

August 10-12, 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.

The Detroit News: Report finds misconduct in 2 cases handled by Wayne County Judge Morrow

"Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Bruce Morrow committed judicial misconduct in two of 10 cases reviewed by the state Judicial Tenure Commission, according to a fact-finder's report. Retired Oakland County Judge Edward Sosnick, a special master appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court, said in a report issued Friday that Morrow often fell afoul of the law and judicial convention, although Sosnick wrote that he acted with good intentions."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Misconduct, judicial error found in some cases before Wayne County Judge Bruce Morrow

Full story

Associated Press: Report: Michigan judge had misconduct in 2 cases

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Taxpayers to fund firm to represent Macomb County Circuit Judge Caretti in tenure probe

"Taxpayers will foot the bill for Macomb County Circuit Judge Richard Caretti in an investigation by the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission.... Macomb County commissioners Thursday approved the appointment of Collins Einhorn to represent Caretti in the probe."

Full story

Also see:

The Morning Sun: Macomb County commissioners hire lawyer for judge

Full story

Daily Press & Argus: Court wrong to silence letter writer

The editorial states "There's a temptation to suggest that some court officials operating in Livingston County — the prosecutor's office and a visiting judge in particular — should get out a copy of the Bill of Rights and review the First Amendment. After all, the prosecutor's office sought — and the judge approved — a motion to forbid a defendant from writing a letter to the editor. The order came the same day this newspaper published a letter from the defendant, Steve Schlumm."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Local Voice: District court appeals - a glitch and a fix

Laurie Longo writes "... Effective May, 2012, Chapter 7.100 of the Michigan Court Rules, which governs appeals from district to circuit court, was substantially amended to correspond to Chapter 7.200, which governs appeals from circuit court to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Although the amendments substantially reduced the variability in appellate practice across courts, important glitches remain."

Full story

Flint Journal: Too young for life without parole? Decision expected soon for convicted Flint teen in first-of-its-kind murder sentencing

"A Genesee Circuit judge is expected to decide this month if a Flint teen convicted of murder will spend the rest of his life in prison. Testimony continued Friday, August 9, in a first-of-its-kind sentencing

hearing held in Michigan following a United States Supreme Court decision banning mandatory life in prison without parole sentences for juveniles.”

Full story

Flint Journal: Genesee County prosecutor plans to appeal dismissal of murder charges against parents of drowned Flint toddler

“... Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said his office plans to appeal Flint District Judge Nathaniel Perry III's ruling on Friday, August 9, that prosecutors did not prove there was probable cause to bind Jeremy Wise and Callie Csercsa over to Genesee Circuit Court on second-degree murder charges for the May 20th death of their son, Aden Wise. Although Perry dismissed the murder charges, he did bind the two over to face charges of second-degree child abuse.”

Full story

Hometown Life Newspapers: Snyder puts Canton man on bench

“Gov. Rick Snyder this week appointed Charles Hegarty and Qiana Lillard to the state's 3rd Circuit Court in Wayne County. Hegarty is from Canton, Lillard resides in Harper Woods.... Hegarty fills a vacancy created by the removal of former Judge Deborah Ross Adams. Both appointees must seek election in November 2014 to serve the remainder of terms ending Jan. 1, 2019.”

Full story

Hometown Life Newspapers: Local court trumps state and regional fines, costs collection rates

“It's likely most people don't wonder how fines and costs are collected on the myriad of cases that run through the 47th District Court. But they would be surprised on the local court's rate of collection. 'In the past, courts had a hands-off attitude with this,' said 47th District Court Administrator Dave Walsh. 'Nobody really did collecting.' Then came along Stacy Parke, deputy court administrator, who completed her court executive degree thesis on court collections.”

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: Man's conviction in 1998 beating death of Deborah Boothby in Covert upheld by appeals court

“A man's conviction in the 1998 slaying of Deborah Boothby, who was beaten, run over and left on the side of Blue Star Highway in Van Buren County, has been upheld by the Michigan Court of Appeals. Ed D. Foster, 43, is serving a mandatory life sentence without the chance of parole for first-degree murder in the April 26, 1998, killing of Boothby.”

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: Brutal sex assault was 'almost beyond imagining' Kalamazoo judge says in imposing 62-year sentence

“When he broke into a woman's Kalamazoo Township apartment in January, Danny Vinson mercilessly beat the woman, placed a shotgun to her head and used the weapon's barrel to carry out a sexual assault, authorities say. For that, Kalamazoo County Assistant Prosecutor Diane Hungerford said, Vinson deserved to die in prison.”

