

September 25, 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.

The Detroit News: Feds question policy about Michigan court translators

"The federal government doesn't seem impressed with a new policy aimed at expanding translation services in Michigan courts. The U.S. Justice Department says the income threshold to get free services is too high. The government suggests people who can't understand English should be treated like the deaf. Michigan doesn't charge people for sign-language services in court."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Feds question policy about Mich. court translators

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, the Times Herald/Port Huron and other media outlets.

The Detroit News: State Bar: Reforms are principled

State Bar of Michigan Executive Director Janet Welch writes "There is a short answer to Dan Pero's op-ed accusing the State Bar of Michigan of acting politically in its call for greater transparency in funding for judicial campaigns: 'Not true.' But readers who have not had a chance to read the State Bar's letter calling for an end to funding of judicial campaigns by undisclosed donors deserve to know more."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Detroit bankruptcy judge: Accident victim must wait in line for payment

"U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes said Tuesday it would be 'fundamentally unfair' to let car accident victim [Michael Beydoun] pursue his \$2 million judgment against the city of Detroit while other creditors wait to get repaid.... The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld the judgment, but the case was pending before the Michigan Supreme Court when the bankruptcy filing froze the proceedings."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Homicide charges against Highers brothers, who spent 25 years in prison, to be dismissed

"Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has decided to dismiss homicide charges against [Thomas and Raymond] Highers, who spent almost 25 years in prison in a 1987 killing.... The case had been scheduled for trial this coming Oct. 8 after Judge Lawrence Talon tossed their original convictions and granted a motion for a new trial on July 26, 2012, the prosecutor's office said."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: 26 years later, charges dropped against Highers brothers

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Murder charges to be dismissed against brothers

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Prosecutor dismisses 1987 Detroit murder case against Highers brothers; 'I've just been waiting for this day,' says Tommy Highers

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Senate bill would restrict access to juvenile criminal records

"Criminal history records for juveniles will become less available to the public under legislation under consideration in the state Senate. Under the bill, criminal history for juveniles could be released only by the Michigan State Police to other law enforcement agencies, including courts and prosecutors, or to employers who are required to do criminal background checks of potential employees."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County Jail project judge orders e-mails, texts preserved

"The judge serving as a one-man grand jury probing the troubled Wayne County Jail construction project wants to preserve scores of records, beyond a much anticipated audit report. Judge Timothy Kenny issued orders Thursday to preserve records of almost every kind related to the project, saying they 'shall be preserved as evidence and not destroyed, tampered or altered in any way.' "

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Youth-at-risk programs save Livingston nearly \$500K

"Livingston County's court programs geared to help at-risk youth succeed in life have saved the county nearly \$500,000, officials said. Livingston County Circuit Court Administrator John Evans said implementation of programs such as multisystemic therapy, or MST, which has had an 80 percent success rate in its first year, has helped the county better serve its at-risk youth."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Court reaping \$700K in grants; Pretty valuable services' to benefit

"Livingston County Circuit Court has received more than \$700,000 in grants to continue services for at-risk families.... The county received \$200,000 from the Office of Highway Safety Planning, state Supreme Court Administrative Office and Department of Justice for the adult drug court. This will allow court officials to offer more services to the estimated 45 participants who pass through the court on a yearly basis."

[Full story](#)

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: County courts equipped for video conferencing

"This week, 70-inch television screens are to begin lighting up in Lenawee County courtrooms, giving judges videoconferencing options to modernize proceedings. State officials offered the television system to Lenawee County in August, said Matt Richardson, the county's information technology director."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Welcoming Party

"The Wolverine Bar Association (WBA) and the Association of Black Judges of Michigan (ABJM) hosted a Membership Roundup on Thursday, Sept. 19, at Finn and Porter Restaurant in Detroit. [The WBA and ABJM leadership were happy to welcome members from the 36th District Court, the Wayne County Circuit Court and the Michigan Court of Appeals.]"

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: A judge known for a fair shake; John Dillon is remembered as man who loved his job and his family

Many people are not particularly memorable on first meeting. But Marcia Tomkiewicz says no one ever forgot meeting the late Judge John Dillon.... Tomkiewicz was Dillon's court administrator in 17th District Court in Redford Township from 1987 until the judge retired in 1992. Dillon died at the age of 86 on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at his home."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: County Council to honor award recipients Oct. 2nd

"On Wednesday, Oct. 2, from noon to 1 p.m., the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence (OCCCADV) will hold its annual Domestic Violence Prevention Awards Ceremony.... The OCCCADV will honor six community members who have demonstrated exemplary service to victims of domestic violence. [Oakland Circuit Court Judge Lisa Gorcyca is chair of the OCCCADV.]"

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Veterans court offers chance to rebuild

"... Debbie Cherry, a secretary for Genesee County Probate Judge Jennie Barkey, filled the judge's ears with stories of other military members suffering PTSD. Barkey decided to form a Veterans Treatment Court, and her vision became a reality in January 2013, after approval by the State Court Administrator's Office and Genesee County Chief Circuit Judge Richard Yuille signed it into existence. And the Veterans Court in Genesee County was dedicated in honor of [Cherry's son] Dwayne Cherry."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Counties may create mental health courts after Michigan House approves legislation

"Offenders with mental illnesses could get needed treatment without incarceration under legislation approved by the Michigan House Thursday. State Rep. Margaret O'Brien, R-Portage, is helping sponsor two bills which create mental health courts throughout Michigan. O'Brien said the legislation was introduced, in part, due to the success of Kalamazoo County's mental health court."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: SCAO administrator named NJC president

"State Court Administrator Chad C. Schmucker has been chosen to serve as the eighth president of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. The NJC's Board of Trustees announced the appointment Tuesday [September 17]. Schmucker will join the NJC and start as the NJC president on Jan. 1, 2014."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Islamic Headdress In Court

"Three years ago Michigan earned national attention for two cases on Islamic head gear. One case centered on the decision of a Wayne County circuit judge who required a woman to remove her hijab, a headscarf which covers the hair but not the face, to conform to a 'no hats' policy. His decision was appealed to federal court, which upheld the decision on the grounds that the judge apparently did not understand the religious nature of the hijab and likely would have permitted its removal if he had."

[Full story](#)

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Prhaze Galvan's killers staying in prison

"Joe Guy and Jennifer Galvan, convicted of beating their 3-year-old daughter to death in 2010, are staying in prison. The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld their convictions Tuesday, rejecting their appeals of life sentences for felony murder, first-degree child abuse, torture and possession of marijuana."

[Full story](#)