

August 22, 2012

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.

Detroit Free Press: Backers of pro-union amendment ask court to order it on ballot

"Backers of a union-sponsored constitutional amendment to prohibit elected officials from restricting collective bargaining rights today asked a state Court of Appeals panel to order the proposal placed on the Nov. 6 ballot, saying failure to do so would create 'a disastrous precedent' undermining the right of Michiganders to change their constitution by petition drive.... The appeals court is to rule on the case by Monday (per instructions from the Michigan Supreme Court). Their decision, whatever it is, is almost certain to be appealed to the Supreme Court, with deadlines for approving ballot language and printing ballots fast approaching."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Opponents ask Michigan appeals court to keep collective bargaining off Nov. ballot

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Court of appeals rules most commercials aren't eligible for Michigan film tax credits

"Commercials aren't eligible for Michigan film tax credits unless they promote a qualified Michigan production, such as a movie made in the state, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled in a split opinion."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Man acquitted of 1990 rape sued by brothers over wrongful prosecution proceeds

"A man once imprisoned for a rape of which he was later acquitted in a retrial is being sued by his brothers who want a split of any proceeds from a pending wrongful prosecution lawsuit.... Michael Cristini was imprisoned for 14 years after he and Jeffrey Moldowan were convicted of a 1990 beating and rape. The Michigan Supreme Court later overturned their convictions, and both men were acquitted at retrials."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Macomb judge blocks release of sex offender

"A Macomb Circuit judge halted the release of a convicted sex offender from prison. Judge Matthew Switalski on Tuesday stayed the parole of Paul Jobak, 57, according to court records."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press Judge halts parole of repeat sex offender (sixth article)

[Full story](#)

The Daily Tribune: Rapist's sister protests his prison release

[Full story](#)

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

Ann Arbor.com: Men accused of having loaded guns outside Ypsilanti court were there for traffic ticket

"The two Detroit men who were accused of having loaded handguns outside of the 14A-2 District Court in Ypsilanti told police they were not looking for trouble and were in the area to deal with a traffic ticket."

However, Detective Sgt. Thomas Eberts said that Antonio Isaiah Thomas and Terrance Fletcher are now being held in the Washtenaw County Jail on \$50,000 cash bonds after they were arrested Monday."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Ruling blunts Michigan education retirement reforms

"A court ruling could set back by almost \$11 billion the Legislature's efforts to address the state's sorely underfunded school employee retirement system, state fiscal analysts said.... The day after [Senate Bill 1040] passed; however, the state Court of Appeals declared it unconstitutional to require school employees to prefund retirement health care as called for in a 2010 state law."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Nominations sought for achievement award

"Recognizing outstanding work for Michigan's children is the goal of the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award. Nominations are now open for this joint award of the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Human Services. The award was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge, an attorney and longtime leader in child support and child welfare reform."

[Full story](#)

Note: The Detroit Legal News article also ran in the Grand Rapids Legal News and the Macomb County Legal News.

Also see:

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR DANIEL J. WRIGHT LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD; HONOR RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING WORK FOR MICHIGAN FAMILIES, CHILDREN

[Press release](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: New president of RAM aims to make difference in justice for children

"Shelly Spivack was born in Atlanta and grew up in the New York-New Jersey area, but she's made her mark in Flint by being a successful attorney, a Family Court referee, and now the president of the Referees Association of Michigan (RAM), the first person to hold that title from Genesee County."

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News Out on bail: Bail bondsman has important role in criminal justice system

"When most of us think of the criminal justice system, we think of the police who investigate, the prosecutors who charge the crime, the defense attorneys who defend the accused and judges who keep order in the courtroom. Another important and necessary player, however, is the bail bondsman."

[Full story](#)

Note: The Flint-Genesee County Legal News article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Grand Rapids Press: After legal battle, Rockford wants Kent County to vacate city's courthouse

"The city of Rockford is still waiting to hear whether it can put to what it sees as a better use the remaining space in the old district courthouse, which was vacated after a bitter legal battle with Kent County and the consolidation of the district courts in new facilities in Grand Rapids Township."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Judge Boyd elected treasurer of Michigan judges' group

"Judge Tom Boyd, chief judge of the 55th District Court, has been elected treasurer of the Michigan District Court Judges Association, officials announced.... He also serves on the Supreme Court's Learning Center Advisory Committee and the Michigan Judicial Institute's District Court Academic Advisory Committee."

[Full story](#)

The Michigan Lawyer Blog: 'The show is just beginning': JTC case against Hudsonville judge moves forward

"A special master has been appointed in the Judicial Tenure Commission's case against a Hudsonville district court judge who jailed an attorney for contempt after he repeatedly invoked his client's Fifth Amendment privilege."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Associations vie for the Pryder Cup

"The Macomb County Probate Bar Association and the Wayne County Probate Bar Association recently hosted the 5th Annual Pryder Cup at Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods. Also enjoying the day on the green were... Wayne County Probate Court Judge Freddie Burton,... Wayne County Probate Court Judge Martin Maher,... and Wayne County Probate Court Chief Judge Milton Mack Jr."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Michigan Court of Appeals vacates Saginaw man's attempted murder conviction in assault on estranged girlfriend

"The Michigan Court of Appeals had vacated a Saginaw man's attempted murder conviction, but he still will spend 10 years in prison. Appellate judges Michael J. Riordan, Michael J. Talbot, and Kurtis T. Wilder last week ruled that a jury should not have convicted Terrence J. Sheppard, now 25, of attempted murder."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Breaking: Governor Appoints Demetria Brue to 36th District Court

"Governor Rick Snyder has appointed Demetria Brue to the 36th district court, Detroit."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Breaking: Governor Appoints Lisa M. Neilson to Wayne Probate Court

"Governor Rick Snyder has appointed Lisa M. Neilson to the Wayne County Probate court."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: In Memoriam: Judge Arney Mustonen

"Arnie Mustonen, died August 3, at the age of 73. He was a 1967 graduate of Wayne State Law School, and served for 12 years as a Montcalm County district judge.... A memorial celebration of his life will be held Sept. 8 from 3 to 7 p.m. at Candlestone Inn in Belding."

[Full story](#)

WOOD-TV(8)/Grand Rapids: Judge: Dead cop withheld Swain evidence; Judge says Convicted mom should remain free

"A Calhoun County judge has again ruled in favor of a woman claiming she's innocent despite a 2002 conviction for allegedly sexually assaulting her son. Judge Conrad Sindt ruled Lorinda Swain should get a new trial in an opinion released Tuesday."

[Full story](#)