

February 16-19, 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.

**Detroit Free Press: Joseph Gentz asks for forgiveness during sentencing, will serve 17-28 years in prison**

"A judge told Joseph Gentz that he "knew right from wrong and good from bad" before she sentenced him to 17-28 years in prison for the murder of Jane Bashara, a Grosse Pointe Park found strangled last year."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Detroit News: Judge says ex-handyman followed 'orders of his master' in Bashara murder**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Metro Detroit dogs connect with people, ease stress**

"A Doberman pinscher named Tuesday is credited with helping 11 former servicemen graduate last week from Redford Township District Court's first Veterans Court."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Judge trims 2 years off sentence in girl's slaying**

"A judge has trimmed two years off a sentence for a young man convicted of fatally stabbing a teenage girl in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula and burying her in a sand pile. Grand Traverse County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Power had sentenced Robert Schwander to 40-70 years, exceeding the minimum recommended under state guidelines."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Judge: Son of woman found shot to death on I-75 will stay with her fiancé for now**

"The son of a Sterling Heights woman who was found shot to death on I-75 this month will remain with the woman's fiancé for the time-being. Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Kathryn Viviano adjourned an emergency custody motion filed by the boy's paternal grandmother, Mary Beth Zbercot, during a hearing today so attorneys can submit briefs. Viviano questioned whether it was even proper to rule on the motion."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: State rep to introduce bill to allow medical pot distribution**

"Operators of Michigan's medical marijuana distribution facilities are hiding behind steel doors with peepholes and growing warier than ever of strangers after a state Supreme Court ruling this month turned them into outlaws."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**WKAR: Clearing some haze around state's medical marijuana laws**

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Ape placed above black woman's desk; judge outraged**

"Just days after Crystal Perry met with her supervisor to discuss why she wasn't being promoted, a 5-foot-long toy ape appeared perched atop her office cubicle.....Last month, after a bench trial, Ingham

County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina found that there was no evidence that discrimination caused Perry to not be promoted. Aquilina, however, expressed outrage about the episode with the toy ape."

[Full story](#)

**Note: Articles also ran in the Detroit Legal news, Oakland County Legal News, Michigan Radio, Traverse City Record Eagle**

### **Ann Arbor Chronicle: Round 1 FY 2014: 15<sup>th</sup> District Court**

"Ann Arbor city council members were briefed on the 15th District Court as part of a Feb. 11 work session. Last Monday's meeting kicked off a series of such sessions that will provide information to the council as it looks toward its second meeting in May, when council members will set the budget for the next fiscal year."

[Full story](#)

### **Ann Arbor.com: Court amnesty program on certain tickets will 'give the public a break'**

"If you got a parking ticket in Chelsea or a speeding ticket in Ypsilanti Township sometime in 2011 and you're pretty sure there's a warrant for your arrest because you never paid up, don't worry. No, seriously, don't worry. The 14A and 14B District Courts have your back."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: My turn: Judge found love of his life at first sight**

"Covering his retirement party was one of my first assignments when I joined The Legal News six years ago. It proved to be the ultimate get-acquainted session with Gene Schnelz, who was about to leave the Oakland County Circuit Court in 2007 after nearly 30 years on the bench, not including the four he spent as a district court judge"

[Full story](#)

**Note: This article also ran in the Jackson County Legal News**

### **Grand Rapids Business Journal: Specialized 'business courts' arrive in Michigan Supreme Court**

"Find me one executive or business owner who likes litigation. Unfortunately, your search might be as painstaking as a lawsuit. Lawsuits take a *long* time. They cost *a lot*. And who knows how they will turn out?"

[Full story](#)

### **Herald-Palladium: Benton Harbor man's conviction, sentence upheld**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has affirmed the conviction and sentence of a Benton Harbor man serving a prison term of 20 months to four years for second-offense maintaining a drug house."

[Full story](#)

### **Livingston Daily Press and Argus: Demolition halted for appeal**

"A Livingston County judge granted a stay of proceedings last week in the long legal dispute between the Brighton and a Northville couple. In January, Livingston County Circuit Judge Michael P. Hatty ordered Leon Bonner and Marilyn Bonner to demolish their two vacant houses in downtown Brighton after they failed to comply with his earlier order to get permits to repair the houses."

[Full story](#)

### **Livingston Daily Press and Argus: Controversy over teachers' union email continues in Lansing**

"A controversy about whether teachers use public email to discuss union business — and whether teacher emails should be made public — continues in Lansing...State House Bill 4201, introduced this month, would prohibit a public employee from using public email for political campaigning, union activities, union recruitment, or fundraising."

[Full story](#)

### **Michigan Radio: The influence of money and politics in Michigan Supreme Court elections**

"A task force says electing Michigan Supreme Court justices should not be as partisan, or as much about money, as other political offices. But [according to one watchdog group](#), last year the Michigan Supreme Court campaign was the most expensive, most secretive judicial election in America. Several recommendations to get some of the politics and secret money out of the Supreme Court elections were ignored by the legislature last year."

[Full story](#)

### **Mlive: Muskegon County juvenile lifer Amy Black seeks overturn of no-parole sentence**

"**Amy Lee Black**, who was convicted of participating in a brutal Muskegon County robbery-murder in 1990 when she was 16 ½ years old, is seeking to have her **life-without-parole sentence** overturned in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that invalidated some of those sentences for juvenile defendants."

[Full story](#)

### **MiLW Blog: Lawmakers aim to cease pensions for convicted elected officials such as Hathaway**

"Diane Hathaway, the disgraced former Michigan Supreme Court justice, is on track to get nearly \$99,000 every year for the rest of her life."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **WXYZ: Hathaway to bank \$99,000 pension; lawmakers aim to stop it in wake of 7 Action News probe**

[Full story](#)

### **MiLW Blog: House committee mulls blood-alcohol bills**

"Two bills have been introduced to prevent the current 0.08 blood alcohol level for drunken driving prosecutions from reverting to the more lax standard of 0.10 on Oct. 1."

[Full story](#)

### **Mlive: Judge rules that Calvary Christian Schools can keep donation that Calvary Church had tried to take, attorney says**

"Calvary Christian Schools has won the legal right to \$165,000 that Calvary Church had taken when the two entities parted ways last year, according to the attorney representing the couple who sued the church. Probate Judge Neil G. Mullally on Friday morning ruled in favor of Gunnar and Normajean Carlson, trustees representing the estate of the late John DeVries, said Michael G. Walsh, attorney for the Carlsons."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Jury diversity discussed**

"A forum about the importance of ethnically and racially diverse juries in the criminal justice system and the importance of jury service was conducted on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at the Lebanese American Heritage Club in Dearborn."

[Full story](#)