

November 17-19, 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.

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Ten children given permanent homes on Jackson County's annual Adoption Day**

"... Sitting next to [Jackson County Circuit Judge Richard] LaFlamme was recently re-elected Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman. For the Adoption Day festivities, the justices fan out across the state, he said.... The Gundys and others posed for pictures with Markman and LaFlamme, who allowed newly adopted children to bang his gavel at the close of their hearings."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Adoption Day celebrated by Mich. courts**

"In addition to observing Thanksgiving this week, many Michigan families will also be 'Giving thanks for families' by celebrating the addition of new family members on Michigan's Tenth Annual Adoption Day."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Michigan Adoption Day 2012 to be held November 20; State's Celebration of Adoptive Families Now in Tenth Year, Includes 33 Counties**

[Press release](#)

### **The Detroit News: Passion for social justice leads Bridget McCormack to Michigan Supreme Court; McCormack rises from humble roots, faces conservative majority on panel**

"... That experience helped shape [Bridget] McCormack, 46, who will be sworn to the Michigan Supreme Court on Jan. 1 after winning in one of the most bitter and costly Supreme Court races in memory. McCormack was nominated for the nonpartisan eight-year position by the state Democratic Party. GOP-backed Justices Stephen Markman and Brian Zahra were re-elected to the court, maintaining the 4-3 conservative majority on the bench."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Activist asks Michigan Supreme Court to oust Detroit school chief**

"A Detroit union activist is asking the Michigan Supreme Court to overturn a ruling by the state Court of Appeals that the emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools lawfully holds office under Public Act 72."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Emergency request filed to remove Detroit schools' financial manager**

[Full story](#)

### **Crain's Detroit Business: Appeals court rejects request to remove Detroit schools chief**

[Full story](#)

### **Crain's Detroit Business Blog: Why an order affirming Roy Roberts' power may be about more than Detroit public schools**

[Full story](#)

## **Flint Journal: Flint lawsuit on Public Act 72 continues despite appeals court ruling in Detroit**

[Full story](#)

## **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Appeals Court upholds law empowering emergency financial managers**

[Full story](#)

## **The Oakland Press: Michigan Court of Appeals rules that Public Act 72 is still in place**

[Full story](#)

## **Detroit Free Press: Juveniles serving mandatory life for murder won't be freed, Michigan appeals court rules**

"The Michigan appeals court has ruled that a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that ends mandatory life-without-parole sentences for juveniles convicted of murder will not apply retroactively to teens already found guilty who have exhausted their direct appeals."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Court: No review of sentences for current juvenile lifers**

[Full story](#)

## **Times Herald/Port Huron: Carp life sentence stands; Michigan court limits application of Supreme Court ruling**

[Full story](#)

## **WKAR News/East Lansing: State Court Of Appeals Says Juvenile Lifers Can't Be Re-Sentenced**

[Full story](#)

## **The Detroit News: Pension system's loans under fire; Metro homeowners left in lurch as firm defaults**

"... On Friday, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled a 2009 lawsuit against the board and past and present pension board members can continue to be certified as a class action. In the ruling, however, the appeals court noted: 'We caution that bad investment decisions as determined in hindsight do not constitute gross negligence.' "

[Full story](#)

## **Detroit Free Press: Wayne County retirees face more health costs after judge's ruling**

"Budget cutters in Wayne County might have a fat new target for savings after a judge ruled last week that the county was allowed to pare back health care benefits for retirees. Circuit Judge Wendy Baxter ruled that the county was within its rights in October 2009 when it increased co-pays for prescription drugs and deductibles on retirees to reduce the county's costs."

[Full story](#)

## **Detroit Free Press: Guest commentary: Time to break logjam of judicial appointments**

Carl Tobias writes "Now that the 112th Senate is returning for its lame duck session after President Barack Obama won a second term and Democrats retained a Senate majority, this is an ideal time to evaluate the judicial vacancy crisis. There are 68 vacancies among the 679 district court judgeships, three in the Eastern District of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Attorney honored for 50 years of service; Holland lawyer specialized in vessels, crews that vanished**

"... Recently, the State Bar of Michigan and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Young recognized [Jack] Cote for 50 years of legal service.... Today, the former partner of East Lansing's Willingham and Cote continues a private practice. He represents other attorneys and judges in grievance cases."

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Judicial performance measure has critics**

"A statewide initiative in Michigan's judicial system measuring judges' performance is designed to ensure "access and fairness" in the system, but some Livingston County judges said the guidelines have 'deficiencies.' The initiative is the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Office's 'performance measures,' which measures how efficiently trial courts move their dockets."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: 'Heroes' honored in battle against domestic violence**

"... The [November 14] program was sponsored by the Oakland County Coordinating Council Against Domestic Violence, an organization that was founded in 1994 'in order to develop and sustain a coordinated, broad-based community response' to the problem, according to Circuit Judge Edward Sosnick, who was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication and special insight."

