

July 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.

## **Encouraging courts to innovate, improve service is goal of new grant program**

*Press release*

## **Flint Journal: Editorial: Consolidate Flint, Genesee County district courts; Shutter suburban satellite courts**

"The Flint and Genesee County district courts share a roof in downtown Flint – but it's past time that the two court systems share even more. The Michigan Supreme Court Administration's recent recommendation that the two district courts merge operations is a sound proposal that should have been implemented years ago."

*Full story*

*Also see:*

## **Recommendations to cut, add judgeships detailed in judicial resources report**

[\*Press release\*](#)

## **The Detroit News: New Michigan prison sentencing guidelines under review**

"State lawmakers and Gov. Rick Snyder are considering the first comprehensive prison sentencing reforms since their predecessors got tough on crime 15 years ago.... Corrections Director Dan Heyns, who has advocated a review of state sentencing guidelines, endorsed the [Michigan Law Review Commission] study, expected to take about 18 months. Key players, from Snyder to Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Young Jr., have signed off on it."

[\*Full story\*](#)

*Also see:*

## **Associated Press: Michigan could review sentencing guidelines for first time in 15 years**

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **The Detroit News: Detroit absentee ballots in limbo**

"A legal dispute has delayed the mailing of nearly 24,000 absentee ballots to city voters, throwing the Aug. 6 primary election into disarray at a time when political experts say Detroit can ill afford more controversy at City Hall. The city has delayed the mailing while it awaits a Tuesday state Court of Appeals decision over the eligibility of city clerk candidate [D. Etta Wilcoxon]."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **Detroit Free Press: Macomb County union lawsuit delayed after judges recuse themselves**

"Two Macomb County Circuit Court judges have recused themselves from hearing a lawsuit filed by two county government employee unions over labor contracts imposed on workers that cut their pay and benefits. A hearing on a motion for a preliminary injunction was adjourned until next week, lawyers for both sides said today, after Judges Peter Maceroni and Diane Druzinski recused themselves from the case."

[\*Full story\*](#)

*Also see:*

## **The MiLW Blog: Macomb judges recuse themselves in labor contract dispute**

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: Mich. high court agrees to hear parole fight case**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case of a man whose release from prison after 20 years was granted by Gov. Jennifer Granholm but quickly reversed in an extraordinary act just days before she left office in 2010. The high court made the announcement in an order dated Friday and released Saturday."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, the Midland Daily News, the Morning Sun, the Oakland Press, the Times Herald/Port Huron, WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit and WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit.**

*Also see:*

### **The MiLW Blog: MSC to hear case of prisoner released from jail by Granholm ... then sent back**

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: MSC: No To Right To Work Question, Yes To Novel Commutation Question**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Brian Dickerson: Beneficiaries of dark money have forfeited our trust**

"... [According to the Michigan Campaign Finance Network report] in the 2012 contest for two seats on the Michigan Supreme Court, three-fourths of the nearly \$19 million spent was provided by anonymous donors, including some, it is reasonable to guess, with a rooting interest in controversies pending before the state's highest court."

[Full story](#)

*Also see:*

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: George Weeks: Dark money fuels Mich. political campaigns**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: No guns allowed, but punishment varies for those caught packing at federal courthouse**

"The sign on the federal courthouse in Detroit reads plain and simple: No weapons allowed. U.S. Rep. John Conyers' office manager broke that rule recently when security officers found a gun in her purse. But unlike others caught doing the same thing, the Michigan Democrat's clerk didn't lose her job — or get criminally charged."

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Records of young convicts hidden; Judge: Statutes allow for second chances**

"Do you have the right to know if the nurse tending to your loved one at an assisted-living facility is a heroin user who is on probation? Many would argue that the public has a right to know, but two Michigan statutes — one called the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act and the other simply '7411' — make it possible for the general public not to know when such a situation exists. Both statutes allow a defendant's criminal conviction to remain nonpublic if he or she is successful on probation."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Faunce and Kirkham are appointed by Snyder to 16th, 37th Circuit Courts**

"Gov. Rick Snyder has announced the appointments of Judge Jennifer Faunce, of Warren, to the 16th Circuit Court bench in Macomb County, and Brian Kirkham, of Battle Creek, as judge of the 37th Circuit Court in Calhoun County."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Microsoft case study highlights Michigan court's website**

"Michigan's 'One Court of Justice' website is the focus of a recent Microsoft case study, praising the site as 'clear, concise, and intuitive.' The Court's website was redesigned in 2012, using Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010."

[Full story](#)

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

**Also see:**

### **Microsoft case study highlights Michigan's "One Court of Justice" website**

[Press release](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: Fired Warren law clerk ordered to Gamblers Anonymous**

"A fired Warren law clerk on probation for an embezzlement charge has been ordered by a judge to undergo intensive counseling for gambling after he showed up at a casino with \$60,000. Wisam David Mikho's probation was amended recently after Warren police and 37th District Court officials learned he went to Caesars Windsor Hotel and Casino to gamble before he paid his fine and restitution."

[Full story](#)

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

**Also see:**

### **The MiLW Blog: Fired court law clerk ordered to gambling treatment**

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: New hours for 40th District Court**

"New work hours have been implemented at the 40th District Court in St. Clair Shores. Effective immediately, the hours are now 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. In the past, the court was open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but court officials noticed there were more people with business to conduct in the building in the morning hours."

[Full story](#)

### **Midland Daily News: Settlement in judge's sexual harassment allegations**

"Though the report on allegations of workplace sexual harassment against Midland County District Court Judge John H. Hart isn't being released by the county, other details of the case are — namely, that the county has spent almost \$36,000 to investigate and settle with one employee involved."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The MiLW Blog: Details revealed in harassment claim against Midland judge**

[Full story](#)

### **The News-Herald/Southgate: District court resurrects community garden program**

"Community gardens have gained popularity in recent years and the 28th District Court in Southgate is keeping up with the trend.... The 28th District Court Work Program members planted the garden under the supervision of work program coordinator Rocco Rossi. People performing community service hours on the work program will tend the garden five times a week."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Michigan justices take appeal in demolition case**

"The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear a dispute between the city of Brighton and the owners of two downtown properties that need repairs. Brighton wanted two vacant homes and a garage demolished, telling Leon and Marilyn Bonner that the cost of improving the structures would exceed their value."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Electronic filing manager selected by SCAO**

"In the not too distant future, those wishing to file documents with all Michigan courts will be able to do so via the Internet. E-filing is coming to Michigan courts and ImageSoft is supplying it."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Top court won't rule early on right-to-work**

"The Michigan Supreme Court on Friday unanimously decided not to step in early to decide the legality of the state's right-to-work law. The court said it wasn't persuaded that ruling now would be an 'appropriate exercise' of its discretion — despite a request for a special advisory opinion from Republican Gov. Rick Snyder in January."

[Full story](#)

### **Tuscola County Advertiser: Vassar man challenges cell phone ban**

"Robert McKay of Vassar is hung up on Tuscola County District Judge Kim Glaspie's banning cell phones and other electric devices from the courthouse. McKay contends Glaspie, even though he is the chief judge of the county, didn't have the authority to issue the April 22 total ban of electronic devices from the entire courthouse — only the courtrooms."

[Full story](#)

*Also see:*

### **The MiLW Blog: Tuscola courthouse cellphone ban challenged**

[Full story](#)