

October 5, 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: Frank Beckmann: This year's Supreme Court race too important to miss

"With the presidency, a U.S. Senate seat, and six statewide issues of importance on the Nov. 6 ballot, little attention is being given to the Michigan Supreme Court races, except within the Democratic and Republican parties."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Appeals court dismisses restaurant smoking ban lawsuit

"A Warren bar owner's lawsuit challenging the state's restaurant smoking ban was dismissed by the state Court of Appeals on Thursday."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Ex-Warren bar owner loses challenge to smoking ban

[Full story](#)

The Michigan Lawyer Blog: Bar closing kills challenge to smoking ban

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: State to pay activist \$29,000 to settle suit over emergency manager

"The State of Michigan agreed Thursday to pay an anti-emergency manager activist nearly \$29,000 to settle a lawsuit in which state officials were found in contempt of court for failing to abide by an Ingham County judge's order that the Detroit Financial Review Team was subject to the Open Meetings Act."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: No more trials for Flint serial stabbing suspect

"A man charged in a series of stabbings in a Michigan city and one in Ohio in 2010 will face no additional trials unless his first murder conviction is overturned by an appeals court. Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton says two murder cases and six attempted murder cases will be suspended against Elias Abuelazam."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Future of serial stabbing cases at issue in Flint

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Prosecution suspends all other serial killer Elias Abuelazam's cases pending appeal

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Investiture held for Boonstra

"Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Judge William B. Murphy opened a special session of the Michigan Court of Appeals with the traditional 'all rise' as the robed appellate judges entered the Michigan Library & Historical Center auditorium to witness the investiture of Hon. Mark T. Boonstra. The ceremony was held Sept. 27."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Ingham County Legal News, the Jackson County Legal News and the Washtenaw County Legal News.

Detroit Legal News: State courts debut updated website

"A new and better-organized 'One Court of Justice' website — offering everything from forms needed for court proceedings to the latest Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals decisions — debuted Thursday, Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., announced."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Michigan State Courts' New Web Site Debuts Today; New site organizes content by audience, features better access and search tools

[Press release](#)

Detroit Legal News: Wayne County judges' retirement party

"Wayne County will lose four long-standing, well-respected judges due to retirement at the end of the year: Judges Prentis Edwards, Thomas E. Jackson, Michael Sapala and Carole Youngblood. The retirement party held in their honor is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 16 at the International Banquet Center in Greek Town, 8th Floor Ballroom from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Applications for bail bondsmen due Oct.26 (second article)

"Pursuant to MCLA 750.167(b), the judges of the Circuit Court are to annually compile and maintain an up-to-date list of the names of persons engaged in the business of becoming surety upon bonds for compensation in criminal cases."

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Hon. Robert E. Weiss Awards

"Supreme Court presented awards during a luncheon Thursday at the Commonwealth Commerce Center in downtown Jackson. The awards were presented during the Adoption & Permanency Forum and honor excellence in service to children and families. The Honorable Robert E. Weiss Awards are named for the long time family court judge from Flint known for his work on behalf of children."

[Full story](#)

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

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Claressa Shields named honorary Judge Marable Student of the Month

"Flint 68th District Judge Herman Marable, Jr. announced last Saturday that Olympic Gold Medalist boxer Claressa Shields has been selected as an Honorary Judge Marable Student of the Month.... Shields is a senior at Flint Northwestern High School. She was given the honorary designation because of her decision to return home and continue her education."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Appeals court says Beecher water whistleblower case was wrongly dismissed

"A whistleblower protection case filed by the former administrator of the Beecher Metropolitan District against the district will return to Genesee Circuit Court after the state appeals court said it was improperly dismissed."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Community can meet 68th District Court candidates during forum

"The community will get a chance to meet the four people vying for two spots as judge in 68th District Court.... Candidates Jill Creech Bauer and Glenn Cotton will take on incumbents in Judge William Crawford III and Judge Herman Marable Jr. [during an October 23 forum hosted by the Flint Area League of Women Voters.]"

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Oakland County judge puts DNA first, everything else on hold in Hayman-Ketchmark case

"Oakland County Circuit Judge Cheryl A. Matthews made it clear [Wednesday] that she has little interest in the salacious details of a steamy lawsuit filed against Genesee Circuit Judge Archie Hayman. But Matthews, a former assistant county prosecutor, made it equally clear that whatever dirty laundry is contained in the case file will be aired in public."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: 23 days and counting: Genesee County Jail overcrowding proving to be stubborn problem

"Twenty-three days after it started, an overcrowding emergency hasn't been broken at the county jail, and if it isn't by next week, some inmates will be getting time chopped off their sentences.... County Chief Circuit Judge Richard Yuille is currently working with a list of names of inmates being held at the jail to identify who among them are eligible to have their sentences reduced."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Students, faculty, attorneys take Cooley Law pro bono pledge

"Judge Margaret Bakker of the Allegan County Circuit Court administered the Cooley Voluntary Pro Bono Pledge to Thomas M. Cooley Law School students, faculty, staff, alumni and local attorneys Oct. 2. Thirty-five individuals took the pledge at Cooley's Grand Rapids campus."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Grand Rapids medical marijuana case goes to state Supreme Court

