

November 14, 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 Court of Appeals upholds dismissal of Raczkowski defamation lawsuit**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld a lower court's dismissal of a defamation lawsuit brought by former congressional candidate Andrew (Rocky) Raczkowski against U.S. Rep. Gary Peters and Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Appeal court agrees with dismissal of Raczkowski defamation lawsuit**

[Full story](#)

### **State Bar of Michigan Blog: Court of Appeals Tosses Out Raczkowski's Defamation Case Against Gary Peters**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Plymouth Twp. woman to be resentenced in death of newborn daughter**

"A learning-disabled Plymouth Township woman will get a new prison term on a 2010 murder conviction for discarding her newborn daughter in the trash after the state Court of Appeals ruled the trial judge may have been too lenient. Emily Portellos, 32, was convicted by a Wayne County Circuit Court jury in October 2010 of second-degree murder and first-degree child abuse in the Oct. 15, 2008, incident that claimed the life of her infant child, Shannon."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Lawsuit seeks Roy Roberts' ouster from DPS**

"In the ongoing battle to remove state appointees from power in financially distressed schools and cities, Highland Park school board member Robert Davis filed a lawsuit Tuesday [with the Michigan Court of Appeals] requesting the removal of Roy Roberts, the emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: With video: Man who stabbed Macomb Township woman in neck sentenced to life in prison**

"As he was sentenced to life imprisonment today, Joseph Reiner denied he fatally stabbed a Macomb Township grandmother in the neck last year and called that person a coward."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **MLive.com: Man with devil horns tattooed on forehead sentenced to life for murder**

[Full story](#)

### **Battle Creek Enquirer: Michigan Supreme Court takes case of frozen sperm, benefits**

"The birth of twins after artificial insemination brought joy to a southwestern Michigan woman whose husband had died just months earlier. Eleven years later, courts still are trying to determine whether the children qualify for thousands of dollars in public aid."

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal and WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit.

**Also see:**

**Daily Press & Argus: Mich. court takes up case of benefits for posthumously conceived children**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Legal News: MSC to hear oral arguments this week**

[Full story](#)

**MLive.com: Portage family focus of Michigan Supreme Court case on benefits for twins conceived with frozen sperm**

[Full story](#)

**The MiLW Blog: MSC to decide question of death benefits**

[Full story](#)

**WJR 760 AM/Detroit: Michigan Twins Conceived After Dad's Death Seek Benefits**

[Full story](#)

**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](#)

**Bay City Times: Bay County gets \$300,000 Safe Havens grant to help families affected by domestic violence**

"... In October, Bay County's Probate, District and Circuit courts and the Bay Area Women's Center received a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women. Laura Harrington, of the Women's Center, wrote the grant application after contacting Probate Court looking for ways to expand services, Probate Judge Karen A. Tighe said."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Bay City Times: Photo Gallery: Bay County Courts and Bay Area Women's Center receive a Safe Havens grant (six photos)**

[Full story](#)

**Daily Press & Argus: Billy Corriher: Money undermines judges' impartiality**

"State Supreme Court elections shattered spending records this year, as special interests doled out millions to influence the law.... The Michigan Campaign Finance Network reports that its state saw the nation's most expensive judicial race."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Daily Telegram/Adrian: Our View: End partisan voting for Supreme Court**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The editorial also ran in the Holland Sentinel.

**Detroit Legal News: Judge [Thomas] Jackson demanded decorum in his courtroom**

"Wayne County Circuit Court will lose four long-standing, well-respected judges to retirement at the end of the year: Judges Prentis Edwards, Thomas E. Jackson, Michael Sapala and Carole Youngblood. The Detroit Legal News sat down with the judges for a look back at their careers."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**Detroit Legal News: Reflecting before retiring; Desire to make a difference led [Judge Carole] Youngblood to law**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Legal News: Reflecting before retiring; [Judge Michael] Sapala has seen it all from both sides of the bench**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Legal News: Wi-Fi hotspot available at 36th District Court**

"The 36th District Court Madison Center is now providing access to wireless high-speed Internet. Building occupants can now enjoy a wireless, broadband quality data connection by using their PDA, laptop and other Wi-Fi enabled devices."

[Full story](#)

**Flint-Genesee County Legal News: District judge reflects on career, therapeutic justice, and love of law**

"At the end of this year, Oakland County 52-4 District Court Judge Dennis Drury will be wrapping up his career on the bench serving the City of Troy.... [A]fter his retirement the 52nd District Court will only have nine judges instead of 10. This change is part of recent reforms to the Michigan judicial system."

[Full story](#)

**Grand Haven Tribune: Library weapons policies considered**

"Although the Michigan Court of Appeals recently ruled that patrons may carry guns into public libraries, local librarians say they aren't expecting a barrage of bullets among the books.... The appeals court concluded late last month that it is up to the state, not local jurisdictions or libraries, to set firearm laws."

