

November 28-December 2, 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.

Ingham County Legal News: Midland Judge Dorene S. Allen receives Daniel J. Wright Award

"A Midland judge who is leading the state's effort to end the 'school to prison pipeline' is the recipient of this year's Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Department of Human Services. Judge Dorene S. Allen, presiding judge of Midland's family and probate courts, [was] honored for exceptional work on behalf of Michigan children and families, including successful programs for young offenders."

[Full story](#)

The Alpena News: A happy ending for two families

"Emotions ran high when two new families were joined officially Tuesday as part of Alpena County's celebration of National Adoption Day. Adopting parents wiped tears of joy from their eyes as children beamed shortly after Probate Judge Tom LaCross gave the final approval for their adoptions."

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor News: Washtenaw County family on adopting 2 sibling children: 'It made our family whole'

"Eight-year-old Tyler Foster-Newman is looking forward to helping his mother cook a big family dinner on Thanksgiving. The day marks the first time that he and his sister will spend the holiday with their new adopted family. Tyler and his sister, 5-year-old Tiana Foster-Newman, were legally adopted by Willow McCombs and her husband Kevin Newman on Tuesday [during Washtenaw County's Adoption Day celebration], just two days before Thanksgiving, which the family said was perfect in a season of giving and thankfulness."

[Full story](#)

Cheboygan Daily Tribune: Grandparents add two new members to their family on Adoption Day

"Thanksgiving is a time where people sit down and count their blessings. It also is a time to share good times with family. For the Lemon family this year, it will be definitely a fulfillment of both goals as the adoption of their grandchildren became final Tuesday morning as part of the Michigan Adoption Day.... The proceedings were held before Cheboygan County Circuit Court and Family Division Judge Robert J. Butts."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Adopted girl gets Christmas early; Day highlights 'wonderful' move

"It was like Christmas for Airielle Deeren two days before Thanksgiving. 'I was nervous. I couldn't sleep,' the 11-year-old said. On Tuesday, Airielle officially became part of the Deeren family when Calhoun County Circuit Judge Brian Kirkham approved her adoption in a public ceremony at the county courthouse in Battle Creek."

[Full story](#)

The Daily News/Greenville: Orleans Township foster parents adopt son on Michigan Adoption Day

"When the Endres family of Orleans Township sits down together for Thanksgiving dinner this year, they will be doing so with one more addition to the family. Tony Endres, 2, surrounded by family and friends

at the Probate Court of Ionia County at the Ionia County Courthouse was officially adopted Tuesday by his new parents, Val and Craig Endres.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Ionia Sentinel-Standard: Found: 'The perfect family'; Dashkovitz family grows by one as Trysten Carl is legally adopted

[Full story](#)

Dowagiac Daily News: Six children to be adopted into Cass County families

“Four local families [entered] the Cass County Circuit courthouse Tuesday afternoon, leaving not with a jail sentence or a fine, but with a new addition to their household. Six children [left] the state’s foster care system and officially become part of new Cass County home during Michigan’s Adoption Day, which [took place Tuesday November 26.]”

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Sons of slain Flint mother start new chapter with adoption

“Raemon and Marvin Caudle were just toddlers when their mother, Andriana Caudle, was killed at the Evergreen Regency apartments.... To give the boys a stable home, [the boys' great-aunt Shasta] Spearman adopted Raemon, 6, and Marvin, 4, in a process that was finalized Tuesday, Nov. 26, during Genesee County's Adoption Day celebration.”

[Full story](#)

Gladwin County Record: Gladwin participates in National Adoption Day

“For Lindsie Dillon, the adoption of three-year-old Sophia has been a long time coming. Lindsie has been a part of Sophia’s life since her birth, with both Lindsie and her mother Sue having cared for Sophia as registered foster parents.... On Thursday, Nov. 21, the Dillon family gathered at the Gladwin County Courthouse to celebrate Sophia’s official adoption.”

[Full story](#)

Grand Haven Tribune: Tears of happiness: Tears filled Veronica Perez’s eyes as 3-year-old Ashanti sat on her lap in a Grand Haven courtroom

“Applause erupted as Ottawa County Circuit Judge Kent Engle finalized the Perez family’s adoption of Ashanti. The Perezes and six other families participated in adoption confirmation hearings in Grand Haven Tuesday as part of Adoption Day in Michigan.”