Full story

Lansing State Journal: Limited treatment options for meth addiction a challenge

“Eaton County District Judge Harvey Hoffman knows methamphetamine use is a problem. He also knows the courts can only do so much. When dealing with alcohol and drug-related cases, Hoffman, who runs the county's drug court, he consults with a probation officer, an assistant prosecutor, two substance abuse counselors and a defense attorney.”

Full story

Lansing State Journal: Court reopens Michigan battle over giving bills immediate effect

"... [On Friday, the federal] appeals court sent the case back to U.S. District Judge Lawrence Zatkoff in Port Huron to determine whether the Legislature violated the Michigan Constitution when it passed PA 4 with immediate effect."

Full story

Also see:

The Macomb Daily: Michigan EM foes win ruling in lawsuit over old law

Full story

MLive.com: Federal appeals panel sends Michigan emergency manager lawsuit back to lower court

Full story

The MiLW Blog: 'Public Act 4 exemplifies the farce': 6th Circuit says lawmakers ignore Michigan Constitution

[*Full story*](#)

The Oakland Press: Appeals court questions state's rejected EM law, sends Pontiac retirees' case back to federal judge

[*Full story*](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Appeals Court Says Michigan Legislature Ignores State Constitution

[*Full story*](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Small claims court workshop hosted by LAD

"Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc. (LAD) conducted the last of its recent series of free workshops on small claims court to a standing-room-only crowd at the Utica Public Library in Utica. The workshops were designed to teach residents of Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties how to represent themselves in small claims court and collect money judgments."

[*Full story*](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Ex-justice Hathaway to begin prison term

"Former Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway is expected to report to federal prison Tuesday. The prison sentence may not be lengthy, but the repercussions could last a lifetime. Hathaway received a 12 month and one day sentence after she pleaded guilty to bank fraud in January."

[*Full story*](#)

Midland Daily News: JCC adds therapy dog to help troubled youths

"Midland County Probate Court Judge Dorene Allen is constantly on the lookout for ways to aid in the rehabilitation of juveniles. Now, one more dream has been fulfilled as Midland County has instituted Paw Pals, a program that uses therapy dogs to treat troubled youths."

[*Full story*](#)

MLive.com: Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette seeks to dismiss class-action lawsuit against pension taxes

"Lawyers representing the state of Michigan filed a motion Friday asking Judge Rosemarie Aquilina to issue a summary judgment in favor of the state in a lawsuit brought over taxing teacher pensions. The motion was filed Friday afternoon in response to a lawsuit brought by a retired teacher, Thomas Okrie, who alleged that the state breached promises made to retirees by eliminating tax deductions and credits which made state pensions tax-free."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Bolger-Schmidt grand jury probe: 19 witnesses, \$53,400 in taxpayer money

"The grand jury investigation into an election scandal that cost former state Rep. Roy Schmidt his job cost Ingham County taxpayers more than \$53,000. Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, acting as a one-woman grand jury, concluded her year-long investigation on Friday without handing down indictments against Schmidt or House Speaker Jase Bolger."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Judge issues no indictment in party switch probe

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Detroit Legal News, the Macomb Daily, the Morning Sun, the Times Herald/Port Huron and the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

Daily Press & Argus: No charges in Roy Schmidt-Jase Bolger party-switch scandal, judge finds

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Grand juror clears Bolger, Schmidt of crimes in election scandal

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the WKAR News/East Lansing.

The MiLW Blog: No indictment for Bolger in candidate scheme scandal

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon County Circuit Judge Kathy Hoogstra in Fruitland Township zoning dispute that may go to court

"Kathy Hoogstra, Muskegon County's newest circuit court judge, is involved in an unusual zoning dispute that may soon wind up in circuit court -- though probably not in Muskegon County. The dispute is keeping her and her husband from moving into a lakefront home they recently bought in Fruitland Township."

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Let It Rip Weekend: Abortion Coverage & Decriminalizing Pot

"... Also, Ferndale's City Council will vote Monday on whether to decriminalize marijuana. That's after a citizen's petition drive collected more than 600 signatures. If they don't pass the measure, it will move on to the November ballot. To debate it, we have Andrew Cissell, who spearheaded the petition drive, and Judge Jodi Debbrecht Switalski, from the Waterford District Court. She says there's a reason marijuana is illegal - it's dangerous."

[Full story](#)

Note: Click on part two (7:52 minute) and part three (4:10 minute) podcasts.