[Full story](#)

**Grand Rapids Legal News: Cooley lunch event honors local veterans, emphasizes freedoms**

"... As people finished eating, Paul Martin introduced Judge James Redford of the 17th Circuit Court.... Judge Redford himself was honored at the beginning of October by receiving the Navy Legion of Merit for 28 years of service as a United States Navy Judge Advocate."

[Full story](#)

**Grand Rapids Legal News: Japanese jurist reports on success of trial system using lay judges**

"Lay judges, selected from the public, have been participating in trial proceedings in Japan for serious criminal matters, including death-penalty cases, since May 2009, and assessment of the new system shows it to be successful, according to Japanese Judge Mitsuaki Watanabe."

[Full story](#)

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

**Ingham County Legal News: Medical Marijuana is topic of ICBA Criminal Law Section meeting**

"The Supreme Court has just heard *People v McQueen*, which asks whether the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act permits the "sale" of marijuana between patients," said Matt Newburg opening the discussion of medical marijuana at the Ingham County Bar Association Criminal Law Section meeting held at the State Bar of Michigan on October 26th."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Judges receive Guardian of Justice Award**

"The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Michigan Advisory Board recently hosted its 11th annual Judges Night Reception, honoring U.S. District Court Nancy Edmunds and Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Denise Langford Morris with the Guardian of Justice Award."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: House OKs overhaul of indigent defense system**

"The Michigan House has approved a bill to create a new system to oversee the delivery of legal representation to low-income defendants. The measure that passed on a 71-36 vote last Thursday would implement recommendations of Gov. Rick Snyder's commission on indigent defense."

[Full story](#)

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

### **The Macomb Daily: Mans pleads after reversal of sexual assault conviction**

"... [Judge Richard] Caretti last January granted [Daniel] Armijo 'relief from judgment,' thereby overturning the conviction, based on incompetence of Armijo's trial attorney in mounting a defense. The state Court of Appeals agreed and added that the defendant's appellate attorney should have raised the ineffective assistance of counsel claim."

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Juvenile lifers: Michigan lawmakers quietly propose new sentencing hearings, possibility of parole**

"A bipartisan group of state lawmakers has quietly introduced a series of bills that would redefine the way juvenile murder convicts are sentenced in Michigan and provide current inmates with a chance at parole.... The Michigan Court of Appeals heard arguments for resentencing last month and may still decide the retroactivity issue. But Appeals Court Judge Michael J. Talbot expressed a reluctance to legislate from the bench, urging lawmakers to rework state laws in anticipation of pending and future cases."

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Wayne County Circuit Court records now available online for public viewing**

"Wayne County's 3rd Circuit Court has had a technological breakthrough. Court records, at least certain details about cases — mostly scheduling, charges, party information and pleadings — are now available via the Internet. This is much easier than calling or visiting a kiosk downtown for basic information about a case."

[Full story](#)

### **Muskegon Chronicle: Steve Gunn: Candidate proves American dream is still alive**

"... This everyday mom who grew up on a farm, worked in factories and waited tables, found a way to be beat longtime assistant prosecutor Randy Kostrzewa. Now she's suddenly Judge-elect [Annette] Smedley. She will assume her duties on the Circuit Court bench at the first of the year."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Gala celebrates UDM Law's Centennial**

"The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law celebrated its 100 year anniversary with its Centennial Gala on Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Detroit Athletic Club.... [During the gala, Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Michael Talbot was honored as Alumnus of the Year.]"

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Oakland County Legal News: UDM Law Centennial Gala (two minute podcast)**

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Michigan Lawyers Chapter of ACS hosts 6th Annual Dinner**

"The Michigan Lawyers Chapter of the American Constitution Society will host its 6th Annual Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. at the Detroit Golf Club. The program will honor Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly with the group's William Milliken Award."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Justices not interested yet in pension fight**

"The Michigan Supreme Court is declining to get involved in a dispute over major changes to the teacher retirement system.... State officials asked the Supreme Court to intervene and undo that restraining order, but justices said they will let the case run its course in lower courts."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: 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](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: 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."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Bear guides cleared after court rejects appeal**

"Prosecutors have failed to persuade the Michigan Supreme Court to consider the case of two guides accused of illegally helping an American Indian hunt for bear."

[Full story](#)

## **Three Rivers Commercial-News: Springer appeal moves up**

"An appeal by Marsha Springer of her February 2010 conviction on charges of torture and child abuse in the death of her daughter Calista has been submitted to the Michigan Supreme Court, according to attorney Randy Davidson of the State Appellate Defender Office.... Calista Springer died in a February 2008 fire in her Centreville while tethered to her bed."

[Full story](#)

## **WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: LeDuff uncovers newly elected judge's property problems**

"... [Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway] is not the only Judge Hathaway who's got problems keeping her houses straight because now we've come to find that her daughter, Dana Hathaway, who was just elected to the Third Circuit Court, has her own issues with shuffling property and shorting the tax man."

[Full story](#)