

August 23, 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.

Detroit Legal News: Mental health courts see drop in recidivism

"A three-year evaluation of 10 Michigan mental health courts finds that participants re-offend at significantly lower levels than comparable groups of offenders who do not participate in the mental health courts. The evaluation, which was conducted by the State Court Administrative Office, found that one year after starting the program, mental health court participants' recidivism rate was 300 percent lower compared to similar offenders."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Hometown Life Newspapers: Walsh: Survey shows mental health courts are effective

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Study: Michigan's Mental Health Courts Work

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Study: Michigan's Mental Health Courts Reduce Recidivism, Improve Quality Of Life

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Interlochen Public Radio News.

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

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan appeals court: Pastors don't have to report child abuse

"A western Michigan pastor who was told about suspected child abuse can't be prosecuted for failing to report it, the state appeals court said today, citing a law that gives clergy protection in cases dealing with confidential information. The court, in a 3-0 decision, agreed with similar decisions by judges in Ionia County, east of Grand Rapids."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Michigan pastor cleared in dispute over child abuse

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Mich. pastor cleared in dispute over child abuse

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Ionia pastor's conversation with parishioner privileged, confidential, appeals court says

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Michigan Court of Appeals: Members of clergy not required to report child abuse

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer and the Times Herald/Port Huron.

The Detroit News: Can Detroiters govern their own city?

Nolan Finley writes "Detroit's city hall is run by a bankruptcy lawyer from Washington who reports to Gov. Rick Snyder. Detroit's Public Schools is run by an accountant who also reports to the governor. The city's local courts are run by a judge answerable to the state Supreme Court.... Two questions, one easy, one

hard: Is there anything left that Detroiters are running themselves? And, can Detroiters govern their own city?"

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Royal Oak lawyer accused of sex with underage prostitute

"A sordid tale about a lawyer having sex with a teenage client has surfaced in federal court, where documents outline a classic grooming case involving a young prostitute who was manipulated by an older man she met through Backpage.com. That man, court records show, is Royal Oak attorney Donald Guest."

[Full story](#)

The Daily Tribune: Towar: Soroptimists, girls softball a good mix

"Kate, the oldest daughter of 44th District Court Judge Derek Meinecke, likes to play softball, but the Royal Oak Sandlot League Freshman Division only had six teams for girls ages 8-11. Meinecke knew more girls could play if there were more teams."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Panel discussion on new Michigan Business Court system

"The Michigan Irish American Chamber of Commerce will host a panel discussion for lawyers and business owners on the new Michigan Business Court system on Sept. 5 from 5:50-8:30 p.m. at the University of Detroit Law School Atrium, 651 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit.... The participants in the panel discussion will be Business Court Judges appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court in their respective counties. The panel will include Circuit Court Judge John Foster from Macomb County, Judge Archie Brown from Washtenaw County, Judge Michael LeBeau from Monroe County and Judges Daniel Ryan, Jeanne Stempien and Brian Sullivan from Wayne County. Judge Daniel Ryan will moderate the event."

[Full story](#)

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

Also see:

Macomb County Legal News: Judges discuss Michigan's business court system

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Wayne County Probate Court to conduct 2013 attorney training (second article)

"The Wayne County Probate Court will conduct its 2013 attorney training session on Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Auditorium in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 13th Floor (City Side). Two sessions will be held: Attorney Training from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Michigan Legal Help assists over 200,000 people in its first year

"When MichiganLegalHelp.org launched on August 17, 2012, initial estimates expected around 3,000 visits per week to the legal information website. According to Michigan Legal Help Project Manager Angela Tripp, 'This estimate proved too conservative. Starting in January, there were over 5,000 visits per week, and that grew to over 6,000 per week by July. We are very gratified that so many people have turned to the website for help.'"

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: No happy endings for anyone involved in fake cop, massage scam

"Everyone got more than they bargained for when hopes of an adult massage turned into a robbery and later an 8- to 20-year prison sentence for the man who lured two victims to a Wyoming apartment building in 2011. The state court of appeals this week rejected Kelvin Wayne Heath's request to overturn his convictions on two counts of armed robbery and impersonating a police officer from the scam run by the 52-year-old."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: 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."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Officials might impose tax on Jackson residents to repay stormwater fees after class action suit

"Jackson officials might decide to rob Peter to pay Peter should they be required to refund city residents and business owners a portion of their stormwater utility fees.... Area resident Phillip Panzica filed a class action lawsuit against the city after a Michigan Court of Appeals ruling Aug. 1 canceled the city's stormwater utility."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Important information about cases pending against Detroit in Wayne Circuit Court

"If you have a case pending against the city of Detroit in Wayne County Circuit Court, you need to know this: ... The City of Detroit filed a bankruptcy petition under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code and an automatic stay is in effect by operation of federal law. The Third Circuit Court has identified all cases involving the City of Detroit as a defendant and has administratively placed these cases in stay status. No further action is required by the parties. A motion may be filed with the judge assigned to the case to obtain relief from the stay as it relates to non-City of Detroit parties."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: New Antrim prosecutor says appointment is 'bittersweet'

"James L. Rossiter has been named the new Antrim County prosecuting attorney. He replaces longtime Prosecutor Charles H. Koop, who died unexpectedly on Aug. 6.... 13th Circuit Judge Philip Rodgers announced the appointment along with Judge Thomas Power. Rodgers said the judges interviewed Rossiter one day and told him of their decision the next day, before any outside candidates were considered."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Rossiter named Antrim County prosecutor

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Teacher evaluation requirements not an unfunded mandate, Michigan appeals court rules

"A Michigan appeals court has upheld changes to the state's teacher tenure law, saying that alterations requiring educator evaluations and changing the standard for demoting or firing a tenured teacher are not prohibited by state tax law. The ruling came in a suit filed by 465 school districts and a taxpayer from each district against the Michigan Department of Education, State Superintendent Mike Flanagan, State Treasurer Andy Dillon and the state's budget director, John Nixon."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Commissioner to honor retired Judge Drury

"On Thursday, Aug. 29, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Auditorium, Oakland County Commissioner Mike Bosnic will honor retired Judge Dennis Drury to celebrate his 29-year career on the bench and his service to the community."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Novi judge reimburses expenses; county adds controls WITH VIDEO

"A Novi district court judge has reimbursed the county for \$3,800 in personal expenses charged to taxpayers. But that likely won't get Judge Dennis N. Powers off the hook with the State Court Administrator's Office, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said Friday."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Ed Quinnell, Remembered

"Our post of July 15 duly noted the passing of former Marquette circuit judge Ed Quinnell. A U.P. lawyer, Kevin Koch, urges us to remember Judge Quinnell more fully through these remarks he penned for that purpose, and we are happy to do so."

[Full story](#)