder of his wife has lost his fight for a new trial after the Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed his conviction. Michael George is serving life in prison without parole after his second first-degree murder conviction in 2011 for the 1990 shooting death of his 32-year-old wife, Barbara, inside of their Comics World store in Clinton Township."

[Full story](#)

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

### **The MiLW Blog: High court issues revised e-filing orders**

"Judges may still require paper copies of e-filed documents in certain circumstances, according to a series of orders issued May 22 by the Michigan Supreme Court. The orders give judges the authority, effective immediately, to require litigants to provide a paper copy of dispositive motions that have been e-filed."

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: Juvenile programs helping court save money**

"The Midland County Probate Court has saved nearly \$3 million in the past several years and the county's delinquency rate has fallen — and Judge Dorene S. Allen attributes it to various new programs that were implemented in 2008, albeit with some resistance."

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Michigan Supreme Court: Auto insurers have reduced liability for injury expenses**

"Auto insurers have a reduced burden under Michigan's no-fault insurance law after a Michigan Supreme Court decision handed down Thursday which excludes 'ordinary' expenses from compensation. The 4-1 decision in *Admire v. Auto-Owners Insurance Company* makes insurers only responsible for expenses directly related to an injured person's care or recovery and exempts payments for the kinds of expenses the injured person would have even if uninjured."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon attorney Terry Nolan expected to plead guilty to cocaine use**

"Terry Joel Nolan, one of Muskegon's leading criminal-defense attorneys, plans to plead guilty as charged to using cocaine.... [Nolan's attorney Edward] Anderson said he intends to argue against jail time for his client, saying Nolan is more valuable on the outside as a member of the 'recovery community.' "

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Association to celebrate 20th anniversary**

"The Chaldean American Bar Association (CABA) will present its Annual Anniversary Celebration & Scholarship Dinner Celebrating 20 Years on Thursday, June 6, at Shenandoah Country Club from 6 to 9 p.m. CABA is honored to have Michigan Supreme Court Justice David Viviano as the keynote speaker."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Judges, lawyers compete in Culinary Challenge**

"The 6th Annual Bench Bar Culinary Challenge will mix fresh air, fresh food and friendly competition between the bench and bar all to benefit charities. This annual event features a grilling competition between Grilled By the Bench and Grilled By the Hour, as well as competitions in the appetizers and desserts categories, and a large gathering of judges, lawyers and guests."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Legislation strengthens penalties for elder abuse**

“Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed legislation that further protects Michigan’s vulnerable adults by strengthening the ability of judges to impose stricter sentences for criminals who embezzle from seniors or the mentally ill.”

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Ex-law clerk pleads guilty in traffic ticket case**

“A former suburban Detroit law clerk accused of illegally accepting a few hundred dollars to help someone deal with a traffic ticket has pleaded guilty to embezzlement. Defense lawyer Thomas Tomko says Wisam Mikho made the plea last week to one misdemeanor count and was sentenced to a year of probation and 200 hours of community service.”

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **SBM Blog: Hypomania: The Official Word**

“Readers following Wayne County Circuit Judge Wade McCree’s Judicial Tenure Commission hearing might be wondering about hypomania, the condition that Judge McCree’s lawyer reportedly offered as an explanation for some of the conduct at issue in the hearing.”

[\*Full story\*](#)

***Also see:***

## **WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: The strange testimony of Judge Wade McCree**

[\*Full story\*](#)