

August 23, 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.**

### **The Detroit News: Courts weigh fall ballot bids in Michigan; Jurists take on workers rights, Moroun initiatives**

"Legal wrangling continued Wednesday over proposals for the Nov. 6 election ballot, with movement in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals on a collective bargaining proposal and challenges filed against two initiatives bankrolled by billionaire Manuel 'Matty' Moroun. The Michigan Supreme Court granted immediate consideration on the Protect Our Jobs proposal but denied the group's request for an 'emergency bypass' of appellate court proceedings and ordered the lower court to decide by Monday whether the union-backed issue should make the ballot."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Union rights proposal: Ruling due by Monday after backers ask appeals court to put it on ballot**

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: Quick action ordered on labor-backed ballot issue**

[Full story](#)

### **City Pulse/Lansing: Labor swings and misses on 'Protect Our Jobs'**

[Full story](#)

### **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan high court orders lower court to rule on "Protect Our Jobs" ballot proposal**

[Full story](#)

### **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Jack Lessenberry Commentary: Ballot Proposal Mania**

[Full story](#)

### **Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford: Statewide ballot question tally now at three proposals**

[Full story](#)

### **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Quick Action Ordered on Labor-Backed Ballot Issue**

[Full story](#)

### **WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Court of Appeals Hears Collective Bargaining Arguments**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Clarity issue could derail tax, bridge, union referendums**

"One theme was consistent Wednesday as challenges trying to stop three proposals from appearing on the November general election ballot were discussed in a Lansing courtroom and at state Capitol news conferences.... State officials and courts are under a tight deadline to resolve the issue. Sept. 7 is a deadline, unless the courts say differently, to decide what issues go on ballots that must be published and printed in every city, township and village in Michigan."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Foes of bridge amendment urge keeping it off the ballot**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: State elections staff: Anti-bridge, 'two-thirds' tax proposals have enough signatures but challenges to ballot status pending**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Pro-casino group says 7,280 jobs on the table**

"... On Friday [August 17], Citizens for More Michigan Jobs filed an appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, asking it to overturn the state Court of Appeals' ruling that the group's ballot proposal was unconstitutional, because the ballot language didn't include text of the law the group wants to change."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **MLive.com: Michigan's casino landscape could expand as tribes seek 'off-reservation' gaming operations**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Detroit courtroom shuts down to spray for bedbugs**

"A 36th District Court judge cleared out her packed courtroom Thursday after bailiffs spotted what appeared to be bedbugs crawling on a man who was accompanying a witness to a hearing.... After evacuating her courtroom, Judge Cylenthia LaToye Miller tried to move her docket to another room. When none were available, she sent her staff home for the day."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: State Supreme Court hopeful hangs with Handler (second article)**

"Late night TV talk show hosts usually don't take an interest in statewide elections, especially the Michigan Supreme Court. But E!'s Chelsea Handler made an exception last week for Bridget Mary McCormack , one of three Supreme Court candidates nominated by the Michigan Democratic Party."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: U-M takes on case of prisoner whose release Granholm canceled**

"Three days before Christmas 2010, a Michigan inmate got a remarkable gift: Gov. Jennifer Granholm said she would commute his life sentence for first-degree murder, ensuring his release after two decades in prison for setting up a robbery that led to the fatal stabbing of a co-worker. But Matthew Makowski's dream of freedom was dashed within 48 hours.... The case, now at the state appeals court, is an unprecedented test of constitutional power granted to Michigan governors."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Associated Press: Mich. parole case challenges governor's authority**

[Full story](#)

### **State Bar of Michigan Blog: The Last Last Word: An Appeal About Gov. Granholm's Commutation Change of Heart**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Snyder appoints 2 metro Detroiters to judgeships**

"Gov. Rick Snyder named attorneys Lisa Marie Neilson and Demetria Brue to fill judicial vacancies Wednesday. Neilson, an attorney with the Dickinson Wright law firm, was appointed to the Wayne County Probate Court to fill the seat of Cathie B. Maher who resigned from the bench.... Brue, who was an assistant Wayne County Prosecutor, will take the place of Detroit 36th District Court Judge Willie Lipscomb Jr., who retired."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **The Detroit News: Briefs: Snyder appoints judges to Wayne County Probate, 36th District courts**

[Full story](#)

## **The Michigan Lawyer Blog: Appointments made to Wayne Probate, 36th District courts**

[Full story](#)

## **The Detroit News: Sentences reduced in Oakland County following jail overcrowding**

"Sentence reductions were ordered Wednesday by Oakland County Chief Circuit Judge Pro Tempore Shalina Kumar for 228 inmates in the Oakland County Jail to alleviate a jail overcrowding state of emergency."

