

August 29, 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: Child protection toolkit to help judges, lawyers with child placements**

"Appropriate placements for children in abuse and neglect cases – either reuniting child and family or finding another permanent home – is the goal of a new online toolkit aimed at judges and lawyers who handle child protection cases. Created by the Child Welfare Services Division of the Supreme Court Administrative Office, the toolkit is organized by hearings at various stages in child protection proceedings."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **SBM Blog: Michigan Child Protection Toolkit For Judges And Lawyers Released**

[Full story](#)

### **Child protection toolkit to help judges, lawyers with child placements**

[Press release](#)

### **The Detroit News: Questions surround judge's consideration for Senate run (third article)**

"As Oakland County District Judge Kimberly Small ponders a possible Republican bid for the U.S. Senate, Democratic and GOP activists were chattering this week about a provision in the state Constitution that suggests she's ineligible to run.... GOP political consultant Paul Welday, a friend of Small's, says the provision bars judges from running for state offices, not federal office."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: West Bloomfield parents allowed to sue prosecutors over faulty sex-abuse case**

"A U.S. Court of Appeals ruling on Wednesday allows a West Bloomfield couple's lawsuit to proceed to trial over claims that their constitutional rights were violated after the father was accused of raping their autistic daughter, leading to a prosecution that a judge later described as a 'runaway train.' The appeals court said governmental immunity doesn't shield Oakland County prosecutors, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools officials and staffers from the Michigan Department of Human Services from liability for their actions in the case."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Oakland Press: Prosecutors in West Bloomfield Township couple's dismissed sexual abuse case won't get immunity**

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: Prosecutors can be sued for pursuing rape case against father of autistic child**

[Full story](#)

### **Battle Creek Enquirer: Editorial: Juvenile injustice; Schuette should drop appeal of decision granting parole hearings**

"Some kids just never had a chance, and judging by his actions, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette seems intent on ensuring they never get one. Schuette is appealing a recent federal court decision that the roughly 350 inmates sentenced as juveniles to life without parole should receive parole hearings."

[Full story](#)

**\*\* The article is available by subscription only.**

### **The Daily Tribune: Bay City teacher sex case sent back to trial court**

"A mid-Michigan woman who worked as a high school substitute teacher faces a new trial on charges that she had sex with three 17-year-old students over summer break in 2010. Heidi Lewis, 44, of Midland, had the third-degree criminal sexual conduct charges reinstated following this week's ruling by the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily, the Oakland Press and the Times Herald/Port Huron.**

**Also see:**

### **Midland Daily News: Appeals court reinstates charges against Bay City Central substitute teacher; new trial ordered**

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: COA reinstates criminal charges against Bay City teacher**

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily Tribune: PONTIAC: Website offers legal help (second article)**

"The Michigan Legal Help website, MichiganLegalHelp.org, helps thousands of people each week. The website was created to provide free legal information to people who cannot afford to hire an attorney and need to represent themselves in simple legal matters, making legal information easier to understand and showing self-represented people how to navigate the court system properly and efficiently."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Nominations sought for two awards**

"Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award: Nominations are open for the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Human Services, to honor exceptional service to Michigan's children.... [T]he deadline is September 27.... Child Welfare Awards: The Foster Care Review Board is seeking nominations for its annual Child Welfare Awards, which honor judges, lawyers, foster care workers, and foster parents for exemplary service to children in Michigan's foster care system.... The deadline is September 6."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: SBM to honor 2013 award winners at Sept. 18 banquet**

"State Bar of Michigan members will gather at the Lansing Center on Wednesday, Sept. 18, to honor the best in the legal profession.... Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award: Retired Midland County Probate Court Judge Donna T. Morris: ... Upon her appointment to the Midland probate bench in 1980, [Judge] Morris was always willing to go the extra mile for the individuals appearing in her courtroom.... Champion of Justice Award: A. Kay Stanfield Spinks: ... She was the first African American female jurist in Oakland County—she was appointed a 46th District Court magistrate in 1987 and held the position for 23 years while maintaining a private practice."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: MSU Law Professor Halloran receives Champion of Justice Award**

"The State Bar of Michigan announces Michele L. Halloran, clinical professor of law and director of clinical programs at Michigan State University College of Law, as recipient of its 2013 Champion of Justice Award.... [Halloran] served as an administrative law judge for the Michigan Tax Tribunal; a law clerk to the Honorable Mary S. Coleman, former chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court; a prehearing attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals; and a law clerk for the State Board of Tax Appeals."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Attorney Association to host annual People's Law**

"The Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ)(formerly the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association), along with Sinas Dramis, PC, and Wayne State Law School will host the People's Law School starting on September 10th. This seven-week program is open to the community and provides an opportunity for non-lawyers to learn about the legal system. The People's Law School Faculty includes judges, elected officials, seasoned attorneys and law professors."

[Full story](#)

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

### **Iron Mountain Daily News: Former trooper granted new trial**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has granted a new trial to a former Michigan State Police trooper who was convicted by jury in Iron County Trial Court in 2011 of two felony counts of criminal sexual conduct-second degree. David Morikawa, 39, won the appeal on grounds that he had ineffective assistance of counsel."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **WLUC-TV(6)/Negaunee: Former state trooper convicted of sex crime gets new trial**

[Full story](#)

### **Kalamazoo Gazette: Intensive adult probation program for repeat offenders being considered in Van Buren County**

"Criminal offenders who have proven to be probation problems in the past may get a chance to demonstrate they can straighten up under a 'Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program' being considered for Van Buren County. On Tuesday, Aug. 28, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners gave approval to Circuit Judge Kathleen Brickley to submit an application for a grant to establish the program in the county."

[Full story](#)

### **Washtenaw County Legal News: Business court is focus Sept. 5**

"Washtenaw County Trial Court Judge Archie Brown will be among the panelists when the Michigan Irish American Chamber of Commerce hosts a discussion for lawyers and business owners on the new Michigan Business Court system. The event will be held from 5:50 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5 at the University of Detroit Law School Atrium, 651 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit."

[Full story](#)