

November 2-4, 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: GOP-backed bill would shift how lawsuits handled in Michigan Court of Claims**

"A controversial bill speeding through the Legislature would send a much larger volume and wider array of cases to a revamped Michigan Court of Claims, says the former chief judge of the Ingham County Circuit Court."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Brian Dickerson: Hijacking the judicial process in broad daylight**

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Bill Making Major Changes To Court Of Claims Scheduled For House Committee Hearing**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: James Derian: State must redefine 'issue ads' to make judicial elections more transparent**

"During Michigan's 2012 elections, 'independent' groups dominated the airways with a virtual flood of candidate attack ads posing as so-called 'issue ads.' Why are these ads so popular with 'independent' groups? The identities of the special interests funding these ads are allowed to remain secret."

[Full story](#)

### **Ann Arbor News: Judge orders 67-year-old construction company to move**

"Since 1946, McCormick Construction has operated its sewer repair company on Devonshire Street in Ypsilanti Township.... Township officials say neighbors have complained for a decade, but McCormick Construction has contended a Washtenaw County Circuit Court judge ruled long ago that the company was grandfathered into the residential zone."

[Full story](#)

### **The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Judge Dobrich will oversee 3 Cass courts; Nelson reappointed Berrien County's chief judge**

"Cass County Probate Judge Susan Dobrich has been appointed chief judge for the three benches in Cass County. Beginning Jan. 1 she will oversee the 4th District, 43rd Circuit and Probate courts in Cass County, replacing Michael Dodge."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson County Legal News: Innovation grant recipients named**

"Combating human trafficking. Peacemaking court. Smart phone apps that let users check in for court hearings. These are just some of the projects that Michigan courts will be pursuing, thanks to grants from the Court Performance Innovation Fund."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Facebook and Twitter and texts, oh my: Muskegon County Family Court going modern**

"Facebook, Twitter, email and cell-phone texting have been part of the communication landscape for years. Now Muskegon County 14th Circuit Court/Family Court plans to move into the 21st Century by

using social media and other modern technology to contact clients who are often hard to reach by traditional 'snail mail.' "

[Full story](#)

### **Midland Daily News: Former Judge Morris calls service to community a blessing**

"Giving countless hours, ideas, and passion each and every single day on the bench is one way Midland retired Probate Judge Donna Morris has been described. She was a tireless advocate for children, teens, families, seniors and the mentally ill, and she didn't rest until change was reality.... [In September,] the State Bar of Michigan recently honored Morris with the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award."

[Full story](#)

### **NBC 25 News/Clio: Michigan's longest-serving Attorney General blasts gerrymandering**

"The longest-serving state attorney general in U.S. history says the biggest problem with politics today is gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts.... The Michigan Supreme Court upheld a law requiring voters to show photo ID 10 years after Kelley ruled it was unconstitutional."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Midland Daily News: AP Interview: Ex-AG Kelley decries gerrymandering**

[Full story](#)

**Note: This article also ran in The Republic.**

### **The National Law Review: Michigan Supreme Court Decision Imposes New Duty on Landlords**

"In the 2001 case of MacDonald v PKT, Inc, 464 Mich. 322 (2001), the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that merchants have a limited duty to contact the police in situations where there is a risk of imminent and foreseeable harm to an identifiable invitee. In a recent split decision, Bailey v Schaff, 494 Mich. 595 (2013), the Court extended this limited duty to landlords. This decision is likely to result in increased litigation against landlords and property managers, and will cause them to rethink how (and if) they choose to monitor their common areas."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Appeals court judge to address PALS, Nov. 13**

"The Polish American Legal Society will host a general meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Polish Village Cafe, 2nd Floor, 2990 Yemens Ave. in Hamtramck. The guest speaker will be Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Michael Talbot."

[Full story](#)

### **One Court of Justice: COA erred in holding rate-refund statute ambiguous**

"By order, the Michigan Supreme Court took an opportunity to reaffirm its definition of statutory ambiguity.... In re Appl of Detroit Edison Co. to Increase Rates (quotations omitted). While the Court affirmed the Court of Appeals, it held that the Court of Appeals had erred in holding MCL 460.6a(1), a rate-refund statute, ambiguous."

[Full story](#)

### **Saginaw News: Saginaw County Circuit Judge Darnell Jackson writes book about life's journey, career**

“His 12th-grade teacher told him he lacked basic reading skills to succeed in college while pursuing his dream of becoming a lawyer. That didn’t stop him, and neither did graduating from high school with a 1.97 grade point average or having to take the state bar three times before passing. Saginaw County Circuit Judge Darnell Jackson knows about perseverance. So much, in fact, that he wrote a book about it.”

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Governor Seeks Applicants For Monroe County Probate Court**

“The Governor is seeking applications to fill a vacancy in the Monroe County probate court, for the seat held by the Hon. John A. Hohman, who is resigning to become State Court Administrator. Members seeking consideration should refer to the Governor's website for further information and submit an application by November 20.”

[Full story](#)