

October 13-15, 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.

KENT COUNTY STUDENTS TO WITNESS MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ORAL ARGUMENT FOR 'COURT COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS'

In *People v Minch*, convicted felon seeks to have firearms seized by police delivered to his mother; Muskegon prosecutor argues felon-in-possession law bars delivery

[Press release](#)

Volunteer Docents Needed for Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center No legal experience needed; center provides training for giving tours, showing exhibits

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Wayne Co. judge allegedly lied under oath

"A Wayne County Circuit Court judge lied about her identity under oath, according to a judge tapped to investigate a complaint against her. Judge Deborah Ross Adams lied to another judge about making phone calls to her court, according to Donald G. Miller, a retired Macomb Circuit Court Judge appointed by the state Supreme Court earlier this year to investigate charges of perjury and forgery against Ross Adams."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Supreme Court commission to hear judges' ethics charges; Ottawa, Wayne county judges face charges

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Hold trial for Canton Township woman hurt in trooper crash, court says

"The Michigan appeals court has ordered a trial in the case of a woman who says she can't play tennis or golf after a crash with a state trooper. In a 2-1 result, the court overturned a decision that had dismissed the lawsuit in favor of the state."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Court: Hold trial for woman hurt in trooper crash

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Supreme Court ruling may give those sentenced to life as juveniles a chance at freedom

"... The Michigan battle is being waged on three fronts: In U.S. District Court in Ann Arbor, where the ACLU sued on behalf of [Keith] Maxey and other juvenile lifers; before the Michigan Court of Appeals, which is reviewing [Raymond] Carp's case, and in the Legislature, which will try to amend state law to comply with the Supreme Court's decision.... [The Court of Appeals] will hear arguments Tuesday [October 16] in Lansing and try to craft a solution."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WKAR News/East Lansing: MI Appeals Court To Decide How State Will Comply With Lifer Law Decision

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Former GOP Gov. Milliken backs Democrat McCormack for Mich. Supreme Court

"Former Republican Gov. William Milliken is endorsing a Democrat for the state Supreme Court. Milliken is backing University of Michigan law professor Bridget McCormack."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Milliken backs Democrat McCormack for Mich. court

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Michigan judge delays ruling on exotic swine ban

"A circuit judge has postponed a ruling on whether Michigan's ban on exotic swine is constitutional. Judge Thomas Solka heard arguments from both sides Monday. He said he would issue a written opinion within 30 days."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Michigan judge delays ruling on exotic swine ban

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Ex-Bashara attorney violates order; Griem faces fine for sharing evidence in murder case

"The first attorney Robert Bashara retained after his wife was slain was found in civil contempt of court Friday for violating a judge's order by sharing evidence with his client's relatives. David Griem represented Bashara for six months after Jane Bashara's body was discovered Jan. 25, but asked to withdraw from the case because of an unspecified breakdown in the attorney-client relationship."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Bob Bashara's former attorney held in civil contempt

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Editorial Quick Hits: Stop the Highland Park lawsuits

"Robert Davis doesn't seem to get it. The Highland Park school board secretary keeps filing lawsuits so he and the other board members that helped drive the school district into financial chaos and academic ineptitude can regain control."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Legal Aid and Defender to award 12 'Laddys' at ceremony Oct. 25

"Ten attorneys, a law firm and an office of corporate counsel will receive 'Laddy' awards from Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) at its annual awards ceremony Thursday, Oct. 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.... Laddy winners are:... Friend of LAD: Lynn M. Davidson, director, Macomb County Friend of the Court;... Ed Porknoy Pioneer of Justice: The Hon. Vera Massey-Jones, a judge of the Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Acquittal overturned in Genesee County medical marijuana case

"The acquittal of a Clarkston man who was charged with marijuana possession has gone up in smoke despite his claims the drug was for medicinal purposes. The state Court of Appeals has overturned a ruling that dismissed a possession charge against 28-year-old Chason Pointer after it ruled Genesee

Circuit Court Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut erroneously concluded that Pointer was protected by the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act.”

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Appeals court says 14-year-old's confession can be used in Flint murder trial

“The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled that a confession made by a then 14-year-old Flint boy after the slaying a 73-year-old woman can be used during his murder trial. Two of the three appeals court judges sided with Genesee Circuit Judge Archie L. Hayman when he ruled that the confession could be used during the trial of Mark Jones Jr.”

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Empty beds: Fewer detained juveniles has Genesee County officials looking for ways to fill center

“... The center is currently used only for court-ordered detention -- licensed as a holding facility in which juveniles from 10 to 17 years old are housed until their cases are resolved in court.... [Fred] Woelmer and Genesee Family Court Judge Duncan Beagle said increased use of non-residential programs, including tether, is also causing the decline.”

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Michigan jury reform project receives award

“‘I come today to present the 2012 G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation to this court and the trial court judges who participated in the Jury Reform Pilot project,’ said Robert Baldwin, National Council of State Courts (NCSC) Vice President and General Counsel, speaking before the Michigan Supreme Court in the old Supreme Court courtroom in the state Capitol building on October 9th.”

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award

“Recognizing outstanding work for Michigan's children is the goal of the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award. Nominations are now open for this joint award of the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Human Services.”

