

November 26, 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.

Macomb County Legal News: Judge honored with achievement award

"A Midland judge who is leading the state's effort to end the 'school to prison pipeline' is the recipient of this year's Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Human Services. Judge Dorene S. Allen, presiding judge of Midland's family and probate courts, is being honored for exceptional work on behalf of Michigan children and families, including successful programs for young offenders."

[Full story](#)

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

Also see:

Midland Judge Dorene S. Allen to receive Daniel J. Wright Award Honor recognizes exceptional work on behalf of Michigan children and families; Allen's success in reducing juvenile delinquency cited

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan courts promote adoption across the state

"Michigan is celebrating adoption with public events in at least 30 counties and at the Supreme Court in Lansing. Chief Justice Robert Young Jr. will join judges from Lenawee and Midland counties in approving adoptions today at the Supreme Court. Young will also present Judge Dorene Allen of Midland with a lifetime achievement award for serving families."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Alpena News, the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Cadillac News, the Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton, the Daily News/Iron Mountain, the Daily Press/Escanaba, the Lansing State Journal, the Mining Journal/Marquette, the Monroe Evening News, the Oakland Press, the Times Herald/Port Huron, WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing, WILX-TV(10)/Lansing, the Republic/Columbus, IN and other media outlets.

The Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton: Adoption Day in Michigan is Tuesday

"November is National Adoption Awareness Month, and as part of that recognition, Tuesday is Michigan Adoption Day during which local agencies conduct events to highlight the need for adoptive parents. Susan O'Connell, adoption specialist for the Houghton County Family Court, said for years, Adoption Day in Michigan, now in its 11th year, has been recognized on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Adoption day celebration planned for Genesee County

"The public is invited to sit in on adoption proceedings when Genesee County joins 29 other counties around the state in celebrating Adoption Day. Genesee Circuit Court officials say the public will be allowed to sit in on the typically closed adoption proceedings Tuesday, Nov. 26, as part of the nationwide Adoption Day celebration."

[Full story](#)

The Mining Journal/Marquette: Adoption is always a great option to build families, lives

"Saturday may have been one of the most important days in the life of a foster child. As National Adoption Month culminated with Saturday's National Adoption Day celebrations in almost 400 cities nationwide, nearly 4,500 children in foster care just hoping and wishing for a permanent family will find just that."

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Michigan Adoption Day 2013 to be held Tuesday; State's celebration of adoptive families now in 11th year, includes 30 counties

"... In what is now a holiday tradition for many Michigan family courts, Michigan Adoption Day will be celebrated on Nov. 26. Officials said the event is held on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year, highlighting the importance of adoption and the needs of children in foster care."

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Dozens of new families formed as Michigan celebrates Adoption Day

"New families across the state are celebrating a special holiday that you may not be aware of - Michigan's Adoption Day. One of the places the occasion is being commemorated is the Oakland County courthouse in Pontiac, where 12 children became a part of something every child deserves - a family."

[Full story](#)

WWMT-TV(3)/Kalamazoo: Michigan Adoption Day brings smiles to courtrooms

"Courtrooms across Michigan will feature happy families Tuesday. That's because it's Michigan Adoption Day. The now holiday tradition for many Michigan courts is celebrated annually on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Michigan Adoption Day 2013 to be held Tuesday, November 26 State's celebration of adoptive families now in 11th year, includes 30 counties

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Judge prods Michigan to parole 'juvenile lifers'

"Michigan must consider paroling all prisoners serving life sentences for crimes they committed as juveniles under a strict order Federal Judge John Corbett O'Meara issued Tuesday. O'Meara threatened to appoint a special master 'to make available to prisoners sentenced to life without parole for juvenile crimes the process this order envisions' if the state fails to comply in the next two months."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: Juvenile lifers: Federal judge orders Michigan to offer 'meaningful and realistic' parole hearings

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Troy seeks Amtrak deal to get transit center back on track

"... [Troy city] officials thought they owned the 2.7 acres when construction started in late 2012. But in May, the developer of the surrounding shopping center was ruled the owner of the land in a unanimous state Court of Appeals decision. Although the city filed for leave to appeal with the Michigan Supreme Court, and still awaits a decision, officials want to satisfy Amtrak and get the center operating by year's end, Grigg Bluhm said."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Medical marijuana is top priority for House panel in December

"Medical marijuana could be a hot topic in the state Legislature before the end of the year. House Judiciary Committee Chair Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) says his top priority next month is to take up three medical marijuana-related bills. The first, House Bill 4271, would revive medical marijuana dispensaries in Michigan after recent court rulings effectively stopped the facilities from operating in the state."

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: Michigan, U.S. Attorney coordinate criminal meningitis investigations

"Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and the United States Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz of the District of Massachusetts [Monday] announced a new coordination of their state and federal criminal investigations of New England Compounding Center.... In April 2013, the Michigan Court of Appeals granted Schuette's request to empanel a multicounty grand jury to investigate the fungal meningitis issue."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Officials: Oakland, four additional counties share services to save taxpayers money

"Oakland is among four southeast Michigan counties that recently welcomed Macomb County into a partnership utilizing cloud computing to enhance government services and save taxpayers money, top officials said last week.... Oakland's 52nd District Court has piloted use of these services in the way of misdemeanor payments and over-the-counter payments, said the court's Chief Judge Julie Nicholson."

[Full story](#)

The Press & Guide/Dearborn: DEARBORN: City won't appeal judge's disqualification in marijuana case

"The city won't appeal a Nov. 14 state Court of Appeals ruling that upheld the disqualification of 19th District Judge Mark Somers in a case involving the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. The next step would have been going to the state Supreme Court, but the city won't do that, ending this part of the case, said Mayor Jack O'Reilly and Laurie Ellerbrake, deputy city attorney."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The MLW Blog: City won't appeal biased judge's disqualification

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Michigan State Bar exam changes set, but law schools are still unhappy

"Michigan State Bar exam takers appear to be adapting to the no-scaling grading rule put in place last year, with first-time passers hitting 67 percent in July's exam, compared to 62 percent for July 2012. Total passers are at 60 percent in 2013, compared to 55 percent in 2012. And, despite complaints by all of Michigan's law schools, the Board of Law Examiners' stance appears to be what you see is what you get from now on."

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Current State: New Court of Claims Chief outlines transition

"Two weeks after becoming law, a move to revamp Michigan's Court of Claims is still generating questions and discussion. The reform moves legal actions against Michigan out of the Ingham County Circuit Court. To help us understand some of these issues, we speak with the new Chief Judge of the revamped Michigan Court of Claims, the Honorable Michael Talbot."

[Full story](#)