

June 7, 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 Detroit News Blog: Can Mike Talbot shape up Detroit's district court?

"Once again, a Detroit court is in trouble. And once again, the state Supreme Court has had to send in managerial reinforcements to help get the court back on track.... The 36th District Court – which hears arraignments, misdemeanors, and small claims – is under the supervision of Court of Appeals Judge Mike Talbot, assigned by the state justices to help the local court."

Full story

WTVS-TV(56)/Detroit: Veterans Help on the Homefront (one hour, 26 minute video)

"This new documentary focuses on the work of Oakland County Judge Brian MacKenzie who provides veterans' with assistance through his court. The statistics are staggering if not downright shameful – the highest suicide levels in the military in ten years, with deaths from suicide outweighing combat deaths by a two-to-one ratio."

Full story

The Detroit News: Wayne County to order construction halted on jail

"... Officials were uncertain Thursday how much halting the construction could impact negotiations to sell the site, two nearby jails, the Third Circuit Court building and a juvenile justice facility. Under that plan, the county would then sign a 99-year, \$1-a-year lease with the state to renovate the Mound Correctional Facility and build a criminal justice complex on the 39-acre site."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Construction to halt at Wayne County jail; cost estimates cited

Full story

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

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Wayne County halts construction on new jail amidst massive cost overruns

Full story

The Detroit News: Court opens door to police state; Ruling that DNA samples can be taken prior to a conviction bruises Fourth Amendment

The editorial states "Big Brother got a big boost from the U.S. Supreme Court this week in a ruling that allows police to take DNA samples from a criminal suspect before a conviction. The decision was intended to be limited, and we hope law enforcement officials will read it that way."

Full story

Grand Rapids Legal News: High school students help 63rd District Court gauge satisfaction

"Last week, students from Northview High School helped the 63rd District Court determine how well it is doing in helping the people who come to use court services. In two shifts, the young men and women from the high school administered a survey prepared by Chief Judge Sara Smolenski and Court Administrator Kevin McKay and staff."

[*Full story*](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Circuit Judge John McBain was driver in single-vehicle crash on U.S. 127

"A Jackson County Circuit Court judge was involved in a single-vehicle crash Thursday morning on U.S. 127 near Springport Road.... [Judge John] McBain was not visibly hurt in the crash. For 'precautionary reasons,' he went by ambulance to Allegiance Health. He was seen by an emergency room doctor, treated and released, [Deputy Director Jon] Johnston said Thursday afternoon."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Jackson Circuit judge in single-vehicle accident

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Student exchange program needs host families, biz internships

"... The Macomb Cultural and Economic Partnership, a nonprofit group based in Mount Clemens, has arranged for 70 Chinese law school students from several universities to spend a week in Macomb County this summer.... The law students will observe the Macomb County Circuit Court and District Courts in action and engage in a 2-day job shadowing experience with judges or lawyers. Michigan Supreme Court Justice David Viviano, a former circuit judge, will teach the students about the judicial system at the state level."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Gearing up for business courts

"The build-up to formally launch business courts later this year continues with the Michigan Supreme Court's adoption of an administrative order and amendment of several court rules. Created by legislation that took effect Jan. 1, 2013, business courts are required in counties that have three or more circuit court judges. Counties with smaller circuit benches can form a business court but are not required to do so."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan juvenile lifers could be resentenced to less than life under new legislation

"Hundreds of Michigan prisoners serving mandatory life sentences for violent crimes committed as minors could get a second look -- and a chance to prove they deserve a second chance -- under new legislation in Lansing. A four-bill package, introduced in the state House this week with bipartisan backing, would update Michigan law to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Words of praise

"Two Oakland County teens graduated from the Juvenile Treatment Court program during a special ceremony on Tuesday, May 28 in which Circuit Court Judge Mary Ellen Brennan presided. Brennan praised the two grads for their 'determination' in battling their substance abuse issues, preferring to label the ceremony a 'commencement' in terms of a fresh start for the pair of teens."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Judges honor Bay City woman who overcame addiction

"For almost two decades, Christina Bermejo struggled with an addiction to crack cocaine. But now, the Bay City woman has been clean for nearly three years and works full-time as a mentor, counseling others through their addictions, a transformation she attributes to Bay County's treatment courts."

[Full story](#)