

August 15, 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.

### **Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award; honor recognizes outstanding work in support of Michigan families, children**

[Press release](#)

### **The Detroit News: Court: Right-to-work applies to state employees**

"The state Court of Appeals ruled Thursday that Michigan's right-to-work law does apply to state employees. In a 2-1 decision, the appellate court said the state Legislature had the constitutional authority to set conditions of employment for state workers when it made financial support of a labor union optional."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **MLive.com: Michigan appeals court says right-to-work law applies to state employees**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Albion man charged in online terror threats**

"A 33-year-old Albion man, Chad Baase, faces up to life in prison on terrorism charges after investigators said he threatened to contaminate the water supply and kill judges. Baase was arraigned Wednesday afternoon on charges of making a false report or threat of terrorism and using a computer to commit a crime. If convicted of the charges he faces up to life in prison."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Albion man, 33, faces charges after threats posted online**

[Full story](#)

### **Battle Creek Enquirer: Albion man charged in terror threats; Life in prison possible for Chad Baase**

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Albion man arrested for allegedly making threats to harm Calhoun County judges, poison water supply**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Wayne County Building Authority cancels contracts with jail construction firm**

"The Wayne County Building Authority voted this morning to cancel contracts for the construction firm working on the \$300-million Wayne County Jail project. June Lee, chief of staff for Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, said time was needed to sort through options that include scrapping the project and building a jail and criminal courthouse."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Wayne County votes to end construction of over-budget jail**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Wayne County officials vote to halt construction of over-budget jail in Detroit**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Court rules Michigan's panhandling law violates free speech**

"A federal appeals court has ruled unconstitutional a state law banning panhandling in public places. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court on Wednesday agreed with a lower court's opinion last year that the law violates First Amendment protections for free speech."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Criminalizing begging in Michigan unconstitutional, court rules**

[Full story](#)

### **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan's old law banning panhandling in public found unconstitutional**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Michigan's begging law violates First Amendment: federal appeals court**

[Full story](#)

### **The Alpena News: Business owner lends support to new P.I. courthouse plan**

"A Rogers City business owner lent his support to a push by Presque Isle County Commissioners to build a new courthouse, offering his building as a meeting venue. Gary Rickard, owner of Center of Rogers City and Presque Isle Athletic Club, said the county's courthouse needs to be replaced. Commissioners are right to ask voters to approve a millage to fund construction, he said, allowing them to take advantage of a 'once-in-a-generation opportunity' for low interest rates and available construction labor. By doing so, they'll rid the county of a building that's become costly to maintain and hazardous in its old age."

[Full story](#)

### **Ann Arbor.com: Attorney charged with sexual assault no longer appointed to 15th District Court cases**

"Ann Arbor defense attorney and former Downtown Development Authority member Nader Nassif is no longer representing clients at the 15th District Court, officials confirmed to AnnArbor.com this week. The revelation came about as questions were raised about payment of \$203,000 to Nassif's law firm approved by the Ann Arbor City Council in June for the fiscal year 2013, more than double the amount the court originally anticipated paying the firm for contracted services."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The MiLW Blog: Years of unbilled legal fees lead to unexpected \$203K payout**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Kary Moss on Lawsuit Over 'Tuition-Based' Program**

"In a lawsuit filed last week, Ann Arbor high school students and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan asked a circuit court judge to stop the school district from implementing a new 'tuition-based' program that charges students \$100 per semester for access to a seventh hour class."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Jackson County Legal News and Washtenaw County Legal News.**

### **Detroit Legal News: Appeals court rejects changes to Michigan workers' pensions**

"The Michigan appeals court has struck down a 2011 law that required state workers choosing to stay in a pension plan to contribute 4 percent of their compensation toward the system. In a 3-0 ruling released Wednesday, judges said that change and others are unconstitutional because only the state Civil Service Commission can change state employees' compensation — not lawmakers."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Daily Telegram/Adrian: State can't force state workers to pay 4% to pensions**

[Full story](#)

**WKAR News/East Lansing: Court Says Decision To Force State Workers To Pay Into Pensions Was Unconstitutional**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Legal News: Hathaway begins prison stay in W.Va. (second article)**

"Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway has followed Martha Stewart's footsteps and begun serving her federal sentence at a minimum security lockup in West Virginia.... Hathaway is serving a sentence of a year and a day for bank fraud."

[Full story](#)

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

**Jackson County Legal News: District court appeals – A glitch and a fix**

"It's the first of the month and an envelope arrives from district court. You've waited weeks for this opinion and order, which your client plans to appeal. You open the envelope and see to your surprise that it was signed more than three weeks earlier.... 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."

[Full story](#)

**Note: This article also ran in the Washtenaw County Legal News.**

**Kalamazoo Gazette: Recording captures 'inappropriate' conversation by retired Van Buren County judge that prompted grievance**

"When he retired earlier this month, former Van Buren County Circuit Judge Paul E. Hamre had a grievance against him pending before the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission. An audio recording of discussions he had with two Paw Paw attorneys involving in a 2011 lawsuit reveals why the grievance was filed."

[Full story](#)

**Macomb County Legal News: Judge upholds ban on life, no parole for juveniles**

"A federal judge has ruled that Michigan must grant parole consideration to anyone convicted of murder as a juvenile, rejecting the state attorney general's request that an earlier decision to implement the U.S. Supreme Court's ban on no-parole sentences for juveniles apply only to the convicts who challenged the state's law."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Judge junks no-parole rule for youth lifers Ruling affects 12 from Berrien County**

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Quicker resolutions on traffic tickets among goals of new 36<sup>th</sup> District docket**

“Detroit drivers - and law enforcement officers - could be spending less time in court for traffic tickets, thanks to a new pre-hearing docket at Detroit's 36th District Court. The traffic ticket pre-hearing docket, which starts on Monday, Aug. 19, allows each driver to meet with a representative of the law enforcement agency that issued the ticket, explained Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Michael Talbot, the court's special judicial administrator.”

[Full story](#)

## **WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: 36th District Court wants to cut union workers' pay 10 percent**

“A union representing more than 200 workers at Detroit's 36th District Court received a letter that basically said negotiations are at an impasse, and the court will be imposing a ten percent wage cut and a switch in health insurance.”

[Full story](#)