

May 18-20, 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.

The Detroit News: Royal Oak club off the hook after customer falls, hits bar

"A woman hoping to get a drink near closing time instead tripped and whacked her head on the bar at a club. Is the owner liable? The Michigan appeals court says no. Ekaterina Novokshonova could see there was quite a party that night at Sangria in Royal Oak."

Full story

Also see:

Associated Press: Club off the hook after customer falls, hits bar

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press and WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit.

Detroit Free Press: McCree 'shamed the bench,' judicial examiner says at misconduct hearing

"Wayne County Circuit Judge Wade McCree once said there was no shame in his game, but the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission sees it differently.... McCree, who has been suspended without pay from his job, was accused of having an affair with Geniene La'Shay Mott, who was a complaining witness in a child support case before him."

Full story

Also see:

The Detroit News: Woman testifies Wayne County judge asked her to terminate pregnancy

Full story

Associated Press: Suspended judge faces tenure commission hearing

Full story

Ann Arbor.com: Detroit Free Press: Judge accused of having sex with witness appears in Ann Arbor courtroom

Full story

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Suspended judge Wade McCree faces tenure commission hearing

Full story

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Wayne County judge suspended after affair disclosed faces Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission hearing

Full story

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Judicial Tenure Commission hearing testimony in abuse of power case against Judge Wade McCree

Full story

The Detroit News: State tries to ease load on Michigan's foster care system; Pilot effort offers support to keep kids with their families

"The Department of Human Services is testing a pilot project in three counties designed to keep children out of foster care and save the state money. Scheduled to begin in August, Lutheran Social Services will operate two of the projects in Macomb and Kalamazoo counties.... Catholic Charities of West Michigan will administer the pilot project in Muskegon County."

Full story

Bay City Times: Bay City man charged with molesting 12-year-old girl in 2009 gets jail, probation

"After five years of court proceedings, a Bay City man is heading to jail for molesting a preteen girl. Bay County Circuit Judge Joseph K. Sheeran on Monday, May 20, sentenced Richard K. Pullen, 59, to two concurrent terms of one year in jail with credit for 15 days already served.... Before he pleaded, Pullen's case went all the way to the state Supreme Court. Prosecutors in 2010 sought to introduce in trial a police report from the 1989 allegations."

Full story

C & G News/Warren: Law clerk sentenced to probation for taking cash at court

"A college student who previously worked as a law clerk at the 37th District Court has been sentenced to probation and ordered to pay a total of \$1,100 in fines and restitution after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor embezzlement charge.... Accompanied by defense attorney Thomas Tomko, [Wasim] Mikho also pleaded guilty to one count of embezzlement between \$200 and \$1,000, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail."

Full story

Also see:

The Macomb Daily: Fired Warren law clerk charged with embezzlement

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune.

The MiLW Blog: Warren law clerk who prosecuted traffic misdemeanors sentenced for embezzlement

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Former chief justice speaks on professionalism and integrity

" 'Ethics, integrity and credibility are the keys to successful public service whether appointed or elected and is the key to being an outstanding lawyer,' said former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice and Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, speaking to a large group of lawyers, students and professors gathered in the Cooley Center Lobby."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: RESTORE to host fund-raising event at restaurant on June 3

"Lelli's Inn in Farmington Hills will be the site of a fund-raising reception for The RESTORE Foundation on Monday, June 3 from 5-8 p.m. The event will be hosted by retired Judge Edward Sosnick, director of The RESTORE Foundation, and business partners Steven Lelli and Mark Zarkin, and will serve as an opportunity to learn about the 'Foundation's work to support the Oakland County Drug Treatment Courts,' according to Sosnick."

Full story

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

The Hartford Courant/Hartford, CT: 566 Seniors Receive Degrees At Trinity College Graduation

"Family members, friends and faculty gathered beneath Trinity College's fabled elms Sunday to witness 566 students receive degrees at the institution's 187th commencement.... Commencement speaker Bridget Mary McCormack, a 1988 Trinity graduate who in 2012 was elected to the Michigan Supreme Court, urged parents and graduates to 'savor this moment. Burn it into your memory banks.' "

Full story

Hometown Life Newspapers: State AG says no to request for grand jury

"A grand jury won't be empaneled to investigate the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education's sale of district property to the Islamic Cultural Association, the state attorney general's office has decided.... The case wound its way through district court, the Michigan Court of Appeals and then the Michigan Supreme Court which ruled in February that it wouldn't hear an appeal from the plaintiff."

Full story

Hometown Life Newspapers: Drug Courts' second annual Cross State Relay for Recovery in Novi on May 22

"The Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals (MADCP) will be joined by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) in the second annual Motorcycle Relay for Recovery on Wednesday, May 22. The event in southeast Michigan will commence with a major Veterans Treatment Court rally at the 15th District Court in Ann Arbor (301 East Huron Street) to celebrate National Drug Court Month."