[Full story](#)

The Holland Sentinel: Adoption option: Parents choosing adoption make lifelong, life-saving commitment to love

“Nate Leach couldn’t help but beam as he watched his daughter, Kim, and son-in-law, David Egedus, wait to be called before a judge Tuesday.... [T]he crowd in the conference room at Ottawa County’s 20th Circuit family court were waiting for legal proof of love. Seven sets of parents stepped up to adopt eight children on National Adoption Day.”

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Holland Sentinel: Families welcome children on Adoption Day

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Adoptions celebrated; Special day in Juvenile Court

"Sara and Taylor are now officially members of the Tompkins family, following a pronouncement Tuesday morning by St. Joseph County Juvenile Court Judge David Tomlinson finalizing the youngsters' adoptions during a special session of the court to celebrate National Adoption Day."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Sturgis Journal: Adoption Day honors family commitment

[Full story](#)

WLUC-TV(6)/Negaunee: Adoptions of four children finalized in Marquette

"Four adoptions were finalized in Marquette County on Tuesday. A reception was held at the Marquette County Courthouse to honor the adoptive families and celebrate National Adoption Day. Nate and Derek Tobias are officially father and son."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Tougher standards for budget suits may ease load on Wayne County

"A recently passed state law will make it harder for elected officials to sue their county over budget issues, a move that is expected to provide relief in litigious Wayne County. More than \$4 million has been spent in legal fees in recent years as the Wayne County Executive's Office fought lawsuits filed by the Sheriff's Office, the Circuit Court and, most recently, the Prosecutor's Office contending they deserved more money."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Schuette to appeal order giving juvenile lifers a chance at parole

"Attorney General Bill Schuette confirmed Monday he'll appeal a federal judge's order that Michigan grant parole consideration to more than 350 inmates serving life sentences for crimes they committed as juveniles.... U.S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara last week issued a mandate that the state make every reasonable effort to consider parole for such prisoners, based on a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Attorney General appeals order for parole hearings for teen offenders serving life in jail

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Schuette appealing federal order on juvenile lifer parole: 'A victim was already sentenced to death'

[Full story](#)

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Judge creates way out for juvenile lifers; three from Berrien could apply for parole

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: 'Crusader for Justice' captures storied life of Judge Damon J. Keith

"'Damon J. Keith may be the greatest American jurist never to have sat on the Supreme Court, and certainly the staunchest on behalf of civil rights for all and on government conducted in the open, to be seen by all.' So begins 'Crusader for Justice' (Wayne State University Press, \$29.95), a new book out now about the life of U.S. 6th Circuit Appeals Court Judge Damon J. Keith."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Panel recommends Michigan state employees get 2% pay hikes, pay more for health care

"Unionized state employees would receive modest raises but pay more for less health insurance coverage under recommendations for a two-year contract from a state panel seeking to end an impasse. The panel also recommends keeping existing contract language requiring payment of union dues and/or agency fees until a court dispute is resolved [by the Michigan Supreme Court] over whether right-to-work legislation passed in December applies to state employees."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: Mediator recommends 2 percent pay raises, health insurance changes for state of Michigan employees

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Police photos at issue in new look at '87 case

"The Michigan Supreme Court is ordering a St. Clair County judge to take another look at the case of a man convicted of killing another man in a college parking lot decades ago. It's the latest attempt by Temujin Kensu to get his 1987 conviction and life sentence overturned. Kensu was formerly known as Fred Freeman. His latest appeal focuses on police photos used to identify him as a suspect in the fatal shooting of Scott Macklem in Port Huron."

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, the Cadillac News, the Lansing State Journal, the Midland Daily News, the Times Herald/Port Huron, NBC 25 News/Clio, WILX-TV(10)/Lansing and other media outlets.

Associated Press: Michigan court to take look at jobless pay for medical marijuana users

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has agreed to hear two cases to determine whether someone fired for using medical marijuana still can collect unemployment benefits from the state. Judges in Ingham and Kent counties have reversed decisions of a state agency and ruled in favor of two people who sought benefits after being dismissed."

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press, the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Cadillac News, the Grand Haven Tribune, the Lansing State Journal, Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor, the Times Herald/Port Huron, NBC 25 News/Clio, WILX-TV(10)/Lansing and other media outlets.

