

July 11, 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.

Washtenaw County Legal News: Encouraging courts to innovate, improve the service is goal of new grant program

"Michigan trial courts with great ideas for improving court performance and public service can get a boost from a new grant program administered by the State Court Administrative Office, the administrative agency of the Michigan Supreme Court."

Full story

Also see:

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

Press release

Ingham County Legal News: July designated as Juror Appreciation Month

"The Michigan Supreme Court has designated July as "Juror Appreciation Month" to acknowledge citizens who serve as jurors and to encourage others to answer the call to jury service throughout the year."

Full story

Also see:

State Supreme Court Recognizes Michigan Citizens for Jury Service during July Juror Appreciation Month, Encourages Others to Serve Throughout the Year

Press release

Detroit Free Press: Tia Skinner resentenced to life without parole in stabbing of parents

"A 20-year-old Yale woman will remain in prison for the rest of her life without a chance for parole for her role in planning the murder of her father and attempted murder. Circuit Judge Daniel Kelly said Tia Skinner doesn't deserve the opportunity for parole during her sentencing this morning."

Full story

Also see:

The Detroit News: Yale woman again sentenced to life in dad's death

Full story

Associated Press: Mich. woman again sentenced to life in dad's death

Full story

C & G News/Warren: Faunce appointed to Macomb County Circuit Court

"Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has named 37th District Court Judge Jennifer Faunce to serve on the bench of the state's 16th Circuit Court in Mount Clemens.... Snyder announced Faunce's appointment July 3, along with the appointment of attorney and former Battle Creek Mayor Brian Kirkham to the state's 37th Circuit Court in Calhoun County."

Full story

Also see:

Macomb County Legal News: Faunce fills Macomb circuit court vacancy

Full story

C & G News/Warren: Circuit Court opens Business Court

"Businesses needing to resolve legal matters in the county will now have specialized attention after the Oakland County Circuit Court, 1200 N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac, opened its doors to a new Business Court July 1. The Supreme Court assigned judges Wendy Potts and James Alexander to the Business Court, said Kevin Oeffner, Oakland County Circuit Court administrator."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Workmanlike: Retired judge earns coveted Avadenka Memorial Award

"Although Dennis Drury officially retired as a judge for the 52-4 District Court and as the presiding judge for its drug court component, he continues to garner admiration. For his years of dedicated service, Judge Drury was named as this year's recipient of the prestigious Frances R. Avadenka Award presented by the Oakland County Bar Association."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Transfer of Power

"During the reception, outgoing ABJM president Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Leo Bowman and outgoing WBA/WBF President Niesa Trent Fagan were happy to welcome incoming presidents Wayne County 36th District Court Judge Lynise Bryant-Weekes (ABJM) and Ronda Tate (WBA/WBF) of Lewis & Munday."

Full story

Flint Journal: Friend of the Court planning more child support roundups outside Genesee County

"The Friend of the Court office isn't finished looking for people with unpaid child support who are living outside the county. Friend of the Court Jack Battles is warning parents with past-due support payments that a warrant sweep by his office in Wayne County last week marks the start rather than the end of those roundups."

Full story

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Genesee County ramping up child support enforcement

Full story

Jackson County Legal News: Street Outreach Court offers alternative to jail

"... [Street Outreach Court Detroit] hosted its 'One-Year Anniversary Celebration' on June 25 at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.... SOCD is a joint effort of the 36th District Court and Detroit Action Commonwealth, with support from other public and private agencies and organizations."

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: WMU's Seita Scholars program seeks donations of toiletries, dorm items for former foster youth

"Back-to-school shopping is a time-honored tradition for college students and their parents. (So is the parental gasp of horror once everything — from futon to shower caddy — is tallied up.) But Western Michigan University Seita Scholars, who have aged out of the foster-care system, often have no one to help them get stocked up on shower gel, towels and fans."

Full story

The Macomb Daily: Utica approves deal on 41A District Court

"Utica city officials this week approved a deal that could facilitate the relocation of the 41A District Court from Shelby to Macomb Township. The Utica City Council signed off on an agreement that promises the city won't take action to hear traffic cases — and siphon potential revenue — if Macomb Township builds a new courthouse near 25 Mile and Broughton roads."

Full story

Midland Daily News: Isabella judge denies motion to remove Judge Carras from case

"A visiting judge has issued a written opinion on a motion to remove a local judge from hearing a case about property rights. The motion was filed by plaintiffs Greg and Carol Groninger of Midland, Kenneth Thompson of Greenville and Thomas Dunn of Beaverton, who sought to have Midland County Circuit Court Judge Stephen P. Carras disqualified because of a call made to Michigan Assistant Attorney General Daniel P. Bock when Bock failed to appear at an earlier hearing on a motion from the MDEQ to dismiss the case."

Full story

The Morning Sun: Judge Rush to retire from Isabella Trial Court

"... [A]fter more than 18 years, [Isabella County Trial Judge William R.] Rush is calling it quits. Effective Aug. 31, Rush, 70, is retiring, after being re-elected to two six-year terms following his appointment and first election. Rush, who was age limited and could not run for re-election in the November 2014 election, said it's time to step down."

Full story

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Isabella judge announces retirement

Full story

The MiLW Blog: The going price for invective in a Court of Appeals brief: \$2,000

"When attorney Steven Reifman told Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen Macdonald that he was there to represent plaintiff Darrell Christopher in a previously filed no-fault action, Macdonald had already pushed the case over the edge of Dismissal-With-Prejudice Canyon."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Board seeks nominations for Child Welfare Awards

"The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) is seeking nominations for its annual Child Welfare Awards which honor judges, lawyers, foster care workers, and foster parents for exemplary service to children in Michigan's foster care system.... The deadline is Friday, Sept 6."

Full story

Saginaw News: Cold case murder conviction upheld for former Bridgeport Township man

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld the cold case murder conviction of a former Bridgeport Township man. Appellate judges E. Thomas Fitzgerald, Karen M. Fort Hood and Peter D. O'Connell on Tuesday, July 9, denied Rodney A. Slayton's appeal of his September 2011 murder conviction for the February 1992 strangulation of Lynette E. Gibson."

[*Full story*](#)