[Full story](#)

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

Also see:

Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award; honor recognizes outstanding work for Michigan children and families

[Press release](#)

Lansing State Journal: Mark Meadows, Andrea Larkin seek 54B District Court seat

“The candidates for 54B District Court judge both have strong ties to the East Lansing community and both say they have the strongest qualifications for the post being vacated by Judge David Jordon, who’s retiring after 22 years.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The State News/East Lansing: Face Time: East Lansing District Court judge candidate

[Full story](#)

****The Lansing State Journal article is available by subscription only.**

Lansing State Journal: Cunningham, Freeman seek Eaton Circuit Court seat; Winner will replace Judge Eveland

"Jan Cunningham and Steve Freeman each say they hold the qualifications to be the better circuit judge to replace Judge Thomas Eveland, who is prohibited by age from seeking another term in office."

[Full story](#)

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

Lansing State Journal: CASA to host Superhero 5K Run/Walk and Fun Run

"CASA [(Court Appointed Special Advocates)] will host its first CASA Superhero 5k Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run in downtown Hastings on Saturday, Oct. 27, at 9 a.m... All funds raised support CASA's mission to provide advocacy services to children in foster care."

[Full story](#)

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

Macomb County Legal News: UDM Law holds centennial Red Mass

"... PHOTO #2: Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael Cavanagh led the Renewal of the Lawyer's Oath of Commitment during the mass. Welcoming Cavanagh to the mass were UDM President Dr. Antoine Garibaldi and UDM Law Dean Lloyd Semple. PHOTO #3: Among those taking part in processional to the Red Mass were Mary Catherine Rentz of Plunkett Cooney PC and Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Michael Riordan."

[Full story](#)

Morning Sun: As retirement looms, Probate Court Judge Jack Arnold takes a look back

"The one aspect Gratiot's retiring probate and family court judge Jack Arnold said he didn't anticipate when he took over the bench in 1988 were the threats.... Arnold said he got one such call a few weeks ago, and played the tape of it.... Of course that wasn't Arnold's first threat. He averages about three a year and law enforcement is contacted immediately."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: The jail dilemma: Judge's 1996 lawsuit vs. Muskegon County part of ongoing problem

"The year was 1996 and, just like today, the Muskegon County Jail was a major concern for governmental officials. The legal issues involving the jail 16 years ago caused [Judge Michael E. Kobza] to take a rather unusual step."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: State Supreme Court hears medical marijuana case

"The Michigan Supreme Court heard oral arguments last Thursday in one of the most significant legal issues since voters approved medical marijuana -- the legality of dispensaries. The justices are faced with a case that involves the shops where people with medical marijuana cards sell homegrown pot to people who don't grow their own."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Court of Appeals welcomes Boonstra

"Chief Judge William B. Murphy opened the 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 Appeals Court Judge Mark T. Boonstra. The ceremony was conducted on Thursday, Sept. 27."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Service to kids, families recognized

"The Michigan Supreme Court presented the Honorable Robert E. Weiss Awards during a luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 27, 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](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Sobriety Court conducts graduation

"Oakland County 52-3 District Court Judges Julie Nicholson and Nancy Carniak hosted the Fall Sobriety Court graduation on Thursday, Sept. 27, at the City of Auburn Hills Community Center.... Sobriety Court is a special, non-adversarial court docket designed to offer immediate treatment to a non-violent offender for substance abuse, along with drug testing and judicial supervision."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Court didn't error on provisions

Michigan Court of Appeals Judges Christopher Murray and Michael Riordan write "Because our nation's courts have upheld the First Amendment guarantee of the freedom of the press, The Oakland Press is certainly allowed to say as it sees fit about whatever subject it desires. But in its Sept. 16 editorial "Court wrong to allow 3 election proposals", the Oakland Press completely missed the mark."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: Medical Marijuana Can Get You Fired

"Readers of this blog know that we have tracked the medical marijuana issue through the court system over the past 3-years. Now there is an interesting twist in the on-going debate: can an employer condition your job on being pot-free, even if you have a medical marijuana card? The answer is 'yes', courtesy of the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in the seminal case of Casias v Wal-Mart Stores, Inc."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: Elimination of Some Driver Responsibility Fees

"October 1st, a new law, supported by the Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, took effect to eliminate some of the more 'pesky' of the series of drivers' responsibility fees."

[Full story](#)

Press & Guide/Dearborn: DEARBORN: Group calls 11th annual Judges Night a big success

"About 500 people, including nearly 50 judges, attended the 11th annual Judges' Night Reception and "Guardian of Justice" awards ceremony, sponsored by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's Michigan Advisory Board at Byblos Banquets on Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

Press & Guide/Dearborn: Council extends drug court funding to end of year — funding beyond that in question

"Funding for 19th District Court's drug court has been extended to Dec. 31. The City Council voted 5-0 Oct. 9 to give the program \$14,577, but beyond that, the drug court's future is in limbo."

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Letter: Justice Stephen Markman is best for Michigan Supreme Court

Retired Judge William A. Crane writes "I am pleased to endorse Justice Stephen Markman for re-election to the Michigan Supreme Court. Over his several years on the Michigan Supreme Court his decisions have reflected his scholarly constitutional expertise."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Circuit Court candidates address judicial issues

"The four candidates running for two contested judicial seats on the 22nd Circuit Court - otherwise known as the Washtenaw County Trial Court--are three weeks away from the Nov. 6 election. Jim Fink and Carol Kuhnke are vying for the seat now held by Judge Melinda Morris, who is retiring. And Judge Timothy P. Connors is facing a challenge from Michael T. Woodyard of Ann Arbor, a Wayne County assistant prosecuting attorney."

[Full story](#)