

December 21, 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 Free Press: Attorney says he was forced out of Miller Canfield law firm**

"[Dean Altobelli, a] former principal attorney at Miller Canfield, alleges he was forced to give up his partial ownership in Michigan's oldest and largest law firm because of abuse of power by managers there who promote a 'culture of fear and intimidation.'... The case, which has other claims pending, is on emergency appeal before the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Handyman pleads guilty to second-degree murder in Jane Bashara killing**

"Former handyman Joseph Gentz pleaded guilty Friday to second-degree murder charges in the strangulation death of Grosse Pointe Park marketing executive Jane Bashara. Gentz entered the plea during a special pretrial hearing before Wayne County Circuit Judge Vonda R. Evans. Evans told Gentz he'll face 17 to 28 years in prison, under the plea agreement. He'll be sentenced Jan. 29."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Handyman Joseph Gentz pleads guilty to second-degree murder in Bashara slaying**

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Grandmother accused in 4-year-old's drowning could get out of jail**

"A Macomb County grandmother accused of drowning her 4-year-old grandson in 2010 could be released from jail after nearly three years and three mistrials if she comes up with at least \$5,000 for bond, a judge ruled Thursday."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Time guidelines are part of real justice**

State Court Administrator Chad C. Schmucker writes "In his guest column, 'Dashboard justice?' (Dec. 17, 2012), attorney Mike Nichols charges that Michigan's courts are under 'arbitrary deadlines' for timeliness, and he also seems to think that timeliness is the only performance measurement the Supreme Court wants the trial courts to apply."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Grand Rapids Legal News: Dashboard justice in Michigan?**

[Full story](#)

### **Flint Journal: Judge dismisses Flint City Council lawsuit against emergency financial manager appointment**

"... Circuit Judge Geoffrey Neithercut granted summary disposition in favor of [Ed] Kurtz [Thursday], Dec. 20, saying that the Genesee County court doesn't have jurisdiction to remove the emergency financial manager, who was appointed by a state board, said Flint attorney Glenn Cotton, who was representing the council."

[Full story](#)

## **Flint Journal: For veterans only: New Genesee County specialty court is ready to start**

"Veterans in trouble with the law here could get the chance fix things and to turn their lives around in a specialized court that's expected to be in session soon. Officials who will be involved in the newly created Veterans Treatment Court are planning a news conference today, Dec. 21, to roll out details of the new program."

[Full story](#)

## **Grand Rapids Business Journal: Judge dismisses lawsuit against Kent County for sale of foreclosed properties**

"Kent County Circuit Judge George Buth dismissed a lawsuit Thursday morning that was filed by a group of residential real estate agents against Kent County, Kent County Treasurer Kenneth Parrish and the Kent County Land Bank Authority."

[Full story](#)

## **Grand Rapids Legal News: Washtenaw County judge to retire after 24 years on bench**

"Judge Melinda Morris, who retires in January from the Washtenaw County Trial Court Civil/Criminal Division when her fourth 6-year term comes to a close, can look back over a long and illustrious career where she broke barriers, crashed the 'glass ceiling,' and blazed a trail for women in law."

[Full story](#)

## **Hometown Life Newspapers: Novi court staffer, Michigan State Police retiree was 'a great guy,' judge recalls**

"William M. Chatfield, supervisor of the Novi 52-1 District Court Community Service Program and Garden, died at age 70 on Dec. 5.... Chatfield and colleague Bill Brown revamped the alternative service program of the Novi court. 'It was the two of them that implemented the garden program for us,' said [Judge Brian] MacKenzie, adding Chatfield oversaw other court alternative service endeavors as well."

[Full story](#)

## **The Michigan View: Taylor: Robert Bork, resurrector of American Constitutional law**

"On Wednesday, December 21, a judicial giant, Judge Robert Bork, died. On April 12, 2007 in Ann Arbor, then-Michigan Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Clifford W. Taylor introduced Judge Bork on his 80th birthday. Excerpts from Taylor's speech follow."

[Full story](#)

## **The MiLW Blog: Planning ahead with the MSC: January oral arguments**

"The Michigan Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Jan. 9 and Jan. 10, 2013 on five leave granted cases and five oral arguments on applications for leave to appeal."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Court says no to collective growing of medical pot**

"Michigan's medical-marijuana law does not allow a collective grow operation, the state Supreme Court said Wednesday in the case of a Grand Rapids man who gave warehouse space to others to raise pot. The unanimous decision provides more clarity about a 4-year-old law that was approved by voters by a wide margin but lacked details in key areas."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal.**

## **Oakland County Legal News: Three-month delay OK'd in suit over justice's house**

"Federal prosecutors are taking a 90-day break in a lawsuit that seeks to take away the Florida home of a Michigan Supreme Court justice. [U.S. District] Judge Marianne Battani signed the agreement Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **WSAU 550 AM 99.9 FM/Wausau, WI: Judge halts seizure of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Hathaway's house**

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Mediation class graduates**

"The Oakland Mediation Center (OMC) conducted a graduation ceremony for its eighth class of civil mediators from Thomas M. Cooley Law School on Tuesday, Dec. 4, at OMC's office in Bloomfield Hills. Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Edward Sosnick and Cooley Auburn Hills Associate Dean John Nussbaumer spoke at the event."

[Full story](#)

## **Oakland County Legal News: Motion Call cancelled**

"The Oakland County Circuit Court Civil/Criminal Division and Family Division Motion Call has been cancelled for December 26, 2012, and January 2, 2013, with the exception of Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti who plans to hear her motion call on December 26 and January 2 and Judge Linda Hallmark who plans to hear her motion call on January 2. The first Motion Call of the new year will be January 9, 2013."

[Full story](#)

## **Times Herald/Port Huron: Michael West sworn in as judge; Supporters welcome him to St. Clair County judiciary**

"... More than 100 people gathered Thursday in the Port Huron Northern Performing arts Center to celebrate a political victory and welcome Michael West as he was sworn in as the new 31st Circuit Court judge. West won a hard-fought battle against John Adair for the seat held by Judge James Adair. James Adair, 75, is leaving his position due to age limits."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

## **Times Herald/Port Huron: Adair looks back; Long time circuit judge will retire at end of the year**

[Full story](#)

## **State Bar of Michigan Blog: This Year In Court Restructuring**

"The National Center for State Court's Gavel to Gavel blog has a handy post, 'Michigan Year in Review: restructuring an entire state's trial court system,' that rounds up all the new laws affecting Michigan state courts enacted by the Michigan legislature in 2012."

[Full story](#)

## **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Adoption Brings Families Together for the Holidays**

"Just in time for the holidays, many mid-Michigan people are finding the best gift is that of a family. The matter before Ingham County Judge George Economy aims straight for the heart. The short walk up to the bench is a life changing moment and with one bang of a gavel, a foster child becomes a daughter."

[Full story](#)