

November 7, 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.

Daily Press & Argus: State's highest court hearing 2011 murder case

"The Michigan Supreme Court is hearing arguments today in a 2011 Livingston County murder case. The county prosecutor's office is appealing a Livingston County Circuit Court judge's decision that keeps a jury from hearing an accused murderer [George Tanner's] confession."

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Furnace repairman in prison nearly 20 years will get his day at Michigan Supreme Court

"A furnace repairman in prison nearly 20 years for armed robbery is getting his day at the Michigan Supreme Court. William Garrett's case has bounced many times up and down the state's court system."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal and the Times Herald/Port Huron.

Also see:

Father's challenge to "one-parent doctrine" before Supreme Court this week

Mother admitted she's an unfit parent in no-contest plea; dad argues her plea should not give family court jurisdiction over him when he has not been found to be an unfit parent

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: State House narrowly approves controversial claims court move

"The state House narrowly approved Wednesday a hotly contested switch of Michigan's Court of Claims from the Ingham County Circuit Court to the Michigan Court of Appeals. The 57-52 approval vote sends to Gov. Rick Snyder legislation introduced Oct. 24 in the Senate and hurried through the legislative process by Republican leaders over the objections of judges and lawyers."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Bill changing the way people sue Michigan moves to Gov. Snyder

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: House votes to move state suits; Snyder will sign

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Bill would shift venue for state suits to Court of Appeals

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Editorial: Court of Claims bill a brazen power play

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Tim Skubick: What's the rush in passing bill affecting who sits in judgment of state lawsuits?

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Snyder downplays politics of bill moving lawsuits against state: 'This is the right thing to do'

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Dems claim Michigan GOP 'hijacking the Court of Claims' with bill headed to Gov. Rick Snyder

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Jack Lessenberry: Stacking the judicial deck

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: State House Approves Moving Lawsuits Against The State Out Of Ingham County

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Breaking: Court of Claims Restructuring Bill On Way To Governor

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Appeals court to hear U-M tenure case involving gay law professor

"A former University of Michigan law school professor's claim that he was denied tenure because he is gay will come before the state Court of Appeals today. Peter Hammer, now a Wayne State University professor and director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at WSU, is trying to get the court to reverse a decision by a lower court throwing out his case, which has been bouncing around the court system since 2004."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Retired Judge Willie Lipscomb Jr. dies

"Retired 36th District Court Judge Willie Lipscomb Jr. was found dead by his daughter Wednesday night, after he apparently died winterizing his boat at his home on Detroit's east side.... A lifelong member of the NAACP, Lipscomb was an assistant prosecutor in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office from 1975 to 1979, according to his profile on the 36th District Court website. He went into private practice from 1979 to 1983 before becoming a 36th District Court magistrate for two years prior to his spot on the bench."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Judge Willie Lipscomb dies; Lipscomb served in Michigan's 36th District Court until retiring in 2012

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Judge Damon Keith: How autoworker's son became justice crusader; Book traces Detroit's life of 'passion for the underdog'

"As a federal judge, Damon J. Keith has presided over some of the most difficult cases of the last 50 years. He handed down decisions involving such hot-button social issues as workplace discrimination, illegal wiretapping and deportation of alleged terrorists. He's dined with President John Kennedy at the White House, counts President Bill Clinton as a friend, and buildings at two universities bear his name."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Judge Damon Keith: Detroit's crusader for justice; Legendary federal judge's life, work celebrated with biography

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Mich. Supreme Court adds juvenile lifers to docket

"The Michigan Supreme Court will decide whether hundreds of inmates can benefit from a U.S. Supreme Court decision that bars mandatory no-parole sentences for crimes committed under 18.... In an order released Thursday, the Supreme Court says it will hear arguments in three cases involving juvenile lifers from Berrien, Wayne and St. Clair counties."

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News and other media outlets.

Associated Press: Michigan judge throws out burial mix-up lawsuit

"[Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge Pamela Lightvoet] has thrown out a lawsuit filed by a woman who said a mix-up at a southwestern Michigan cemetery led her parents to be buried apart. Myra Fish was seeking millions for what she said was gross negligence by Mount Ever-Rest Memorial Park South in Portage."

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News and other media outlets.

Also see:

Kalamazoo Gazette: Kalamazoo judge throws out burial mix-up lawsuit against Mount Ever-Rest, sanctions law firm

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Workshoppers

"Legal Aid and Defender Association conducted a free workshop Oct. 15 at Pontiac Public Library for residents of Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties on how to represent themselves in small claims court and collect money judgments."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Court Performance 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](#)

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

Also see:

Washtenaw County Legal News: [Peacemaking Court:] Healers of controversy

[Full story](#)

Court Performance Innovation grant recipients named; projects include human trafficking court, peacemaking court, smart phone apps, social media

[Press release](#)

Flint Journal: No deal on proposal to raise pay of Genesee District Court clerk

"A proposal to sharply increase the salary of the clerk of Genesee District Court has been shelved for at least a few months. The county Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday, Nov. 6, to delay consideration of a proposal from Director of Court Operations Dena Altheide to raise the clerk's pay 13.6 percent."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Electronic cigarette in courtroom gets Grand Rapids woman jail time

"A Grand Rapids judge brought down the hammer on an unruly courtroom observer for the second time in a week. The latest transgression: Smoking an electronic cigarette. Angela Van Popering, 20, was smoking an electronic cigarette in Judge James Redford's courtroom Wednesday, Nov. 6, when a deputy asked her to stop."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon judge orders arrest of 'sovereign citizen' for contempt: 'Take him to jail'

"Muhhammad Abdel Hakeem, a Muskegon man claiming to be a 'sovereign citizen,' caused quite a scene early Thursday morning in the courtroom of Muskegon County 60th District Court Judge Michael J. Nolan, and Hakeem was subsequently arrested for contempt of court. Hakeem, 36, made a slew of poor decisions, according to the judge, at his appearance for a preliminary examination Thursday, Nov. 7, that ultimately landed him more jail time."

[Full story](#)

The National Law Review: Michigan Appeals Court Opinion Could Affect Banks Response to Creditor Garnishments

"The Michigan Court of Appeals recently issued an opinion that may have a big impact on how banks respond to creditor garnishments for customers who are in default on their loans from the bank. In *Ladd v Motor City Plastics Co*, the garnishee bank received a garnishment for one of its customers. The customer had defaulted on its secured loan obligations to the bank prior to the bank receiving the garnishment."

[Full story](#)

The Romeo Observer: Judge named chief of 16th and 42nd courts

"Current Chief Judge John C. Foster was reappointed chief of the Macomb County 16th Judicial Circuit and Macomb County Probate Court by the Michigan Supreme Court on Oct. 18. Further, consistent with a movement across the State by the Michigan Supreme Court to consolidate administrative functions, Judge Foster was also appointed chief of the 42nd District Court, with locations in Romeo and New Baltimore."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Coming in 2014: Use of Standard Criminal Jury Instructions To Be Mandatory, Free

"Michigan's model criminal jury instructions have been developed over the course of many years through the State Bar's Standing Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions, and published by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education which has made them available to its subscribers and through individual purchase."

[Full story](#)

WFQX-TV(32)/ Cadillac: Traverse City Honors Robert P. Griffin

"He's a former Congressman, U.S. Senator, and Michigan Supreme Court Justice. But now, Robert Griffin is living a quiet life in Traverse City with his wife Marge. Griffin's distinguished career has already earned him the justice center - the 86th District Court bears his moniker. Today Griffin celebrated his 90th birthday and was honored further for his service with a photo exhibit in the entryway of the justice center."

[Full story](#)