

**November 21, 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.**

### **The MiLW Blog: 2012 Wright Award recipients honored at Adoption Day**

"At the Nov. 20 Michigan Adoption Day ceremony at the Hall of Justice, two children's service advocates received the Michigan Department of Human Services and Michigan Supreme Court's 2012 Wright Lifetime Achievement Award. They are Thomas Haskel, administrator of the courts in Crawford County and a juvenile court officer and referee; and Marilyn Stephen, former director of the DHS' Office of Child Support."

[\*Full story\*](#)

***Also see:***

### **Wright Lifetime Achievement Award winners announced; former Office of Child Support Director Marilyn Stephen of Jackson, Crawford County Juvenile Officer Thomas Haskel honored for service to Michigan families**

[\*Press release\*](#)

### **The Alpena News: Alpena celebrates Adoption Day**

"Alpena County celebrated National Adoption Day on Tuesday with the adoption of 10 children, the most ever for the county on a single day. Eight children from Alpena County were adopted by foster parents, grandparents and other relatives in Judge Thomas LaCross' family court, and two more in Judge Michael Mack's circuit court."

[\*Full story\*](#)

### **The Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton: Learning more about adoption**

"People in the Copper Country got a look at the resources available to them for adoption at an open house at the Houghton County Family Court Tuesday. This is the 10th year for Michigan Adoption Day, which the state holds each year on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving."

[\*Full story\*](#)

### **Dowagiac Daily News: Markman: 'only winners on Adoption Day'**

"Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman reliably delivers rule of law opinions. But not usually flowers. Yet there he was in Cass County Circuit Court Tuesday, presenting each Adoption Day family with a rose while marveling at bobbing balloons."

[\*Full story\*](#)

***Also see:***

### **Dowagiac Daily News: Cass Adoption Day finalizes four families**

[\*Full story\*](#)

### **WSJV-TV(28)/Elkhart, IN: Families get new members on Michigan Adoption Day**

[\*Full story\*](#)

### **Flint Journal: Four families welcome new members as Genesee County courts celebrate Michigan Adoption Day**

"Four families welcomed new members Tuesday, Nov. 20, as Genesee Probate Judge Jennie Barkey finalized four adoption hearings as part of Michigan Adoption Day. Barkey's court was filled with love, hugs and tears -- lots of tears -- as the public was able to witness hearings that are typically held behind closed doors."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **Holland Sentinel: GALLERY A home for good: Ottawa, Allegan children get new families during Adoption Day**

"... Seven Ottawa County families adopted eight children Tuesday during Michigan's 10th annual Adoption Day, a statewide celebration that includes adoption finalizations and a peek into the adoption process for people considering adding to the family. An additional five children were adopted Tuesday in Allegan County's Family Court. In all, 33 counties participated in Adoption Day."

[Full story](#)

## **Kalamazoo Gazette: Adoptions of five children finalized in Kalamazoo as part of Adoption Day in Michigan (photo gallery, video)**

"... The adoption of Lydia and her brother, Isaiah Willhite, 11, was finalized Tuesday in Kalamazoo County Probate Court during Adoption Day proceedings, when the usually closed process was open to the public in hopes of inspiring others to consider adoption.... 'It is often said this is one of the best days in the courtroom,' said Justice Stephen Markman of the Michigan Supreme Court, who signed the final adoption papers for Lydia and Isaiah."

[Full story](#)

### **Also see:**

## **Kalamazoo Gazette: Photo gallery: Michigan Adoption Day celebrated in Kalamazoo (19 photos)**

[Full story](#)

## **Kalamazoo Gazette: A poem for Adoption Day (1:32 minute video)**

[Full story](#)

## **WWMT-TV(3)/Kalamazoo: News channel 3 celebrates Michigan Adoption Day**

[Full story](#)

## **Lansing State Journal: Local children find families on Adoption Day**

"Five children in Ingham county will, for the first time, have an adoptive family to share a Thanksgiving meal on Thursday. Ingham County Circuit Judge Janelle Lawless presided Tuesday over the adoption of five foster children, ranging in age from 1 to 8, as part of the 10th annual Michigan Adoption Day."

