

October 26-28, 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: Foster reappointed as chief judge of Macomb Circuit, Probate Courts**

"Macomb County Circuit Court Judge John Foster was reappointed chief judge of the county's Circuit and Probate Courts [and the 42nd District Court] for the next two years, the Circuit Court announced [Friday].... The reappointment was made by the Michigan Supreme Court on Oct. 18. The two-year term starts Jan. 1.... Foster became chief judge after former Chief Judge David Viviano was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court in February."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Macomb Daily: Foster reappointed as chief judge of Macomb County courts**

[Full story](#)

### **"Judicial leaders" of Michigan trial courts, Court of Appeals named by Michigan Supreme Court; chief judges to promote efficiency, public service High court continues trend of appointing one chief judge to oversee multiple trial courts**

[Press release](#)

### **The Detroit News: Michigan Supreme Court races spent most in nation, and raised most undocumented cash**

"Michigan's 'weak' finance disclosure rules led to the nation's highest undocumented spending on state Supreme Court races in 2012, according to a new national report. The \$18.85 million spent in the race for three seats on Michigan's high court bench and the \$13.85 million of that whose sources weren't made public were both highs for the country, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, which is part of the New York University School of Law, and Justice at Stake, a nonpartisan judicial fairness campaign organization."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: The "dark money" that elected Michigan's Supreme Court**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Medical marijuana-using parents get their baby back after charges dropped in Oakland County**

"Baby Bree is back home. In a case that galvanized Michigan supporters of medical marijuana, custody of an 8-month-old seized by Child Protective Services workers last month was awarded to the child's parents Friday in a Lansing courtroom."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **MLive.com: Baby Bree returns home as medical marijuana parents talk about ordeal**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Senate OKs new sentencing rules for young killers; Legislation would not be retroactive**

"The Michigan Senate voted unanimously Thursday to create new sentencing rules for young killers, 16 months after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down mandatory life-without-parole sentences for juveniles. The legislation sent to the House on 36-0 votes would apply only to future criminal cases, not retroactively to the state's 360 or so inmates who were under 18 when they committed crimes, mostly murder."

[Full story](#)

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

**Also see:**

**The MLW Blog: Senate passes juvenile sentencing reforms**

[Full story](#)

**Flint Journal: Genesee County special court for veterans getting coordinator**

"Work associated with a fledgling Veterans Treatment Court is increasing and help is on the way. An \$11,671 grant from the State Court Administrative Office will pay for the salary and related costs of a part-time coordinator for the court, which was dedicated less than a year ago without a budget."

[Full story](#)

**Grand Rapids Press: No driver's license for 85-year-old Grand Rapids man, federal judge dismisses lawsuit**

"A federal judge has dismissed the lawsuit of an 85-year-old Grand Rapids man who was seeking to have his driver's license reinstated. Carl Hainer said his age, not his clean driving record, was the consideration when the Secretary of State's Office pulled his license. He filed a lawsuit in Kent County Circuit Court, then, when that suit was dismissed, he turned it into a federal case."

[Full story](#)

**Ingham County Legal News: Justice Dept. to Michigan Supreme Court: Interpreter rule creates new problems**

"The U.S. Department of Justice has told the Michigan Supreme Court that MCR 1.111, the new court rule guaranteeing interpreters for limited English proficient persons, doesn't solve the problem it sought to fix and creates new, bigger problems. The DOJ said it has 'grave concerns' that MCR 1.111 'will result in national origin discrimination,' in a letter dated Sept. 17, 2013, to Matthew Schneider, chief legal counsel at the Attorney General's Office."

[Full story](#)

**Jackson Citizen Patriot: Stories of addiction and recovery are powerful, inspirational, Sara Scott column**

"It takes guts and determination to battle back from drug or alcohol addiction. You have to dig even deeper to openly share your story of addiction and recovery with the community.... [Amber Carr, Grant Smith and Dave Casper] are graduates of Jackson County's Recovery Court, an alternative to prison for many addicts and alcoholics."