The Courier-Leader/Paw Paw: Jeffrey Dufon is county's new Circuit Court judge

"Attorney Jeffrey Dufon, of Kalamazoo, was appointed to the 36th Circuit Court in Van Buren County by Gov. Rick Snyder Tuesday to fill the vacancy left by the resignation in August of Judge Paul Hamre.... Dufon must seek election in November 2014 to serve a full term on the bench."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Snyder names VB judge; Mattawan lawyer Jeffrey Dufon succeeds Judge Hamre

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Snyder appoints 3 judges to the bench

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Judicial Appointments in Isabella, Kalamazoo, and Van Buren Counties

[Full story](#)

WWMT-TV(3)/Kalamazoo: Snyder appoints two W. Michigan judges

[Full story](#)

The Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton: Judges remember John Mikkola

"In a legal career of more than 30 years, including 20 years as Houghton County Probate Court judge, John Mikkola gained a reputation for fairness and integrity both on the bench and off. Mikkola, of Hancock, died of cancer at his winter home in Alabama on Saturday [November 23]. He was 69.... In 1983, Mikkola became Houghton County's probate judge, a post he held until retiring in 2003."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton: Obituary: Judge John A. Mikkola

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Detroit-area foster teens in 'desperate' need of clothing

"Citing a 'desperate' need for age-and-size appropriate clothing for teens in foster care, For The Seventh Generation has launched a campaign for donations through its Help Closet program. In addition to the clothing drive, the foster children's charity is seeking donations of new toys and other items for its annual Holiday Bazaar."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: George Strander's Annual Ingham County Probate Court Update

"George Strander, Court Administrator and Probate Register, Ingham County Probate Court, who has been bringing his annual Probate Court Update to the ICBA Probate Section since 2004, again brought his expertise to the meeting of 2013 on November 19th."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Obituary: Jackson-Russell Baugh

"Jackson-Russell Leroy Baugh, 82, died peacefully in his sleep with his wife at his side on November 23, 2013.... He served Jackson County as a Friend of the Court clerk and investigator, assistant prosecuting attorney, probate judge, and circuit court administrator. From 1973 to 1984 he was the deputy and state court administrator."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Asked & Answered: Considering recent changes in the Court of Claims

"... Graham K. Crabtree of Fraser, Trebilcock, Davis, & Dunlap PC in Lansing is an appellate specialist and is active in the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Michigan.... Crabtree spoke recently with Steve Thorpe with the Legal News [regarding recent changes in the Court of Claims.]"

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: ADR Spotlight: Are Fast Track Jury Trials another potential ADR option?

"During a recent ADR Summit hosted by the Supreme Court Administrator's Office of Dispute Resolution, various forms of ADR were explored and discussed by the attendees. Included was the potential use of Fast Track/Expedited Jury Trials. There existed significant interest in the use of this technique and, in fact, a task force is being formed to evaluate whether an Administrative Rule should be developed to explore the potential of this ADR process during a pilot project."

[Full story](#)

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

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Supreme Court to decide separation of powers case

"The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether a judge can ignore part of a state law that limits what a jury can consider as part of a criminal case. The defendant in the case was charged with reckless driving that caused a fatality. His lawyer asked the judge to order the jury to consider a lesser charge. The judge agreed, even though state law specifically doesn't allow that. The judge said the law violates the state constitution, and its separation of powers doctrine."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan court rule changes will exempt certain juvenile records from subpoenas

"A change to court rules for Michigan's judiciary means certain records from child support, custody and visitation cases will be exempt from being subpoenaed in other cases. Records kept by 'friend of the court' offices in the course of child custody, child support and other family court cases will not be subject to subpoena by attorneys after the revised rule takes effect on January 1, unless a state law specifically allows for it."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Judge Annette Smedley, Roosevelt Park City Manager, others to perform in 'Dancing with the Local Stars' event

"Muskegon County Circuit Court Judge Annette Smedley and Roosevelt Park City Manager Anthony Chandler are just two of the twelve local dignitaries, business leaders and people of interest who will help raise money for local food pantries through the annual 'Dancing with the Local Stars' event in February next year.... The twelve couples will perform identical performances from Feb. 20 to 22, 2014."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Child Welfare Award winners announced

"The Foster Care Review Board has announced the recipients of its 2013 Child Welfare Awards, which recognize exceptional service to children and families in the state's child welfare system.... Judge John A. Hohman, Jr., who was recently named State Court Administrator, received the Jurist of the Year Award for his work as a probate court judge in Monroe County."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Judge provides a view from the bench

"The Association of Defense Trial Counsel (ADTC) featured Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Shalina Kumar as guest speaker at its membership meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12, at Maggiano's Little Italy in Troy. Kumar provided 'A View from the Bench, Motion and Trial Practice.' "

[Full story](#)