[Full story](#)

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

### **Detroit Legal News: New law looks to make Michigan courts more business friendly**

Linda G. Burwell and Kellen Myers write "Michigan recently enacted legislation creating specialized 'business courts' effective January 1, 2013. These courts will look to streamline the judicial process and maximize efficiency for many business related matters."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Family tradition in law continues with election of Kevin Cox**

"... That curiosity and eventual pursuit of a law career has evolved into Kevin Cox's successful election onto the Wayne County Third Circuit Court bench, as he finished third Nov. 6. Kevin is the third Cox brother to win elective office, and the second to win a judge's seat. Kevin, 53, is the older brother of Mike Cox, former state attorney general, and younger brother of Sean Cox, a federal judge in southeast Michigan."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Japanese jurist reports on success of new 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](#)

### **Jackson County Legal News: Judge Jackson demanded decorum in his courtroom**

"Judges get called a lot of things by attorneys, usually under their breath. Soon to retire Circuit Court Judge Thomas E. Jackson usually gets called--out loud--tough, fair, no-nonsense, smart and firm. Not bad endorsements from those who have appeared before him during decades on the bench."

[Full story](#)

### **Lansing State Journal: Old Town adoption art exhibit takes 'A Closer Look'**

"... Tristin, who now is in placement housing, and eight other foster kids created artwork reflecting who they are and what they feel Sunday afternoon at the Absolute Gallery in Old Town in Lansing.... [Whitney] Banks held the first adoption art event in May.... Banks decided to hold another event this month because November is national adoption month."

[Full story](#)

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

### **Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Better justice for Michigan's indigent**

"The Michigan House of Representatives kicked off its lame-duck session on a positive note — a bipartisan vote in favor of HB 5804, which would bring consistency to the state's shoddy patchwork of approaches to handling indigent criminal defense."

[Full story](#)

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

### **Midland Daily News: Three county offices to move to Midland County Services Building**

"The move of three Midland County departments is finally under way. After approving an initial 'concept' proposal late last year, work by Three Rivers Construction will begin in earnest on Monday as the Midland County Friend of the Court, Midland County Prosecuting Attorney and 42nd Circuit Court Probation offices make the move from the Midland County Courthouse to the fourth floor of the Midland County Services Building."

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Michigan foster care kids may qualify for extended benefits and a better chance at success**

"Josie Brown had no place to call home after leaving the state's foster care system at age 18.... While inquiring about a possible move to a homeless shelter in Lansing, Brown found out about a new program allowing young adults who have aged out of foster care to continue receiving certain types of support until they turn 21 years old."

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Michigan Supreme Court race featured in NY Times editorial urging disclosure of contributions**

"Michigan, home to the country's most expensive Supreme Court race, was called out Sunday in a New York Times editorial. The newspaper took exception that the state 'set records for both spending and lack of accountability.'"

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: 5-year limit on welfare challenged in Michigan Supreme Court**

"The welfare benefits of at least 11,000 recipients are at stake in the Michigan Supreme Court, which is weighing whether the state overstepped its authority in enforcing a five-year lifetime limit on receiving cash assistance."

[Full story](#)

### **State Bar of Michigan Blog: Michigan Bar Exam: Imperative To Do Better**

"The liaison justice for the Board of Law Examiners (BLE) says that the BLE needs to do better explaining the testing and scoring of the exam to applicants. And that applicants need to do better on the exam portion of the bar exam. Justice Brian Zahra, a former BLE board member and essay exam grader, spoke to the State Bar Board of Commissioners about the exam at the Nov. 16 meeting of the Board of Commissioners last Friday."

[Full story](#)

### **WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Judge is asked to drop race case against Port Huron man in prison for nearly 10 years; James Grissom says he is innocent in 2003 alleged sexual assault in St. Clair County**

"A Port Huron man who has spent nearly a decade behind bars is on the verge of freedom as a prosecutor moves to drop a rape case against him.... The Michigan Supreme Court recently granted [James] Grissom a second trial. But a judge on Monday is expected to review a request by the St. Clair County prosecutor to drop the case."

[Full story](#)

### **WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Why are so many people frustrated with the Wayne County Friend of the Court?**

"It is one of the busiest courts in the state and one we get lots of complaints about. 7 Action News Investigator Bill Proctor exposes why so many are frustrated with the Wayne County Friend of the Court (WC WC FOC)."

[Full story](#)