

December 19, 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.

### **SBM Blog: Michigan Supreme Court Makes New Appointments To Model Civil Jury Instructions Committee**

"By order [Wednesday] the Michigan Supreme Court appointed Kent County circuit judge James R. Redford as chair of the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, and appointed Kent County circuit judge Kathleen A. Feeney and Birmingham attorney William B. Forrest III to the committee. The Court also reappointed Court of Appeals judge Jane M. Beckering (Grand Rapids), Detroit attorney Mark R. Bendure, Detroit attorney W. Mack Faison, Lansing attorney Paul C. Smith, and Sanilac County circuit judge Donald A. Teeple."

[Full story](#)

*Also see:*

### **Appointments to Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions announced by Michigan Supreme Court**

[Press release](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Holiday Hours**

"The Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the State Court Administrative Office will be closed for the holidays on Tuesday, December 24; Wednesday, December 25; Tuesday, December 31; and Wednesday, January 1, 2014.... The Third Circuit Court Civil, Criminal and Family Divisions will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.... The 36th District Court will be closed [beginning Tuesday December 24 through Wednesday January 1, 2014.]"

[Full story](#)

*Also see:*

### **Supreme Court, Court of Appeals announce holiday schedule**

[Press release](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Ingham County rapist curses judge as he's sentenced to 75-100 years**

"A man called a serial rapist by prosecutors had to be restrained in an Ingham County courtroom [Wednesday] after an outburst that included cursing at the judge who sentenced him to 75-100 years in prison. Bryan Preston Farmer, a convicted sex offender who was found guilty in October of raping a woman with mental disabilities while he was on parole, appeared before Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina."

[Full story](#)

*Also see:*

### **Lansing State Journal: Serial rapist sentenced to 75-100 years threatens judge, prosecutor in court**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Brian Farmer, sentenced to life for rape of mentally disabled woman, threatens court officials**

[Full story](#)

### **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Bryan Farmer Gives Judge An Earful Prior To Sentence**

[Full story](#)

## **WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Ingham County Man Sentenced for Raping Mentally-Disabled Woman**

[Full story](#)

## **Detroit Free Press: Serving the youths**

"The scene in teacher David Britten's Basic Law class is that of a courtroom, as the students participate in the 'Youth Teen Court Program,' headed by Prosecutor Danton Wilson. With 12 students serving as the jury, one as the bailiff and Wilson as the judge, they receive real life cases, dealing with real life respondents to help them get back on track."

[Full story](#)

## **Associated Press: Snyder signs law clarifying jury right in suits**

"Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed a law to ensure people who file certain types of lawsuits against the state have a right to a jury trial. The law signed Wednesday amends a law passed last month that gave jurisdiction over state suits to [four appeals court judges]."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press and other media outlets.**

## **C & G News/Warren: New book showcases dozens of notable Grosse Pointe residents**

"What do 1980s teen movie director John Hughes, six-term Michigan Gov. G. Mennen 'Soapy' Williams and former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley all have in common? All lived in the Pointes at some time in their lives. Those are the kinds of tidbits and revelations readers will find in 'Legendary Locals of Grosse Pointe,' a new pictorial history book by Ann Marie Aliotta and Suzy Berschback."

[Full story](#)

## **The Huffington Post: Michigan House Approves Important Medical Marijuana Legislation**

"The Michigan House of Representatives voted to advance two important pieces of medical marijuana legislation that will now move to the Senate's chambers to be further scrutinized during 2014's legislative session.... Last February, the Michigan Supreme Court had ruled to authorize county prosecutors to shut down [medical marijuana dispensaries] as a 'public nuisance.' "

[Full story](#)

## **Ingham County Legal News: One Court of Justice website now smartphone-friendly**

"Smartphone users can now rejoice - the most comprehensive online information source about the Michigan justice system is now in the palm of their hands. A smartphone-compatible version of the 'One Court of Justice' website (www.courts.mi.gov) made its debut Monday [December 9], offering another convenient way to access the Michigan court's site, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr. announced."

[Full story](#)

## **Kalamazoo Gazette: Juvenile delinquency in Kalamazoo County: 5 take-aways from the Kalamazoo Gazette series**

"Juvenile delinquency in Kalamazoo County is on a downward trend, according to a variety of measures.... Over the past week, the Kalamazoo Gazette has taken an in-depth look at the numbers and also has explored theories for the decline."

[Full story](#)

### **The MLW Blog: 'Dog advocates' helping to comfort victims**

"Michigan prosecutors are applauding a new idea that offers emotional support to crime victims, especially young ones: dog advocates. Dog advocates — also called 'comfort' advocates — can help a child, or anyone, feel more secure in opening up about the details of a crime. The dogs are particularly helpful with children, who often have difficulty talking about crimes perpetrated on them."

[Full story](#)

*Also see:*

### **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Prosecutor's Office Welcomes New, Fuzzy Staff Member**

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: 100 years of Goodfellows Parade**

"Detroit Tigers mascot Paws became an honorary 'Old Newsboy' and joined attorneys, politicians and businesspeople in the 100th annual Detroit Goodfellows Sales Day and Parade on Monday, Dec. 2. With Paws are ... former Detroit Mayor and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer, chairman emeritus at Dickinson Wright [and other board members.]"

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Frances Fukuyama on the Michigan Court Of Claims**

"At the core of this new piece, 'The Decay of American Political Institutions,' is an argument that, applied to Michigan, suggests that our Court of Claims shouldn't have been shifted to the Court of Appeals. It should have been sent back to the executive branch (as in almost all other states)."

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Two Views of Michigan Campaign Finance Law**

"As of this moment, SB-661, making substantial amendments to Michigan's Campaign Finance Act, is sitting on the governor's desk for signature. There appears to be no middle ground between these two views of the bill and what the Governor should do with it."

[Full story](#)

### **Washtenaw County Legal News: Board members sought for Friends of CASA**

"Holiday cards are going out to thank the many supporters of Friends of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in Washtenaw County, and ask for financial contributions. Friends of CASA is also recruiting board members for the coming year.... CASA volunteers come from all walks of life and are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of children in foster care."

[Full story](#)

### **WILX-TV(10)/Lansing: Ingham County Judge Finalizes Adoptions For Holidays**

"There's never a dull moment in the Hackett household and parents Fred and Sara wouldn't have it any other way. From the photos on the wall, to the excitement over a new baby sister, the Hacketts are you typical young family. They just came together a little differently."

[Full story](#)

*Also see:*

### **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Second Adoption Day Ends With 18 New, Complete Families**

[Full story](#)