

**November 30, 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 Legal News: Move to Adopt: Families celebrate Michigan Adoption Day**

"It was an emotion-packed day Nov. 16 at the Jackson County Courthouse as 10 families made it legal on Michigan Adoption Day.... After one of the hearings, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Steven Markman told The Legal News that he and his colleagues are honored to participate in adoptions across the state on Adoption Day."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Press: As expiration of adoption tax credit looms, foster family says adoption 'well worth it'**

"... Currently, qualified families seeking an adoption can receive up to about \$13,000 in financial assistance through the Adoption Tax Credit. However, that assistance could be reduced to \$6,000 as the tax credit is set to expire on Dec. 31. The Making Adoption Affordable Act of 2012, which would make the tax credit a flat rate that is permanent and refundable, is waiting in the House and Senate."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Justice Hathaway, husband deny bank fraud allegations**

"Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway and her husband denied in a federal court filing Friday that they committed bank fraud by hiding an asset to dodge \$600,000 of mortgage debt on a \$1.5 million Grosse Pointe Park home on Lake St. Clair. Hathaway and her husband, attorney Michael Kingsley, fired back at federal prosecutors attempting to seize their posh second home in Windermere, Fla."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: With PDFs: Justice Diane Hathaway, husband deny committing real estate fraud**

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: Michigan judge tells feds to keep hands off house**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal and the Times Herald/Port Huron.**

### **The MiLW Blog: Hathaway denies mortgage fraud claims in court filing**

[Full story](#)

### **WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Justice Diane Hathaway tells feds to keep hands off house**

[Full story](#)

### **WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Michigan Supreme Court justice denies wrongdoing in bank fraud allegations**

[Full story](#)

### **WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway says she'll fight to keep house**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Judge upholds most aspects of Michigan teacher benefits law**

"A judge has upheld most aspects of a new law requiring Michigan public school employees to pay more for their pensions. MLive.com reports Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina on Thursday

rejected broader challenges from teachers unions that the law is rife with unconstitutional provisions and contract violations.... An appeal is likely."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer and the Times Herald/Port Huron.**

**Also see:**

**MLive.com: Judge OKs big pension, health care changes for Michigan teachers and other school workers**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Ecorse settles lawsuit over convictions for \$3.1M**

"A Detroit suburb has agreed to pay more than \$3 million to two men who were convicted of attempted murder but released from prison when the victim recanted his testimony. Marvin Reed and nephew DeShawn Reed were the first people whose convictions were overturned due to the work of law students at the University of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

**The Daily Tribune: Dean Ausilio appointed to judgeship in 37th District Court**

"Dean Ausilio, former chairman of the Macomb County Republican Party and an attorney for 26 years, has been appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to a judgeship in the 37th District Court. Ausilio, 52, fills the vacancy created when former district judge Dawnn Gruenburg left in May after she accepted an appointment to serve as an administrative law judge in the U.S. Social Security Administration."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily.**

**Also see:**

**The MiLW Blog: Appointments to Wayne Circuit, Macomb District courts announced**

[Full story](#)

**The Daily Tribune: Ferndale moves ahead on \$2M court, police upgrades**

"City officials this week decided to move forward with a plan to make \$2 million in security and safety upgrades at the courthouse and police station.... Ferndale District Judge Joseph Longo and Police Chief Timothy Collins this week made a presentation to the City Council outlining the most immediate problems they have at their respective buildings. Like the court, the police station is also cramped and lacks security and safety features common at most other police departments in the region."

[Full story](#)

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

**Detroit Legal News: New site for Supreme Court Learning Center (second article)**

"The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center's website, along with the entire 'One Court of Justice' website, has a new design and better organization.... Find information about scheduling tours, curriculum resources, details about special events and programs, and more."

[Full story](#)

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

**Grand Rapids Press: Conviction upheld in wife's traffic death in crash with Grand Rapids patrol car**

"The state Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction of a suspended driver whose sport-utility vehicle collided with a speeding Grand Rapids police patrol car, killing the driver's wife. Ronald Lee Allen, 32, is serving eight years in prison from the 2010 crash that killed Julie Mae Wright-Allen."

[Full story](#)

## **Grand Rapids Press: 'Your attitude is repulsive,' judge tells man who speaks of 'no remorse' for setting fatal Sparta fire**

"Moments after listening to the tearful words of a mother whose daughter died in a Sparta arson, the man accused of the setting the fire boldly told a judge he had no regret and considered himself a victim. Michael Piranian started a fire at the Sparta home where he and four others were living in March after an argument. A basement tenant, 24-year-old Kori VanHulle, died in the blaze."

[Full story](#)

## **Jackson Citizen Patriot: 'Justice is down the tubes,' Ricky Wheeldon rants at his sentencing, attended by Dog the Bounty Hunter**

"When given a chance to speak, Ricky Wheeldon ranted about what he perceived were problems and injustices associated with his trial. Maintaining his innocence, he didn't, as many defendants do, ask for leniency or offer apology."

[Full story](#)

## **Macomb County Legal News: Given his due; Federal judge honored during unveiling of portrait**

"... [A]s a Genesee County Circuit Court judge, [Stewart Newblatt] wrote opinions that were lauded by the state Court of Appeals.... And finally, after being named a U.S. District Court judge, Newblatt topped off a career in law that reached levels of excellence only a few could dream of."

[Full story](#)

## **The Macomb Daily: Macomb judge allows medical marijuana use on probation**

"A judge admitted skepticism but is allowing two men convicted of distributing marijuana to continue using the drug for medical purposes. Dean Ferretti, 38, of Utica; and Kent Currie, 40, of Kimball Township, were sentenced to two years probation Thursday by Judge David Viviano of Macomb County Circuit Court in Mount Clemens."

[Full story](#)

## **Muskegon County Legal News: Scholarly look: Judge pens a sequel to book on forensics**

"Admittedly, Donald Shelton says his latest book was not written with The New York Times best-seller list in mind. Chief Judge of the Washtenaw County Trial Court, Shelton had a different audience in view when he set out to write, 'Forensic Science Evidence: Can the Law Keep Up with Science?'"

[Full story](#)

## **Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon County Jail renovation, new build combo the recommendation; What do you think?**

"A portion of the existing Muskegon County Jail would be renovated and a new housing pod would be constructed on the Hall of Justice site if the County Board of Commissioners follows a consultant team's recommendation.... County judges advocated late in the investigation process for keeping the jail on site to maintain the flow of the court system and save money by limiting transportation expenses likely with an off-site facility."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Muskegon Chronicle: Editorial: Jail proposal needs action now, not another delay**

[Full story](#)

### **The News Herald/Southgate: Promise to serve (WITH VIDEO)**

“Members of the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees were sworn in by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly of Grosse Ile Township during a ceremony Nov. 20.”

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland Press Blog: Frozen Sperm and the Social Security Administration**

“The Michigan Supreme Court heard oral arguments mid-month in a very interesting case of first impression involving frozen sperm and Michigan's laws of intestacy. The certified question before our High Court is whether frozen sperm equates to ‘children’ under the intestacy statute.”

[Full story](#)