

November 10-13, 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.

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Supreme Court to consider survivor benefits for twins conceived after father's death

"... The Michigan Supreme Court is to decide the issue in a case set for arguments on Thursday. It is the first of its kind in Michigan, and one of only a handful of similar cases across the country. It's one example of a raft of new legal issues that have emerged surrounding in vitro fertilization."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Michigan court takes case of frozen sperm, benefits

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Mich. court takes case of frozen sperm, benefits

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan mom asks for death benefits for in-vitro twins conceived after father's death

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: High court holds oral arguments this week

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Can children conceived after father's death inherit under state's intestacy law?

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Michigan Supreme Court to hear arguments in two Genesee County cases this week

"Two Genesee County court cases could reshape state law as the Michigan Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the cases this week. One case could affect thousands of people around the state as it explores whether or not the Michigan Department of Human Services can stop paying cash-assistance benefits to certain families while the second case centers around whether an area police chief should be protected by the Whistleblowers' Protection Act."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Can children conceived after father's death inherit under state's intestacy law? Supreme Court to consider issue of first impression in oral arguments Court also to hear challenge to DHS 60-month lifetime limit on family cash assistance

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Highland Park's Robert Davis again asks court to remove Roy Roberts from DPS

"Robert Davis, the controversial and litigious Highland Park school board member and union activist, filed another lawsuit today [with the Michigan Court of Appeals] requesting the removal of Roy Roberts, the emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools. Davis, in his third attempt to remove Roberts, argued that voters last week repealed Public Act 4 of 2011, and that means there is no law in effect that allows emergency managers and emergency financial managers to hold office."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: State Supreme Court allows order giving school staff more time to decide on retirement plan

"A judge's order temporarily blocking a law that required school employees to decide on their future retirement plan by Oct. 26 will remain in place, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled Friday. The court denied the state's application for a bypass that would have taken the case directly to the state's highest court without first getting a decision from the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Supreme Court Steers Clear Of Teacher Retirements

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Pressure for ballot reform growing in Michigan; Plans would ban paid petition circulators, boost transparency

"... Michigan's top courts got quite a workout, green-lighting the emergency manager referendum and three of the five constitutional amendments for the ballot and halting a casino expansion initiative from going before voters."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County may owe workers millions after judge's ruling

"Wayne County could owe millions of dollars in back pay and interest to about 1,300 workers forced to take a 20% pay cut in 2010 and 2011. Administrative Law Judge Doyle O'Connor ruled Thursday that the county acted illegally by imposing the pay cut, furlough days and the suspension of workers' health insurance as cost-cutting moves."

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Court: Motorcyclist can sue Lansing over pothole

"The Michigan appeals court has saved a motorcyclist's lawsuit against the city of Lansing, saying a mistake in the location of a pothole shouldn't doom his case. Kyle Speelman was thrown from his motorcycle and injured when his bike hit a pothole on Mount Hope Avenue. He was traveling westbound, but his notice to the city said he was eastbound."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Lansing State Journal: Motorcyclist can sue Lansing over pothole, court says

[Full story](#)

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

Associated Press: Court reverses result in case of dark stairs

"A woman attending a memorial for her ex-husband was looking for a bathroom when she opened the wrong door, fell down the stairs and was injured in Monroe County. But the Michigan appeals court says those dark stairs are not the fault of the homeowners."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Oakland Press: HOMEOWNERS NOT AT FAULT: Court reverses result in case of dark stairs

[Full story](#)

Courier-Leader/Paw Paw: Brickley retains judge's seat

"Van Buren County Circuit Judge Kathleen M. Brickley, who was appointed to the bench in April, will retain her black robe, handily beating her opponent, Paw Paw attorney Matt Cooper.... Brickley, 50, of

South Haven, was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to fill the term left by Judge William C. Buhl, who retired Jan. 1, 2011. She will now serve a full six-year term."

[Full story](#)

Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Pole barn burns at Judge LaSata's home; Neighbors help family remove chickens from barn

"Fire destroyed a barn Friday afternoon at the home of Berrien County Trial Court Judge Charles LaSata in Bainbridge Township. Three fire departments were called after one of LaSata's four children saw smoke coming from the large pole barn on the property at 777 Biastock Road."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Chatman: 'Veterans deserve much more than words'

"... Also attending Friday was 17th District Court Chief Judge Karen Khalil, who talked about the need for taking special care of veterans, even those who enter the legal system as defendants.... The Veteran's Court in Redford — the fourth in the state — is now a year old and has helped 22 veterans with every aspect of their lives, not just what landed them in court in the first place."

[Full story](#)

Jackson County Legal News: Jackson County set for Michigan Adoption Day

"Michigan Adoption Day, an event jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Human Resources (DHS), will take place on Friday, November 16, at the Jackson County Courthouse.... Supreme court Justice Stephen J. Markman will be present alongside [Circuit Judge Richard] LaFlamme to help celebrate this tradition."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Supreme Court hears case of judge's mistake

"The [U.S.] Supreme Court appeared inclined last week to rule that a criminal defendant cannot be tried again after a judge acquits him midway through a trial, even if the judge bases his decision on a legal error."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: DHS director discusses poverty in Michigan

"The face of poverty in Michigan is largely female, and is usually accompanied by children, the state's director of human services said Friday. Maura Corrigan, who stepped down from her position as a state Supreme Court Justice when Gov. Rick Snyder tapped her to head the Department of Human Services, said the top priority in her department is to break the 'cycle of poverty' that cripples so many Michigan residents."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Judge Hines honored for work to reduce domestic violence

"The American Judges Association has established the annual Judge Elizabeth Hines Award. So it stands to reason that the first judge to receive said honor is one Judge Elizabeth Hines of Ann Arbor."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: Change is sure to come to Gratiot's probate court, but Bakker's in no hurry

"Newly elected as Gratiot County's new probate judge, Kristen Bakker said she's not going to 'leap in and make any rash changes.'... On Jan. 2, Bakker will take over the spot currently held by Jack Arnold, who's retiring at the end of the year."

[Full story](#)

Press & Guide/Dearborn: ELECTION 2012: Local winners, losers comment on the vote results

"What turned into a battle of Dearborn City Hall vs. 19th District Court produced a clear winner in Tuesday's election: City Hall. City voters chose to oust 19th District Judge Richard Wygonik, who has been on the bench since 2005, in favor of challenger Sam Salamey, who was a magistrate in the court from 1993 to 2006, for the six-year term."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Michigan's Bar Exam Passage Rate: Where Things Stand

"It turns out that Michigan's February 2012 bar exam results foreshadowed the precipitous drop in the pre-appeal, first-time passage rate of the July bar exam.... Unlike many other states, the State Bar of Michigan does not have a decision making role in the state's bar exam testing, but the State Bar can make recommendations to the Supreme Court and the Board of Law Examiners."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Legal community continues to discuss low bar passage rate

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Now's the time to reform Michigan campaign laws; Thank a veteran today for serving

The editorial states "... Change the way state Supreme Court justices are nominated. Now, the supposedly non-partisan judges are nominated by the two political parties and then go on to run 'non-partisan' races for 'non-partisan' positions.... Find a way to ban anonymous donations to Supreme Court races. This year, anonymous donors poured millions into top court races, making it appear that justice in Michigan is for sale."

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: A judge exposed by the 7 Action News Investigators cleans up her act...sort of

"The 7 Action News Investigators are taking action for you by holding a local judge accountable. She chronically shows up to work late and leaves early. But today that judge changed her ways, at least a little bit."

[Full story](#)