Full story

Jackson County Legal News: Michigan Supreme Court releases plan for future reforms

" 'Performance, technology, and efficiency' are the elements of Michigan's court reform plan, according to the Michigan Supreme Court's 2012 annual report, released last week. Eliminating unneeded judgeships was just the beginning for Michigan court reform, Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., said in a preface to the report."

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Rapid Fire seminar offered by MAJ

"The Michigan Association for Justice (MAJ) recently presented its 68th Annual Rapid Fire Seminar 'New Ways to Succeed' at The Henry in Dearborn. Taking part in the seminar were ... Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Elizabeth Gleicher who spoke on Responding to Motions for Summary Disposition—A View from the Appellate Bench; [among others.]"

Full story

The Macomb Daily: Veterans face war once back home for benefits and aid

"... In 2012, Macomb became one of the first of Michigan's 83 counties to create a Veterans Court for those facing non-violent criminal charges.... At the Macomb County Veterans Treatment Court, about half of those accepted to appear before the court suffer from PTSD, which often triggers substance abuse."

Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Oakland Press.

The MiLW Blog: Townships settle tax dispute prior to MSC hearing

"Three northern Michigan townships have settled a tax dispute with Cherryland Electric Cooperative prior to their hearing in the Michigan Supreme Court, which dismissed the case last Friday. The order was issued in Cherryland Electric Cooperative v. Township of Blair."

Full story

Also see:

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Townships settle 12-year-old lawsuit with Cherryland

Full story

The MiLW Blog: D'Agostini reappointed to judicial retirement board

"Judge Diane D'Agostini, the chief judge of the 48th District Court (Oakland County) has been reappointed to the Michigan Judges Retirement System Board. Gov. Rick Snyder announced the

reappointment May 17. The five-member board oversees the Judges Retirement System Defined Benefit plan."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Legal News: Judge renamed to board overseeing Judges Retirement System (second article)

Full story

The MiLW Blog: Hoogstra appointed to 14th Circuit Court (Muskegon County)

"Kathy Hoogstra, the Muskegon County Probate Court administrator and register, has been appointed as judge of 14th Circuit Court judge by Gov. Rick Snyder. She replaces the spot vacated by Judge John C. Ruck. Hoogstra will finish the remainder of Ruck's term, which ends Jan. 1, 2015. She has the option to seek election for a full six-year term in November 2014."

Full story

Also see:

Muskegon Chronicle: Kathy Hoogstra appointed circuit court judge, replacing retired John C. Ruck

Full story

SBM Blog: Governor Appoints Kathy Hoogstra To Muskegon Circuit Court

Full story

The MiLW Blog: Obituary: Robert "Bob" Byron Webster

"Robert 'Bob' Byron Webster died May 16, 2013, at age 81.... After passing the Bar in 1958, he went into private practice, beginning at Slyfield, Harman, Reitz and Tait as an associate, then Hill, Lewis, Adams, Goodrich and Tait until 1973 when he served as an Oakland County Circuit Court Judge appointed by Gov. William G. Milliken."

Full story

Also see:

SBM Blog: In Memoriam: Robert B. Webster, 55th President of the State Bar of Michigan

Full story

The Oakland Press: Waterford town hall forum to focus on opiates, overdoses

"An 'Opiates and Overdose' town hall focusing on prescription drugs, opiates and heroin will be held Wednesday, May 29, in Waterford Township. The second in a series of forums created by 51st District Court Judge Jodi Debbrecht Switalski, this event, which begins at 6 p.m., focuses on the consequences of prescription painkiller use and the link to heroin addiction."

Full story

The Oakland Press: Staying out of the system: Groups push for early juvenile care that may prevent future crime; successes abound WITH VIDEO

"... A host of Michigan courts, counties and child advocates is pushing for better funding to keep errant children out of the juvenile justice system and residential detention facilities after a study from the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency revealed that states that use more community-based youth programs have less children re-enter the system, and, in turn, lower youth crime."

Full story

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Jury: Local attorney committed fraud

"A jury ruled a local attorney committed fraud and malpractice in a case of a business deal gone bad. A former client sued Clarence Gomery, of Gomery and Associates, in 13th Circuit Court. A jury listened to six days of acrimonious details of a failed business partnership between Gomery and Fred Topous Jr."

Full story

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Jury finds Traverse City attorney committed fraud

Full story

WKAR News/East Lansing: Current State: Michigan looks to expand mental health courts (12:09 minute podcast)

"Earlier this month, a group of House Republican lawmakers introduced a four-bill package that would create a permanent system of mental health treatment courts in Michigan.... Genesee County Probate Judge Jennie Barkey, who has presided over one of the state's first mental health courts, and Al Platt, Ingham County Supervisor of Adult Mental Health Services, join the Current State and explain how the courts work and why they think more are needed."

Full story

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Get out of jail free: Wayne County judges under fire for keeping dangerous criminals on the streets

"In Wayne County, scores of convicted felons guilty of crimes as heinous as attempted murder are being given what critics say is a get out of jail free card. In some cases, the judge's decisions appear to conflict with the state's penal code."

[*Full story*](#)