

December 27, 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: Snyder signs new emergency manager bill; new law will take effect in spring**

"Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has signed a new emergency manager law that will take effect in the spring for financially troubled local governments and school districts, his spokeswoman said today. Approval by the Legislature of the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act during the recent lame duck session was controversial because voters on Nov. 6 repealed the former emergency manager law, Public Act 4 of 2011."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: Gov. Snyder signs new Michigan emergency manager bill**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Snyder signs replacement emergency manager law: We 'heard, recognized and respected' will of voters**

[Full story](#)

### **The Detroit News: Westrate: 2013 the year to reform indigent defense system**

Marcela Westrate writes "... Unfortunately, as the [lame duck legislative] session came to a close on Friday the 14th, one of those issues left unaddressed was bipartisan legislation to reform Michigan's indigent defense system.... The legislation attracted nearly 75 co-sponsors in the state House, both Republicans and Democrats, and was approved by the House in early November with amendments adding oversight by the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Grand Rapids Press: Michigan Campaign for Justice: Now's the time to fix Michigan's failing indigent defense system (Guest column)**

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: Slip-and-fall cases tough to make in Mich. courts**

"Francisco Garces stopped at a grocery store in western Michigan but left with injuries after falling in the icy parking lot. When he sued, he didn't get sympathy from the state appeals court: The judges said he could have shopped elsewhere. Slip-and-fall lawsuits, once a staple for injury attorneys, have become extremely difficult in Michigan courts, especially after another strict standard was set last summer by the state Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: Specialized court helps out troubled vets**

"... Luckily for [Jason] Daniels, a father of four adult children and one young child, Detroit's Veterans Court was there to help. The specialized 36th District Court program aims to rehabilitate vets accused of nonviolent crimes, especially those with alcohol and drug problems. Instead of jailing them, the court works at getting them help."

[Full story](#)

### **Daily Press & Argus: Legality of medical marijuana in state remains uncertain, lawyer says**

"Medical marijuana bills sent to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk don't address whether dispensaries are legal or how patients can legally obtain the drug — two key areas of debate over the past four years, local attorney Denise Pollicella said."

[Full story](#)

### **The Daily Tribune: Gift basket program touches people's lives**

"... Among the volunteers on delivery day were 44th District Court Judge Terry Brennan; 44th District Court Judge-elect Derek Meinecke with his wife Mandy and kids; Federal Court Judge Dave Paruch with his wife, former Royal Oak Mayor Pat Paruch; former Royal Oak City Commissioner and chair-elect of the Boys & Girls Club board Ilene Lanfear; Daily Tribune Circulation Director Betsy Karneisool and husband Randy; and Salter with his wife, Patti."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit 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](#)

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

### **Grand Haven Tribune: Woman with broken ankle on M-22 can sue MDOT**

"Helen Yono, 69, was shopping in Suttons Bay. While returning to her car, the Livonia woman stepped into a depression and broke her ankle.... [T]he appeals court said MDOT is responsible. In a 2-1 decision, the court last week said the parking lane is a lane designed for vehicles."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Press: Lawyer to Hudsonville teen who ran over him: 'I can feel the wheels on my legs'**

"Cade Cronheim, an 18-year-old who was helping drive a pickup truck that struck and severely injured a lawyer sitting on a park bench, will face 11 months of probation and 120 hours of community service, a judge decided Wednesday, Dec. 26, as part of a delayed sentencing."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: One size doesn't fit all; Specialty courts create local solutions to local problems**

"Physically, your local court is housed in one building, but inside there are probably a wide variety of 'specialty courts' operating with jurisdiction over one specific area of criminal activity.... These courts include Drug Court, Juvenile Court, Elder Court, Domestic Court, Tribal Court, Homeless Court, Gun Court, Teen Court and others."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Sobriety Courts lead movement**

"One of the most successful types of specialty courts is the Sobriety Court, and the 52-1 in Novi has one of the oldest in the country. When it was created in 2001, it was only the 18th in the U.S.; now there are 16 in Michigan alone. Harvey Hoffman in Eaton County is the longest serving Sobriety Court judge in Michigan, and the 52-1's Judge Brian MacKenzie is second."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Court offers second chance for veterans**

"The 17th District Court in Redford operates a variation on Sobriety Court with its Veterans Treatment Court, offering veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system a coordinated response to the

unique problems they are facing.... Dedicated in November 2011 by Judge Karen Khalil, it became the fourth Veterans Court in the state and the first in Wayne County's suburbs."

[Full story](#)

### **Hometown Life Newspapers: Teen Court lets offenders hear it from peers**

"Northville's Brian Morrow, deputy chief of the juvenile division in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, has seen first-hand the positive effects of handling cases in different specialty court formats like Teen Court. Teen Court is a juvenile diversion program in which trained, high school-age jurors sentence real delinquency cases that have been screened by the Prosecutors Office specifically for this program."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson County Clerk Amanda Riska prepares for merge with Register of Deeds**

"Jackson County Clerk Amanda Riska knows she has a learning curve ahead of her as she takes on the duties of both the county clerk and register of deeds at the beginning of the year.... The county clerk oversees elections, vital and circuit court records and is secretary to the board of commissioners. The register of deeds is responsible for maintaining all land records in the county."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson County Legal News: Judge retiring 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](#)

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

### **Jackson County Legal News: Judge Hines honored for reducing domestic violence**

"If 15th District Court Judge Elizabeth Hines looks just a bit tired on this late afternoon in her chambers overlooking downtown Ann Arbor, it's understandable. Hines was up past midnight preparing for 36 cases on that day's domestic violence docket.... That diligence, passion, and concern for every individual standing before her has been recognized by the American Judges Association, which recently established the annual Judge Elizabeth Hines Award honoring judges who've taken innovative steps to reduce domestic violence."

[Full story](#)

### **The Oakland Press: 4 judges sworn into duty at Oakland County Circuit Court**

"Oakland County Clerk Bill Bullard recently swore in four Sixth Judicial Circuit Court judges who won their seats back in this year's election. Michael D. Warren, Denise Langford-Morris, Wendy L. Potts and Phyllis C. McMillen were given their titles in the Board of Commissioners auditorium."

[Full story](#)

### **Times Herald/Port Huron: Court: Worth must pay; Township to foot the bill to stop sewage into Lake Huron**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled Worth Township must pay to keep sewage out of Lake Huron. Greg Stremers, lawyer for Worth Township, said the township can appeal the decision one more time. But Township Supervisor Phil Essenmacher said officials haven't decided whether they will seek an appeal."

[Full story](#)