[Full story](#)

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

## **Muskegon Chronicle Six Newaygo County children find their forever homes on National Adoption Day**

"A courtroom is rarely a happy place. However, on National Adoption Day it was very special for many families. On Tuesday, four families and a total of six children finalized their adoptions in Newaygo County."

[Full story](#)

### **Also see:**

## **Muskegon Chronicle: Photo gallery: National Adoption Day in Newaygo County (eight photos)**

[Full story](#)

## **WXMI-TV(17)/Grand Rapids: Courts Around West Michigan Celebrating National Adoption Day**

[Full story](#)

## **Saginaw News: Saginaw single mothers choose to adopt to help their families**

"The past year has been somewhat uncertain for Rebecca Sova, 8, and Carol Kemerer, 12, but today they were happy to call the woman who has been taking care of them for months their mother. Sova and Kemerer, sisters from Saginaw, were adopted today by their aunt, Kimberlee Wells. The new family was honored Tuesday, Nov. 20, during a ceremony at the Halls of Justice in honor of Michigan Adoption Day."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**WNEM-TV(5)/Saginaw: Michigan holds 10th annual Adoption Day (two minute video)**

[Full story](#)

**Sentinel-Standard/Ionia: Hixon family welcomes daughter on Adoption Day; Event is five years in the making**

"Tears of joy were abundant in the Ionia County Courthouse Tuesday during a Michigan Adoption Day ceremony that helped officially welcome a young girl into her new family. After five years, Bobbie Hixon is now the proud daughter to John and Melissa Hixon and a new sister to Kage and Kobe Hixon and Ashley Coulson."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Cheboygan Daily Tribune: Hixon family welcomes daughter on Adoption Day; Event is five years in the making**

[Full story](#)

**Traverse City Record-Eagle: Several kids taken in on Adoption Day**

"... Grand Traverse County Probate Judge David Stowe presided over the ceremonies, which for the first time were held at the Hagerty Center so more people could attend. Stowe finalized 21 adoptions of children of all ages."

[Full story](#)

**WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: State Supreme Court Turns Focus to Adoption**

"The Michigan Supreme Court took a time away from cases Tuesday to focus on finding loving homes for deserving children. About 3,000 children are in foster care right now, waiting for permanent homes. The court says that's too many and it's hoping the state's Adoption Day will change that."

[Full story](#)

**WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Michigan Holds 10th Annual 'Adoption Day'**

"Just in time for the holidays, kids are getting the chance of a lifetime: to be adopted. Four Michigan foster children were adopted throughout the state Tuesday. The chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court is joining other judges in approving adoptions as part the state's annual adoption day."

[Full story](#)

**WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: 25 adoptions finalized during event in Wayne County**

"Michigan Adoption Day is one of the country's largest celebrations of its kind. Tuesday, adoptions for 25 families were finalized in Wayne County alone. Toddlers and teenagers now have a sense of home and permanence. 'When they can have a home, a parent who's there for them, their lives change dramatically. They do better in school. They do better in sports. They feel connected,' said Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly."

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Hathaway's lawyer says justice will fight to keep Fla. Home**

"Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway and her husband intend to fight a federal lawsuit that claims they defrauded a bank by hiding a Florida home to qualify for a short sale on a \$1.5 million Lake St. Clair home, the couple's lawyer said Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Detroit News: Feds seek forfeiture of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Hathaway's Florida home**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Feds say Justice Hathaway defrauded bank of \$600,000; Civil complaint claims she hid assets in effort to avoid mortgage debt**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Judge in real estate scandal says she'll fight to keep seat**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Feds seek forfeiture of Michigan justice Diane Hathaway's Florida home**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Lawyer says Hathaway will fight to keep house**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Crain's Detroit Business and the Oakland Press.**

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Feds accuse Michigan Supreme Court justice of fraud**

[Full story](#)

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Jack Lessenberry Commentary: Disorder in the court**

[Full story](#)