[Full story](#)

**Jackson County Legal News: Walkway named for Michigan's longest-serving attorney general**

"The longest-serving attorney general in the nation, Frank J. Kelley, Michigan's 50th attorney general, was honored at a ceremony Wednesday when the walkway from the state Capitol building to the Michigan Hall of Justice was officially named the 'Frank J. Kelley Capitol Walkway.' "

[Full story](#)

**Lansing State Journal: Clinton County begins CASA program**

"Clinton County children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect may soon have new advocates.... CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates – is a group of volunteers appointed by judges to 'watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes.' "

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Brown Bag Lunch scheduled at courthouse**

"The ADR Committee of the Macomb County Bar Association will host a Brown Bag Lunch on Monday, November 4 in the jury room at the Macomb County courthouse in downtown Mt. Clemens. The featured speaker will be Chief Judge John Foster, who will discuss the practices of the Macomb County Business Court. Among other things, he will discuss how alternative dispute resolution will be incorporated into the case management plans established by the court."

[Full story](#)

### **The MLW Blog: High court orders arguments in grand parenting visitation case**

"The Michigan Supreme Court is determining whether to review a Court of Appeals ruling that a child's grandparents had no right to seek visitation of their deceased son's child because a court involuntarily terminated the son's parental rights. The Supreme Court has ordered briefing and oral arguments of the split decision in Porter v. Hill."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Election-fraud charges reduced for ex-Grand Haven school board member Brandon Hall**

"... The charges by the Michigan Attorney General's office stem from [Brandon] Hall's alleged forging of signatures on nominating petitions for attorney Chris Houghtaling of Grand Haven during Houghtaling's unsuccessful campaign for Ottawa County 58th District Court judge last year. Houghtaling, president of the Grand Haven school board, is not accused of wrongdoing."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Grand Haven Tribune: Election fraud charges reduced**

[Full story](#)

### **Holland Sentinel: Former state House candidate sees election fraud charges reduced**

[Full story](#)

### **The News-Herald/Southgate: SOUTHGATE: Judges collaborate for drug court presentation**

"About 25 people attended a drug court presentation presented by the Stop Underage Drinking/Drugs Downriver Coalition, or SUDDS. Judge Jennifer Coleman Hesson, 33rd District Court, and Judge Geno Salomone, 23rd District Court, joined SUDDS Chairman Tony Pollard to discuss what goes on during drug and sobriety court sessions."

[Full story](#)

### **Petoskey News-Review: Charlevoix County pays \$25,959 in Hartman case**

"Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners settled a case the board initially didn't think it would have to pay for at all.... After offering to take the case pro bono, Hartman asked Richard Pajtas, Charlevoix County Circuit Court judge, to be paid. Pajtas turned him down, and Hartman took the case to the Michigan Court of Appeals. John Jarema, Charlevoix County's prosecuting attorney at the time, failed to

file an appeal with the Court of Appeals that would attempt to ensure Hartman take the case pro bono, claiming the state Attorney General's Office would file the appeal."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Resentencing date set in Schwander murder case**

"A judge shot down a request that he disqualify himself from a resentencing hearing for the man who killed Carly Lewis. Thirteenth Circuit Judge Thomas Power originally sentenced Robert Jensen Schwander, 20, to a minimum sentence of 40 years — twice what's called for in state sentencing guidelines — after a Grand Traverse County jury found him guilty of second-degree murder in the 2011 death of Lewis, 16."

[Full story](#)

### **WHMI 93.5 FM/Howell: New Sentencing Hearing Ordered in Murder of Cop From Howell**

"The teenager convicted of killing a cop from Livingston County nearly five years ago will be resentenced. The Michigan Court of Appeals last week ruled that Jonathan Belton, who was just 15 when he was arrested in December 2008 for the shooting death of Oak Park police Officer Mason Samborski, will have to be resentenced in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that automatic life sentences for juveniles were unconstitutional."

[Full story](#)

### **WKAR News/East Lansing: Medical Marijuana Patients Could Use "Edibles" Under Bill In State Legislature**

"Medical marijuana patients in Michigan would be able to use edible forms of the drug under a proposal in Lansing.... Patients are limited to smoking medical marijuana under a decision this year by the Michigan Court of Appeals. Republican state Representative Eileen Kowall introduced the bill to allow things like baked goods, capsules, and candies that contain the active ingredients in marijuana."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: State Rep. Mike Shirkey to support medical marijuana effort to legalize plant resin or extracts**

[Full story](#)