

December 6, 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 Detroit News: Driver with suspended license in Dearborn wins unusual appeal**

"The Michigan appeals court has ruled in favor of a Detroit-area man who fought a conviction of driving with a suspended license.... The appeals court said Wednesday that [Kazem] Hammoud's conviction must be thrown out and he can't be charged again. He had been sentenced to 30 days in jail."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Lansing State Journal: Driver with suspended license wins unusual appeal**

[Full story](#)

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

### **Detroit Free Press: \$500 restitution paid, but ex-mayor still has a court date**

"... [Kwame] Kilpatrick has been ordered to appear in Wayne County Circuit Court for a status conference next week. He is to be in Judge David Groner's courtroom next Wednesday. His attorney Daniel Hajji said via e-mail that the status conference is regarding Kilpatrick's book and a recent Court of Appeals ruling. He said it is not a restitution hearing."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Kilpatrick is due in court over finances; Authorities want to know more about proceeds from book**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Terrence Berg appointed a U.S. District Court judge**

"Almost eight months after he was nominated by the president, Terrence Berg – who previously served as interim U.S. attorney in Detroit – was confirmed a judge of the U.S. District Court for the eastern district of Michigan on Thursday."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Ingham County Circuit judge dismisses suit challenging EFM appointments**

"[Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina] has dismissed a lawsuit challenging the state's appointment of emergency financial managers in Michigan's cash-strapped cities and school districts.... Michigan voters in November rejected an emergency manager law and the state has been operating under a previous law that gives managers fewer powers. The lawsuit was brought on behalf of elected officials in some cities with state-appointed managers, saying the old law couldn't be revived."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan's Emergency Financial Manager law survives legal challenge**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Judge: Emergency financial manager law, Public Act 72, remains in effect**

[Full story](#)

### **Flint Journal: Flint emergency financial manager Ed Kurtz stays in office after judge's ruling**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Detroit union files complaint alleging law firm has conflicts**

"The city's largest union has filed a complaint with the state's Attorney Grievance Commission, alleging a conflict with the controversial Miller Canfield law firm because it represented the city and the state in a \$137 million bond sale last year. Union leaders also cite conflicts because Miller Canfield was the primary drafter of Public Act 4 and the consent agreement city leaders passed in April."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Briefs: 3rd mistrial declared in bathtub drowning case**

"For the third time since June, a mistrial has been declared for a Clinton Township woman accused of drowning her 4-year-old grandson in her bathtub two years ago. The ruling came Wednesday in Macomb Circuit Court when a jury couldn't reach a verdict in the case of Terry Rita Borgia, 63."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: 3rd mistrial in case against grandma accused of drowning boy disappoints family**

[Full story](#)

### **The Macomb Daily: Macomb judge declares 3rd mistrial for grandmother accused in drowning**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Sweep to target people late on child support payments (fourth article)**

"Police will conduct a four-day sweep to arrest people who are late on child support payments, officials said Wednesday. Sheriff Anthony Wickersham said his office is working with Macomb County Chief Circuit Judge David Viviano to conduct the sweep, which starts Monday."

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Family wins ruling against Brighton - In decades-long battle, appellate court finds part of city rule is unconstitutional**

"A Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled part of a Brighton ordinance unconstitutional, giving a boost to a Northville couple's decades-long legal battle with the city over two vacant houses near the community's downtown on East North Street. The city had ordered two houses owned by Leon and Marilyn Bonner to be demolished, but Livingston County Circuit Judge Michael P. Hatty ruled the ordinance was unconstitutional, and the appeals court affirmed that decision this week."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Inmate asks appeals court to overturn Granholm decision**

"Lawyers for a Michigan inmate have asked the state appeals court to reinstate a decision that would release him from a life sentence. Gov. Jennifer Granholm agreed to commute the no-parole sentence of Matthew Makowski in 2011, just before she left office. But Granholm changed her mind less than 48 hours later after the victim's family protested."

[Full story](#)

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

### **Detroit Legal News: Judge Roberts receives Archer Award; Roberts was first African-American woman president of SBM**

"Judge Victoria Roberts, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, was awarded the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association's Dennis W. Archer Award in a ceremony at the Detroit Yacht Club Tuesday night.... Archer served as a justice on the Michigan Supreme Court from 1986 to 1990. He served as mayor of Detroit from 1993 to 2001 and also served as president of the American Bar Association, becoming the first African American to lead the organization."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Press: Mason County prosecutor defends no-jail sentence for driver that killed Conklin motorcyclists**

"County Prosecutor Paul Spaniola said he supports a judge's decision to forgo jail time for a Ludington driver who caused the May deaths of a Conklin couple on a motorcycle. Spaniola said the deaths of Gary and Carol Berenbrock came down to a simple moment of inattentiveness on the part of 41-year-old Matthew Millspaugh."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Mens Rea: Dashboard Justice?**

Mike Nichols writes "Michigan's justice system focuses on the wrong data. Let's make sure all data is turned over in every case - not just statistics on how quickly we can push cases through the system. The use of arbitrary deadlines to measure the performance of judges leaves us with arbitrary justice."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: State Bar Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program helps**

"The State Bar of Michigan Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program (LJAP) provides 'a range of services to approximately 100 lawyers, law students and judges throughout the state who are struggling with mental health or addiction issues, said Tish Vincent, the Program Administrator."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham 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](#)

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

### **Kalamazoo Gazette: Kalamazoo County's chief district court judge recommends closing Portage courthouse**

"Discussions on closing the Portage District Court have been renewed with a recommendation by Kalamazoo County's chief district court judge that the facility be shuttered given the planned retirement of Judge Carol Husum. In a letter dated Nov. 30, Judge Paul Bridenstine suggested moving the judge based at the Portage courthouse out, since Husum's seat will not be filled when she retires."