"A medical marijuana case involving a Grand Rapids man's growing cooperative will be argued next week in the state Supreme Court. Ryan Michael Bylsma, a licensed medical marijuana caregiver, set up a grow operation in a Grand Rapids warehouse where he and others raised plants."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Morning Sun: Supreme Court to hear [Isabella County] medical marijuana case

[Full story](#)

Michigan Supreme Court Hears First Oral Arguments of 2012-2013 Session; Two Medical Marijuana Cases, 10 Others to Be Heard Oct. 9-11

[Press release](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Kent County Circuit Judge James Robert Redford receives U.S. Navy's Legion of Merit

"In nearly a decade on the Kent County bench, Judge James Robert Redford took a side job to performing his duties in Circuit Court - earning a reputation as one of the most experienced and respected judges in the U.S. Navy. [Thursday], Redford's 28-year career with the Navy culminated in the

presentation of the prestigious Legion of Merit, an honor reserved for 'exceptionally meritorious conduct.'

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Grand Rapids Press: Photo Gallery: Circuit Court Judge James Robert Redford Awarded Legion of Merit

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Judge tells Grandville volleyball trainer 'You are a sexual predator'

"A judge today described a former Grandville volleyball trainer as a 'sexual predator' before he sentenced him to prison for molesting six teen girls at Grandville training facility.... Kent County Circuit Court Judge Mark Trusock had harsh words for Castillo before he sentenced him to two to 15 years in prison."

[Full story](#)

Holland Sentinel: Court denies Douglas city's appeal in takings case; damages to change

"Douglas and developer Chandler Kalkman will be back before a judge after the state Court of Appeals denied the city's appeal and reduced the damages due to Kalkman. The city council will meet with its attorney in a special meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at city hall, 86 W. Center St., to discuss the Sept. 20 ruling."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: LAD conducts small claims court workshop

"Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) conducted the third of its three summer workshops on small claims court Sept. 18 at Sterling Heights Public Library. Small claims court is a judicial process in district courts for settling money disputes of \$5,000 or less."

[Full story](#)

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

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel presents another balanced budget

"...The departments that would suffer manpower reductions — a total of 15 full-time employees and one part timer — are: the Health Department, Senior Citizen Services, Probate Court, IT Department, Facilities and Operations Department, Purchasing Department and the Reimbursement Department, which collects fees and fines for the Circuit Court."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: New program offers Michigan kids alternative to foster care

"Michigan's Department of Human Services (DHS) is piloting a new program designed to keep 'at risk' kids in their homes instead of handing them over to foster care. The program will target families with children younger than five years of age."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Former Craig School, site adjacent to Muskegon County courthouse added as possibilities for juvenile facility

"... The Craig School building at the corner of Southern Avenue and Park Street and a site near the county building at 990 Terrace St. would be potential options for the [new Muskegon County Juvenile Transition Center] if the decision is to build a new Muskegon County jail next to the Hall of Justice."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Royal farewell: District judge retires after more than four decades serving city

"After serving on Royal Oak's bench for 32 years, Oakland County 44th District Court Chief Judge Daniel Sawicki is hanging up his robe.... A retirement celebration will be held in Sawicki's honor on Thursday, Oct. 11, at Red Run Golf Club."

[Full story](#)

Press & Guide/Dearborn: Dearborn judges looking for drug court money to replace eliminated state grant

"The three 19th District Court judges have approached the city about paying \$35,000 it didn't receive in grant money from the state so it can continue its drug court program. The state received \$9.4 million in drug court requests, but only awarded \$2.1 million. Its fiscal year started Monday; the city's started July 1."

[Full story](#)

Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford: Sentence upheld: Murderer still on hook for life in prison

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld West Bloomfield Township resident Ellery Bennett's sentence of life in prison without parole for the 2010 stabbing death of his wife. The sentence was originally handed down by Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Nanci Grant on March 9, after a jury previously found Bennett guilty of the charge of first-degree murder."

[Full story](#)

Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford: At least \$1M spent by outside groups on TV ads in CC race (UPDATED: Friday, Oct. 5)

"Add at least another \$850,000 to the ad buys on behalf of two state assistant attorneys general who many say are the beneficiaries of an out-of-state spending bonanza in an effort to unseat at least one of five sitting Oakland County Circuit Court judges up for re-election on Nov. 6."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford: Editorial: They're asking for votes, but Circuit Court challengers are dodging questions

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Happy Birthday, Michigan Law

"On October 5, 1859, the University of Michigan Department of Law 'commenced its active existence.' "

[Full story](#)

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Changes coming to courthouse

"The St. Clair County Commissioners Ways and Means committee gave preliminary approval Thursday to a plan to reduce the number of full-time bailiffs at the county courthouse. According to a board memo from court administrator Jerry Celmer, the changes are being made to meet budgetary and operational needs. The change will save \$17,759 in 2013."

[Full story](#)

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

Washtenaw County Legal News: Learning Center educates public about legal system

"The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center in Lansing is beginning its tenth year of educating students and citizens about Michigan's legal system. The Legal News talked to Learning Center Coordinator Rachael L. Drenovsky about the 3,800-square-foot facility, which is staffed mostly by volunteers who lead tours and work on special programs."

[Full story](#)