[Full story](#)

## **Detroit Free Press: Bob Bashara faces November trial**

"Bob Bashara will stand trial on Nov. 12 on charges that he tried to hire a hit man to silence Joe Gentz, whom he allegedly feared could link him to the January slaying of his wife, Jane. The date was set this morning. Bashara will be tried before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Bruce Morrow."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **The Detroit News: Robert Bashara will go to trial in November**

[Full story](#)

## **Battle Creek Enquirer: Swain again granted another trial; Testimony sways judge**

"For the second time a judge has granted Lorinda Swain a new trial. In a ruling issued Wednesday, Calhoun County Circuit Court Judge Conrad Sindt said new evidence could convince a jury that Swain is innocent of sexually assaulting her son."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Kalamazoo Gazette: Report: Judge rules cop withheld evidence; same officer's action's cited in earlier \$1 million judgment**

[Full story](#)

## **Bay City Times: Judge sets aside Bay City woman's guilty plea of fatally gunning down husband in 2009**

"A Bay City woman serving time for killing her husband has a second chance to prove she shot him in self-defense, thanks to a judge vacating her guilty plea. Bay County Circuit Judge Kenneth W. Schmidt on Wednesday granted a motion to set aside the plea of Rebecca J. Shimel on the grounds that she had ineffectual counsel."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Bay City Times: Saginaw attorney disagrees with Bay City woman's guilty plea to murder being set aside**

[Full story](#)

## **City Pulse/Lansing: Failing to unite the tribes; 54B District Court judge candidates, along with East Lansing officials, are against district court consolidation**

"... While they have absolutely no sway in the decision, the two candidates for the open judge seat in the 54B District Court in East Lansing — which would have been part of the consolidation — weighed in with their thoughts on the situation: Both are backing the decision of East Lansing officials against the consolidation."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **City Pulse/Lansing: 8/22/12 Radio Show (55th District Judge Thomas Boyd interview-see 46:23-60:00 minute mark)**

[Full story](#)

### **City Pulse/Lansing: One year later; Few dispensaries remain, leaving little doubt that medical marijuana activity has gone back underground. Now, all eyes are on the state Supreme Court**

"... Since Aug. 23, 2011, the number of medical marijuana dispensaries around town dropped from 41 to at least six. Thursday marks a happy anniversary for opponents of Lansing's once thriving medical marijuana dispensary scene, which reached a critical mass last summer right up until the state Court of Appeals sent owners running for the hills.... The Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal, and interested parties are now filing briefs with the court."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **City Pulse/Lansing: What are they now?; then and now: What a Difference a Year Can Make**

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: New trial sought for woman denied Medical Marijuana**

"... [Barbara] Agro was constitutionally denied her right to present a defense and is pursuing relief in the Michigan Court of Appeals. A recent case from the Michigan Supreme Court--People v King--supports Agro's arguments that she was denied her right to present a defense.... Mary Chartier is also handling two medical marijuana cases at the Michigan Supreme Court--State of Michigan v McQueen, often referred to as the 'dispensary case,' and People v Koon, the case that restricted the driving privileges of medical marijuana patients."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson County Legal News: Website gives Michiganders free legal information, forms**

"... The Michigan Legal Help website is part of a pilot project overseen by the Solutions on Self-Help Task Force. The Task Force was established in 2010 by (then) Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly to improve and coordinate resources for self-represented persons."

[Full story](#)

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

### **The Mining Journal/Marquette: Marquette County Courthouse to receive major roof repair**

"The Marquette County Board voted unanimously Tuesday to spend \$92,708 for roof repairs to the Marquette County Courthouse."

[Full story](#)

## **MLive.com: Commercials made in Michigan can't qualify for state film incentives, court rules**

"Commercials made in Michigan are not eligible for the state's film incentive program, the Court of Appeals ruled this week. The Michigan Film Coalition, a group of commercial production companies, advertisers and major corporations like General Motors, sued the state in 2010 over the right to receive incentives through Michigan's film credit program."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: ASKED & ANSWERED: Edward Sosnick**

"Judge Edward Sosnick is a longtime Oakland County judge who will have spent 24 years on the Circuit Court bench when he retires in January.... Prior to his election to Circuit Court, he served as a 48th District Court judge for four years. Sosnick was named chief judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court for the 1996-1997 term and the 1998-1999 term."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **Washtenaw County Legal News: Nominations sought for Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" award**

"Nominations are sought for the Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" Award which will be presented at the Washtenaw County Bar Association CBA Annual Bias Awareness Dinner Meeting on Thursday, October 18th.... The first award was presented in October of 1992 at the 1st annual Bias Awareness Dinner to the two chairs of the Michigan Supreme Court Task Forces on bias in the courts, Julia Darlow and Hon. Harold Hood. Last year's winner was Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton, and Judge Melinda Morris won in 2010."

[\*Full story\*](#)