[Full story](#)

### **Kalamazoo Gazette: Van Buren County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen Brickley outspent opponent more than 2-1 to win election**

"Van Buren County Circuit Court Judge Kathleen Brickley out-raised and outspent opponent Matt Cooper by more than 2-1, with Brickley and her husband putting up \$78,000 of their own money in her successful bid to retain her seat, according to campaign finance filings."

[Full story](#)

## **Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Tossing marijuana charges was right call; Judge Clarke says laws need clarification**

"Lansing District Court Judge Hugh Clarke Jr.'s decision last week to throw out charges filed by the state attorney general's office against four employees at two medical marijuana facilities was appropriate and reasoned... [The Attorney General's Office] claims that operations like Hyrdoworld are dispensaries, which a state appeals court ruled are illegal. The Michigan Supreme Court is reviewing the matter."

[Full story](#)

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

## **MLive.com: With multiple emergency manager lawsuits pending, Supreme Court asked for quick decision on Detroit lawsuit**

"State Attorney General Bill Schuette [Wednesday] asked the Michigan Supreme Court to speed up its decision on hearing an appeal of a November ruling that Public Act 72, the state's emergency manager law, stands.... The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled last month that PA 72 stands after Detroit-area activist Robert Davis filed a lawsuit seeking to overthrow Detroit Public Schools Emergency Manager Roy Roberts."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Governor forms Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board**

"An executive order signed Tuesday by Gov. Rick Snyder establishes within the state Department of Human Services the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board to help better protect victims and prevent future crimes.... Appointed to the new board are Jeffrey Sauter, [15th District Court Judge] Elizabeth Pollard Hines, Yvonne Brantley, Kathryn Hoover, Jeffrie Cape, James Fink, and Cris Mary Sullivan."

[Full story](#)

## **Saginaw News: Former church members sue Saginaw pastor after lawsuit seeking more than \$100,000 in tithes fails**

"... The former members filed a lawsuit against Zion Missionary Baptist itself, one of Saginaw's oldest churches. That suit, filed in April 2012, was thrown out in October by Bay County Circuit Court Judge Kenneth Schmidt. Schmidt was assigned the case after each of Saginaw County Circuit Court's judges recused themselves, citing personal and professional relationships with the plaintiffs."

[Full story](#)

## **State Bar of Michigan Blog: Supreme Court Makes Two New Appointments To Model Civil Jury Instructions Committee**

"The Supreme Court has appointed the Hon. Elizabeth Pezzetti and Donald J. Gasiorek to two-year terms on the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, beginning January 1, 2013. The Court's order, dated [Wednesday], also reappoints the Hon. Douglas B. Shapiro, Patricia J. Boyle, Daniel J. McCarthy, Noreen L. Slank, and Gary P. Gordon."

[Full story](#)

## **The State News/East Lansing: Judge Jordon recognized for decades of service in E.L.**

"For the past 23 years, Judge David L. Jordon has resided as a judge on the 54B District Court in East Lansing. At the end of the month, his term will come to an end. During Tuesday's regular East Lansing City Council meeting, Jordon was recognized for his 23 years of service as a judge.... Jordon's last official day will be Dec. 28, while his term will end Jan. 1, 2013, and incoming Judge Andrea Larkin officially will be sworn in Dec. 29 and take the bench Jan. 2."

[Full story](#)

### **The State News/East Lansing: MSU foster care program provides help for students**

"MSU has provided environmental economics and policy junior Molly Black, who was in foster care from age 10 to 19, with the support to adjust to college life. Black is one of many MSU students who use MSU Foster Youth Alumni Services, or FAME, a program that provides support to students who were or are in foster care."

[Full story](#)

### **Washtenaw County Legal News: Man returning from cruise arrested for child support charge**

"Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette on Tuesday announced the arrest of a Colorado man on an outstanding felony warrant for failure to pay child support. Craig Northup, 42, of Aurora, Colorado, is charged with two counts of failure to pay child support, a four year felony, for allegedly owing a total of \$73,385.76 in child support to two Michigan children."

[Full story](#)

### **WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Justice's daughter Dana Hathaway has a home controversy of her own; Just elected Wayne County Judge**

"Thanksgiving at the Hathaway home must have been interesting this year. State Supreme Court Justice is under an FBI investigation, already having been hit with a civil complaint accusing her of fraud. Now her daughter, Judge-Elect Dana Hathaway has a controversy of her own. The City of Birmingham recently learned that Hathaway has been getting a tax break on her home on Catalpa Street. She claimed it as her primary residence for the last three years, giving her a break on her taxes."

[Full story](#)

### **WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Detroit judge speaks out about convicted killer's outburst in her courtroom; Judge Vonda Evans speaks out about heated words with D'Andre Lane, who was sentenced to life in prison for daughter's murder**

"Two-year-old Bianca Jones has never been found. However, her father, D'Andre Lane, has been convicted of murdering his young daughter. He was sentenced to life in prison this week. The crime has left a lasting impact on the judge who sent Lane away for life after his emotional outburst in court."

[Full story](#)