

October 30, 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: Michigan Senate OKs bill to give Court of Appeals control of Court of Claims**

"The Michigan Senate approved a fast-moving bill Wednesday that would move Michigan's Court of Claims from Ingham County's liberal circuit court judges to the more-conservative Michigan Court of Appeals. The 26-11 favorable vote, along partisan lines, sends to the House a measure introduced by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Rick Jones on Oct. 24."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Bill to move Court of Claims denounced as partisan**

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Court Of Claims Cases To Become Function Of Court Of Appeals?**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Macomb judge: Confession is admissible in 'Backpage murders' case**

"A Macomb County judge has denied a request to suppress statements made to police by a Sterling Heights man accused of murdering four women he met through a classified advertising website. In an order dated Friday, Judge James Biernat wrote that the court is satisfied that James C. Brown 'was not coerced to confess, and that his confession was the result of his free will.' "

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Macomb Daily: Accused quadruple murderer's statement remains intact, Macomb County judge rules**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Woman driving judge, his children pleads to driving while intoxicated**

"A Troy woman charged with driving while drunk with a Macomb County judge and his two children as passengers pleaded guilty Monday. Brenda Conway entered her plea in 46th District Court in Southfield to a misdemeanor charge of operating while intoxicated with occupants younger than 16. Conway is scheduled for sentencing Dec. 12. She could receive five days to a year in jail."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Macomb Daily: Judge's companion admits to drunken driving, child endangerment**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Oakland Press.

### **The MLW Blog: Woman driving drunk with Macomb judge, his kids in car pleads guilty**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Dan Gilbert's Rock Ventures expected to get nod to acquire Wayne County jail construction site**

"... Under the agreement, Rock Ventures would pay \$50 million for a 15.5-acre parcel of land that includes the jail site, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, Wayne County Jail Division 1 and 2 on Clinton Street and the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center. The county would have 90 days to formulate its plan to relocate jail services to the state's Mound Correctional Facility in Detroit."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Sources: Wayne County wants to sell jail to Gilbert Company**

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: House to vote to extend alcohol ignition program**

"... [The 2010 law up for a vote in the House today] requires the secretary of state to issue a limited license to people who've lost their license if they participate in a sobriety court program and have an ignition interlock device. Some Michigan courts provide substance abuse treatment as an alternative to jail time.... The law is scheduled to expire at year's end."

[Full story](#)

**Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit News, the Detroit Free Press, the Lansing State Journal, the Oakland Press, the Times-Herald/Port Huron and other media outlets.**

### **Associated Press: Michigan ACLU: Repeal anti-panhandling ordinances**

"The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan has notified 84 communities statewide that ordinances prohibiting panhandling are unconstitutional. The organization says sent letters Tuesday calling for the repeal of the local laws. The ACLU says the ordinances are nearly the same as a state law ruled unconstitutional in August by a federal appeals court."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Grand Rapids Press: ACLU tells municipalities to repeal anti-begging laws after federal ruling in Grand Rapids case**

[Full story](#)

### **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: ACLU Sends Letters to 84 Communities Asking For Change**

[Full story](#)

### **WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Local Communities Get Panhandling Letters from ACLU**

[Full story](#)

### **Bay City Times: Bay County judge sends man to prison whose violence escalated while on bond, probation**

"A Bay County man convicted of ethnic intimidation, home invasion and assault charges stemming from three incidents in a two-year period is heading to prison after an assistant prosecutor said his escalating level of violence made him a danger to society. Bay County Circuit Judge Joseph K. Sheeran on Monday, Oct. 28, handed down four sentences to 27-year-old Delane D. Bell .... All four sentences are to be served concurrently."

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Teen killer to get new hearing**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals upheld a teen's conviction for killing an Oak Park police officer who lived in Livingston County, but it overturned the teen's sentence.... The defense and prosecution agreed that

the now 21-year-old [Jonathan] Belton is entitled to resentencing after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that an automatic life sentence for juveniles was unconstitutional.”

[Full story](#)

### **Examiner.com: Non-English Speaking Persons Gain Greater Access To Michigan Courts**

“Michigan Courts seek to remove language barriers for non-English speaking persons, according to two new court rules and one administrative order that went into effect September 11, 2013.... The court rules require each trial court throughout the State of Michigan to adopt a language access plan within 90 days of September 11, 2013.”

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Senate OKs new sentencing rules for young killers**

“The Michigan Senate voted unanimously last week 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](#)

### **The Michigan Daily/Ann Arbor: From the Daily: Show me the money**

The editorial states “More money was spent in Michigan’s 2012 non-partisan Supreme Court campaign than in any other in the state’s history — and never before has so much of that money come from anonymous donors. According to a report by the Brennan Center for Justice, \$19 million was spent on the campaign in total, and \$13 million — with no names attached — went to advertisements that were clearly intended to influence voters’ choices in the election.”

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Adult Treatment Court honors graduates**

“On Wednesday, Oct. 16, the Oakland County Adult Treatment Court (ATC) conducted its 36th graduation since its inception in August of 2001. The 145th through the 155th graduates were honored with a ceremony and reception held in the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium at the Oakland County Courthouse in Pontiac.”

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Judge Kumar to address ADTC meeting, Nov. 12**

“The Association of Defense Trial Counsel will host its November membership meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy in Troy. Guest speaker Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Shalina Kumar will provide ‘A View from the Bench, Motion and Trial Practice.’ ”

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Judge meets with PALS**

“The Polish American Legal Society hosted a general meeting featuring Wayne County 24th District Court Judge Richard Page on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at the Polish Village Cafe in Hamtramck.... Happy to welcome Page to the event were ... Judge Richard Wygonik, ... Wayne County 20th District Court Chief Judge Mark Plawecki, and [other local attorneys.]”

[Full story](#)

### **The State News/East Lansing: Bill looks to clarify uses of medical pot**

"... A new bill from Reps. Eileen Kowall, R-White Lake, Sam Singh, D-East Lansing and 14 other sponsors could make at least one matter clearer, amending the definition of usable marijuana to allow patients more ways of using the medicine under state law. A July opinion from the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that edible products made from extracts are not protected under the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. The ruling has been submitted for appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)