**The Michigan View: Frank Beckmann: Supreme Hathaway travesty**

[Full story](#)

**MLive.com: Chief justice on Hathaway bank fraud suit: 'It is a dreadful development'**

[Full story](#)

**MLive.com: Feds file lawsuit to seize Florida home of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway**

[Full story](#)

**The Oakland Press: Feds accuse Michigan Supreme Court justice of real estate fraud**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in several news outlets including the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, the Daily Tribune, the Macomb Daily, the Morning Sun, Times Herald/Port Huron and WKAR News/East Lansing.**

**State Bar of Michigan Blog: Civil Complaint Filed Against Justice Hathaway**

[Full story](#)

**WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Feds accused Michigan judge of real estate fraud**

[Full story](#)

**WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Feds accuse Michigan Justice Hathaway of real estate fraud; US accuses Michigan Supreme Court Justice Hathaway of fraud, files lawsuit to take Fla. home**

[Full story](#)

## **WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: U.S. Attorney accuses Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway of fraud over short sale**

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **The Detroit News: Michigan court rejects prosecutor's appeal in Highers brothers case**

"Two Macomb County men, free on bond after nearly a quarter-century, learned Wednesday they have a little more to be thankful for this holiday season. Raymond and Thomas Highers on Wednesday were informed that the state Court of Appeals has refused to hear a challenge from Wayne County prosecutors to a circuit judge's decision to grant them a new trial.... Maria Miller, a spokeswoman for Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy, said Wednesday that prosecutors are considering an appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court. A decision will be made next week, she added."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **The Detroit News: False 'eyewitness' forces new trial in 2007 murder at Pontiac biker club; Purported witness was in jail at time of Pontiac shooting**

"A Pontiac man sentenced to life in prison for a 2007 murder outside a biker clubhouse learned Tuesday he will be retried in April after authorities found that an 'eyewitness' to the shooting was in prison when it occurred."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **Flint-Genesee County Legal News: New law looks to make Michigan courts business friendly**

"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\*](#)

## **Flint-Genesee 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\*](#)

## **Flint Journal: Retired federal judge Newblatt portrait unveiled in Flint**

"Former United States District Court Judge Stewart A. Newblatt had his portrait unveiled Tuesday in a ceremony that featured Newblatt, his family and former colleagues inside the federal courthouse in Flint. The portrait of Newblatt, who retired in 1998, will hang in the courtroom that he presided in for 20 years."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **Flint Journal: Judge orders Genesee County workers' compensation claims heard locally, not in Dimondale**

"Two weeks after stopping a local man's workers' compensation case from being transferred out of the area, Genesee County Circuit Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut ordered the state not to move subsequent Genesee County workers' compensation hearings to the town of Dimondale in southwest Michigan."

[\*Full story\*](#)

## **The Macomb Daily: Court mistake upstages shot woman's testimony**

"Live testimony of a former Sterling Heights woman shot by police but facing criminal charges was upstaged Tuesday by a legal mistake that could affect the case's eventual outcome. Caroline Hocking-Sullivan, 49, took the stand in her defense to counter accusations that she wielded a knife and charged at police officers before she was shot in the chest."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.**

### **The Macomb Daily: No union pay in Shores court project**

"St. Clair Shores officials are moving forward with construction of a new 40th District Court building using a contractor who is not using a prevailing wage to pay subcontractors, which would have driven up the cost of the project."

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Court upholds Consumers Energy rate increase tied to smart meters**

"State regulators were justified in approving a rate increase for Consumers Energy tied in part to smart meter infrastructure costs, according to the Court of Appeals. The court upheld the Michigan Public Service Commission's Nov. 2010 decision to allow the electric utility to include nearly \$3.3 million in expenses for its advanced metering pilot program as part of a \$145.7 million rate increase."

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: NYT editorial singles out Michigan MSC campaigns: Record spending, little accountability**

"A New York Times editorial asserts that record spending on state judicial elections, most of it spent by undisclosed donors, 'has severely weakened the principle of fair and impartial courts.' "

[Full story](#)