

August 22, 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.

MiLW Blog: Mental health courts see improved outcomes

"Participants in the 10 Michigan mental health courts re-offend at lower levels than comparable groups of offenders who do not participate in the mental health courts, according to a report by the State Court Administrative Office."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Mental health courts see recidivism drop, outcomes improve for mentally ill

[Press release](#)

Detroit News: Trial in Michigan right-to-work lawsuit delayed

"A lawsuit alleging Michigan's right-to-work law violates the state's Open Meetings Act has been delayed until next year. [The Lansing State Journal reports](#) Wednesday that Ingham County Circuit Judge William Collette signed off on a new trial date for March. It had originally been scheduled for October."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: Trial in right-to-work dispute delayed

[Full story](#)

Note: This article also ran in the Midland Daily News

Detroit News: Ypsilanti Twp. woman to write diversity essay after racial slurs

"A 19-year-old white Ypsilanti Township woman was ordered to write a 200- to 250-word essay on diversity, attend a racial sensitivity class, spend six months in jail and serve two years' probation for racial slurs aimed at her black next-door neighbor. Judge Darlene O'Brien called Leah Keaton's behavior "very, very hurtful" during Monday's sentencing in Washtenaw County Probate Court, AnnArbor.com reported Thursday. Keaton had pleaded guilty July 23 to ethnic intimidation."

[Full story](#)

Crain's Detroit Business: Judge rules discrimination lawsuit against Lotus Bank can proceed

"Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Denise Langford Morris ruled Wednesday that a lawsuit alleging discrimination against Novi-based **Lotus Bancorp Inc.** and three of its senior officers can proceed."

[Full story](#)

Mlive: New Michigan law makes shoplifting a crime that results in prison time

"Not that long ago, shoplifting was a crime considered the purview of kids looking to score a pack of cigarettes or little old ladies suffering from a slight case of kleptomania. But now the crime has been moved out of the misdemeanor range to a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison, thanks to the newly passed organized retail crime law that went into effect this spring. The law is aimed at people who steal things with the express purpose of reselling them."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: New mediators graduate

"The Oakland Mediation Center (OMC) hosted a graduation for its ninth class of civil mediators from Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Cooley), Auburn Hills Campus, on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at OMC's office in Bloomfield Hills."

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial News: Local court applying for Swift and Sure grant

"The St. Joseph County Circuit Court will be applying for the Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program, a federal grant for counties to enhance felony probation services. Following the Community Corrections Advisory Board meeting Wednesday at which the grant was discussed, District Judge Jeff Middleton said that District Court had intended to apply and use it for the sobriety court, but it was for felonies only. So Circuit Judge Paul Stutesman, along with Day Reporting Center director Tony Callaway, Twin County Community Probation Center director Tom Miles and St. Joseph County Undersheriff Mark Lillywhite are spearheading the application process."

[Full story](#)

WJBK: Judge Powers spending big, taxpayers flip the bill

"**Judge Dennis Powers** is back after the state temporarily appointed him to another district court to alleviate tensions following Fox 2's problem solver investigation earlier this summer. **Judge Julie Nicholson** is the chief judge of Oakland County's 52nd courts. She is responsible for maintaining integrity in the courts, and is not happy with Judge Powers after meeting with Rob Wolchek."

[Full story](#)