

July 12, 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.

Grand Rapids Legal News: New grant program will encourage courts to innovate, improve service

"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](#)

The Dowagiac Daily News: Letter: Thank you jurors

Berrien County Trial Court Chief Judge Thomas Nelson writes "The Michigan Supreme Court has designated July as 'Juror Appreciation Month' to honor and recognize the citizens who have given of themselves and their time and report for jury duty.... The judges and staff of the Berrien County Trial Court extend our sincere gratitude and say 'thank you' to those who answer the call to jury duty."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Grand Rapids Legal News: July is Juror Appreciation Month

[Full story](#)

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

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Absentee ballots to go out to Detroit voters after appeals court rules for clerk candidate

"About 28,000 absentee ballots will be printed and mailed to residents as early as Friday after the state Court of Appeals decided City Clerk candidate D. Etta Wilcoxon should stay on the Aug. 6 primary ballot. Appeals court judges Karen Fort Hood, Kurtis Wilder and Cynthia Diane Stephens on Thursday unanimously upheld a Wayne County Circuit Court ruling in Wilcoxon's favor."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Court upholds ruling Detroit clerk candidate should be on ballot

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan Court of Appeals hands down ruling in another Detroit ballot eligibility case

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Court: Weight of marijuana-laced food can't be counted in possession law

"The weight of brownies and other edibles laced with a marijuana extract cannot be counted toward total weight limits of cannabis possession under Michigan's medical marijuana law, according to a state Court of Appeals ruling released Friday."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: Pot brownies not 'usable' under Michigan's medical marijuana law, appeals court rules

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Michigan Court: Pot baked goods off limits in some cases

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Hearing adjourned for Washington Township couple trying to save mansion from demolition

"A contempt hearing for a Washington Township couple embroiled in a nine-year court battle to save their 9,000-square-foot mansion from at least partial demolition was adjourned today because the parties are working on complying with a December court order on the matter. The hearing was adjourned until Tuesday before Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Mark Switalski."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Macomb court postpones mansion dispute hearing to Tuesday

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Washington Township mansion court hearing postponed

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Federal courts are feeling the pain of budget cuts

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Gerald Rosen writes "I write to sound an alarm about the very serious impact federal budget cuts are having upon the quality of justice in our federal court system, both nationally and here in Michigan — and of the even more devastating effect steeper cuts now being considered by Congress will soon have."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan woman who filed fake rape report in court over cancer scam

"... In an unrelated matter, [Sara] Ylen also is charged in St. Clair County with filing a false felony report and tampering with evidence. That case was bound over to St. Clair County Circuit Court on June 18. The charges follow the recent release from prison of a man convicted of sexually assaulting her in 2003.... The Michigan Supreme Court granted [James] Grissom a new trial after learning of the unsubstantiated claims."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Radio: Can Michigan make aging out of foster care easier?

"The roughly 14,000 young people in Michigan's foster care system are expected to live on their own once they turn 18, if they're still in the system at that time. It is a transition that for many, does not go well."

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor Chronicle: County Delays Action on Lump Sum for Courts

"A proposal to postpone the final vote on a notice to eliminate a lump-sum budgeting approach for Washtenaw County's court system was made at the July 10, 2013 meeting of the county board of commissioners. The vote was 6-2, with dissent from Dan Smith (R-District 2) and Conan Smith (D-District 9). Rolland Sizemore Jr. (D-District 5) was absent. The item was postponed until the board's Oct. 16, 2013 meeting."

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Teen sentenced to life in dad's 2010 death: 'I am the coward that everyone says I am'

"A former honors student who was convicted of plotting to have her father stabbed to death when she was 17 years old was sentenced Thursday to life in a Michigan prison without parole — the same punishment she first received in 2011.... [St. Clair County Judge Daniel Kelly] was free to give [Tia] Skinner a shot at parole but settled again on a sentence that means she'll never leave prison."

[Full story](#)

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

Grand Rapids Press: Wayland attorney connected to meth labs gets 90 days jail

"A Wayland attorney who had meth labs at his office and a home in Otsego has been sentenced to 90 days in jail and two years of probation. Patrick Burson, 45, was sentenced Tuesday, July 9, after earlier pleading guilty to maintaining a meth lab."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Williamstown Township police fees upheld by state appeals court

"Williamstown Township leaders can levy equal fees on all properties to pay for police services, the state Court of Appeals ruled today. A panel of three judges overturned the Michigan Tax Tribunal's previous opinion that said the township erred by not levying the special assessments based on property values."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Workmanlike: Retired judge honored for community service work

"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, Drury was named as this year's recipient of the prestigious Frances R. Avadenka Award presented by the Oakland County Bar Association."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Judge's girlfriend's appeal denied

"The girlfriend of a Macomb County judge, who is charged with drunken driving with the judge's children in her car, likely will face trial in district court after a circuit judge denied her appeal.... [Brenda] Conway, the girlfriend of Macomb County Circuit Judge Richard Caretti, must decide by Thursday whether to appeal to the state Court of Appeals or let the matter return to 46th District Court in Southfield."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune.

The Macomb Daily: Macomb judge refuses to dismiss marijuana driving case

"... Macomb County Circuit Judge Edward Servitto turned down Wednesday a motion to dismiss the case against Timothy Wilds, 21, who is charged with killing Brittany Nowicki, a passenger in his car, in December 2010 while driving with a trace amount of marijuana in his system."

[*Full story*](#)

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Macomb judge rejects medical marijuana defense

[*Full story*](#)

The MiLW Blog: Allegan County changing how it pays public defenders

"Gone are the days of hourly rates for public defenders in Allegan County. Under a new fee structure that begins in August, public defenders will be paid flat rates based on the type of case. Mike Day, Allegan County Circuit Court administrator, said the change is being made for two reasons: recent laws that seek to improve Michigan's indigent defense system and the fact that the current fee schedule is outdated."

[*Full story*](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Two men fighting to overturn their convictions for 1999 Mother's Day murder shot down in court again

"There's a double-dose of bad news for two men fighting to overturn their convictions for a 1999 Mother's Day Murder in Detroit. Both have had appeals rejected, one by a judge in Wayne County and the other by the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[*Full story*](#)