

December 10, 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.

Lansing State Journal: Three children find new homes on Adoption Day

"For three children, Nov. 26 was a very special day. Adaleigh Kusnier, Jordyn Fowler and Justin Kissling got their forever homes during a special Adoption Day celebration at Clinton County Courthouse. Judge Lisa Sullivan officiated at the 10th annual Clinton County Adoption Day."

Full story

Noodls: "One Court of Justice" website is now smartphone-friendly

"Smartphone users, rejoice - the most comprehensive online information source about the Michigan justice system is now in the palm of your hand. A smartphone-compatible version of the 'One Court of Justice' website (www.courts.mi.gov) [debuted Monday], offering another convenient way to access the Michigan court's site, Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., announced."

Full story

Also see:

"One Court of Justice" website is now smartphone-friendly

Other website updates: Site users can sign up for appellate opinions, other bulletins via social media; Supreme Court posting audio of oral arguments

Press release

Associated Press: Can kin trump foster parents? Mich. court has case

"The Michigan Supreme Court has heard arguments in the case of a Florida woman who wants to be the guardian of four children in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Human Services is appealing a decision that would take the siblings away from foster parents and make Lori Scribner the guardian."

Full story

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Alpena News, the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Cadillac News, the Daily Press/Escaaba, the Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph, the Lansing State Journal, the Ludington Daily News, the Midland Daily, News, the Monroe Evening News, the Times Herald/Port Huron, the Herald-Tribune/Sarasota, FL, the Miami Herald/Miami, FL and other media outlets.

Flint Journal: Beecher whistleblower case moves to Michigan Supreme Court

"The Michigan Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments Tuesday, Dec. 10, in a whistleblower protection case filed by the former administrator of the Beecher Metropolitan District. Richard L. Wurtz, who worked as the top executive of the Beecher water and sewer system, sued the district in 2010, claiming the agency's board of directors retaliated against him for blowing the whistle on wrongdoing there."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: State Supreme Court holds oral arguments

"A long-time prisoner whose commutation request was first granted, then denied by former Gov. Jennifer Granholm will have his case heard this week by the Michigan Supreme Court. Matthew Makowski, who is serving a life sentence without parole for his role in the 1988 robbery and murder of a co-worker, sought to have his sentence modified so that he would be eligible for parole."

Full story

Also see:

SBM Blog: The Governor Giveth. Can She Taketh Away?

Full story

Prisoner seeks review of former governor's commutation grant – and denial – in appeal Supreme Court hears this week

Also before the Court: Ethics charges against judge who had affair with litigant

Press release

Detroit Free Press: Oakland jurist recuses himself in case against Novi judge MacKenzie

"Oakland County Circuit Judge Leo Bowman recused himself [Monday] from hearing a complaint filed against Novi District Judge Brian MacKenzie, saying he could not be fair. MacKenzie has been under fire since late November when Oakland County Prosecutor Jessica Cooper filed a 238-page complaint with the county circuit court asking a judge there to take control of cases she believes MacKenzie has mishandled."

Full story

Also see:

Hometown Life Newspapers: Jurist recuses self in Novi District Judge MacKenzie case

Full story

The MLW Blog: Judge recuses himself in prosecutor's case against Novi jurist

Full story

The Oakland Press: Bowman recuses self in Prosecutor's case against Novi judge

Full story

Daily Press & Argus: Court affirms assault conviction

"The Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed a Pinckney man's conviction and sentence for assaulting his girlfriend and her son. Robert Clinton Giamporcaro, 47, appealed his jury conviction of two counts each of domestic violence and interfering with electronic communications, and three counts of felonious assault, arguing the trial court erred when the judge denied his motion for a directed not-guilty verdict."

[*Full story*](#)

Grand Haven Tribune: Court comfort

"Trained as a leader for the blind, Patty switched roles in August 2012 when she met her new handler and caregiver, Jeannie Wernet, the victims advocate for the Ionia County Prosecuting Attorney's office. Wernet and Patty were on loan to assist in the trial that included 9- and 10-year-old victims. Now the staff at the Ottawa County courthouse is preparing for a new 'employee' whose presence alone could make it easier for authorities to solve crimes and prosecute criminals."

[*Full story*](#)

Holland Sentinel: Bill would allow courts to keep e-records

"Courts across Michigan should soon be able to do away with paper and keep their records electronically under a bill sponsored by state Rep. Amanda Price.... It passed the state House in the spring and passed the Senate on Thursday [December 5].... Ottawa County has already been using some e-documents, said Kevin Bowling, the Ottawa County court administrator."

[*Full story*](#)

Lansing State Journal: Applications being accepted for CASA volunteers (fourth article)

"CASA-The Voice for Clinton County's Children is now accepting applications for individuals interested in serving as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Volunteer. The first training will be in 2014."

[*Full story*](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Business Court matters discussed at MCBA event

"Macomb County Circuit Court Chief Judge John C. Foster presides over the county's new Business Court and he was the featured speaker at a recent Brown Bag lunch sponsored by the Macomb County Bar Association."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan House panel signs off on medical marijuana dispensaries, edible products

"Medical marijuana dispensaries could return to Michigan under a proposal heading to the state House floor for consideration. The House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday unanimously approved bills that would update the voter-approved Michigan Marijuana Act of 2008 to make way for dispensaries and allow more parts of the plant to be used in edibles.... Medical marijuana storefronts had operated in Michigan until a February ruling by the state Supreme Court forced them to close."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Pontiac lights Tree of Hope in memory of late Judge Robert Anderson and wife Francile

"The crowd counted down together on Friday night and then applauded and cheered as the Tree of Hope was lit up in front of 50th District Court for the holiday season. The city's tree lighting ceremony held special meaning this year, as the tree was donated by the family of the late Chief Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Robert Anderson and his wife, Francile, who dedicated her life to education, volunteerism and public service in the Pontiac area. She passed away on Sept. 22 at 86."

[Full story](#)

Petoskey News-Review: Child abuse cases delayed for judge change

"Circuit Court proceedings for two former Harbor Springs parents accused of child abuse were delayed last week after the Emmet County judge in the case filed a motion to be replaced. Judge Charles Johnson, who presides over the 57th Circuit Court, filed a motion on his own behalf Nov. 27 to be disqualified to judge the case based on knowledge of disputed evidence in the court case of Phil and Kim Loesch."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Proud Mother Of Two

"... We decided the one-child career advantage hypothesis was goofy enough to waste three or four minutes testing in the context of well-known successful mother-lawyers.... The results do not support the hypothesis: ... Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Coleman (2) Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley (1) Michigan Supreme Court Justice Patricia Boyle (4) Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan (2) Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly (1) Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget McCormack (4)."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Why Smart People Write So Badly

"Legal writing guru Bryan Garner shares with ABA Journal a 2006 interview he conducted with the legendary David Foster Wallace about persuasive writing. It's an exhilarating and useful read. Especially enjoyable is Wallace's speculation about why so much academic (and legal) writing is so bad."

[Full story](#)