

September 26, 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 Free Press: City asks Detroit bankruptcy judge to stay lawsuits involving 36th District Court

"Attorneys for the City of Detroit want a bankruptcy judge to put a hold on claims against 36th District Court, which is funded by the city. In a document filed Wednesday, lawyers argued claims against parties of the court are really claims against the city and asked U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes to extend the stay because of its Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Attorney appeals Joseph Gentz's murder conviction

"An attorney for a former handyman in prison for killing a Grosse Pointe Park woman is appealing the man's murder conviction. Phillip Comorski, an appellate lawyer appointed to represent Joseph Gentz, said in a document filed with the Michigan Court of Appeals that Gentz wrote a letter to Wayne County Circuit Court indicating 'certain conditional promises associated with the plea were not fulfilled by the prosecutor.' "

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Attorney says letter key to Gentz appeal in Bashara case

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judicial commission drops investigation of Macomb County Judge Richard Caretti

"The Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission is not pursuing a formal complaint in an investigation of Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Richard Caretti, according to the interim head of the county's legal department. Interim Corporation Counsel John Schapka this week said the commission 'has withdrawn all charges at the preliminary investigation stage and has elected not to pursue the matter in any formal proceeding.' "

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Commission won't pursue investigation of Macomb County judge

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Judge drops murder charges for Highers brothers

"A Wayne County Circuit Court judge on Thursday dismissed murder charges for two brothers who spent most of their adult lives in prison, ending their more than quarter-century crusade of adamantly professing their innocence. During a morning hearing, Judge Lawrence Talon approved Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy's request to dismiss charges against Raymond, 47, and Thomas Highers, 48, stemming from their convictions in 1988."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Cheers erupt as homicide charges against Highers brothers are dismissed

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: 'The truth brought us here,' Highers brother says after judge dismisses 26-year-old murder charges

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan inmates win lawsuit over unusual parole ban

"About 130 Michigan prison inmates could get a shot at freedom after a judge struck down an unusual policy that denied any possibility for parole if they had committed another crime behind bars.... Ingham County Judge Joyce Draganchuk ruled in favor of the prisoners on Sept. 11, saying the parole board's interpretation of a state law was wrong. The inmates want parole hearings, although the judge hasn't settled on a remedy yet."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Michigan inmates win lawsuit over unusual parole ban

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Feds question policy about 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 limit to qualify for free services is a burden. The government suggests people who don't understand English should be treated like the deaf. Michigan doesn't charge people for sign-language services in court."

[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 a.m. to noon and from 1:30-3 p.m."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Grand Fran: Legal community mourns loss of a 'special dynamo'

"He faced a challenge that few in Oakland County would relish: Following in the footsteps of Fran Anderson.... She was 26 years old when she married a 28-year-old attorney, Robert Anderson. After spending 20 years in private practice, he would become a longtime Oakland County judge before succumbing to cancer in 1998."

[Full story](#)

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

The Holland Sentinel: Allegan man won't get new trial in sexual assault case

"An Allegan man convicted two years ago on seven counts of criminal sexual conduct with a child under 13 years old will not get a new trial, the Michigan Court of Appeals decided earlier this week in a split ruling. Earl Robert Kranz, 46, was found guilty of the seven counts and another count of aggravated indecent exposure after a jury trial in Allegan County Circuit Court and sentenced to prison in 2011."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WOOD-TV(8)/Grand Rapids: Court: Sex assault convictions stand

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: 52 graduate from Sobriety Court

"... [O]ne man told the crowd that nothing — not jail, not losing his job, not being thrown out of his home — ever convinced him to sober up. Nothing, that is, until a stint in Sobriety Court. All in all, 52 individuals were honored last week at the 52-1 District Court's Sobriety Court graduation ceremony held

at the Milford Civic Center.... The 52-1 Sobriety Court is one of the oldest in the country. When it was created in 2001, it was only the 18th in the U.S.; today, there are 16 in Michigan alone."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Boo! Judge ready to scare in Canton with ghost stories

"... Just in time for Halloween, Lowe is bringing his scary storytelling talents to Summit on the Park's ballroom during 'Ghost Stories,' an event 6-7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, to benefit the Canton Historical Society. 'This is the first time we've done this,' said Bill Tesen, historical society president, discussing the event with Lowe in the judge's chambers."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Oral arguments handbook offers tips for Michigan Supreme Court Practice

"Attorneys who appear before the Michigan Supreme Court have a valuable new resource: a comprehensive, online handbook about how to prepare for and argue their cases. Entitled 'Guide for Counsel in Cases to Be Argued in the Michigan Supreme Court,' the handbook was compiled by Supreme Court staff with extensive input from Michigan Solicitor General John Bursch."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Turnabout: Veterans Court offers opportunity to rebuild

"... Debbie Cherry, was 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](#)

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

Jackson County Legal News: Lawyers honored at SBM annual meeting

"... Prior to the swearing in of [SBM] officers, Justice Michael F. Cavanagh was honored by Hon. Michael D. Petosky, Chief Judge, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, for his efforts in bringing the Indian Tribal Courts and the state courts together as evidenced by the adoption of Michigan Court Rule 2.615, which provides for recognition and enforcement of Indian tribal court judgments. Justice Cavanagh was called to the podium to be wrapped in a 'blanket of honor' and serenaded by Honor Drum Song."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Federal judge is named MiLW 'Woman of the Year'

"U.S. District Judge Victoria A. Roberts received Michigan Lawyers Weekly's 2013 'Woman of the Year' award at MiLW's annual Women in the Law event Sept. 26. Roberts was selected by a vote of the 25 members of the Women in the Law Class of 2013.... Prior to becoming a federal judge, Roberts served as the 62nd SBM president for the 1996-97 term. She is one of only five female SBM presidents, and the first black female to hold the position.... She started her career as a research attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

The Mining Journal/Marquette: County looks to back townships in big box tax battle

"The Marquette County Board is expected to contribute to the combined legal defense of Marquette and Breitung townships in their state appellate court battle to preserve hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax revenue derived annually from 'big box' retailers including Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and Home Depot.... The townships' case before the Michigan Court of Appeals is expected to be decided over the next few months."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Friend of the Court panel to meet Oct. 14

"The Oakland County Friend of the Court (FOC) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), established by Friend of the Court Act 294, 1982 Section 552.504, will meet on Monday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium, Pernick Conference Room, 1200 North Telegraph Road in Pontiac."

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: 'Stunned' ticket holder learned of ticket in November 2011

"A woman who claimed she was never told about a Kalkaska County parking ticket until she was arrested on an outstanding warrant actually was aware of the legal matter nearly two years ago but did not resolve it, [Kalkaska County Court Administrator Mark Holston] said.... Holston said a bench warrant is the biggest tool courts have to enforce speeding tickets and violations."

[Full story](#)