

August 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.**

### **Detroit Free Press: Michael Martone: Former Troy judge known for innovative sentences**

"As a district court judge, Michael Martone was known for his creative sentences. He once made a teenager — who violated a noise ordinance by blasting loud music from his vehicle — listen to Wayne Newton songs for two hours.... Mr. Martone died Thursday at his home in Rochester Hills following complications from a leukemia-like blood disorder and Parkinson's disease. He was 66."

*Full story*

**Also see:**

### **Detroit Free Press: Obituary: Judge Michael A. Martone**

*Full story*

### **Detroit Free Press: Bomb threat shuts court in Clinton Township**

"The district court in Clinton Township is closed this morning after a bomb threat was called into the building. A man on a payphone called in the threat about 9:15 a.m., said Kim Silvestro, administrator of 41B District Court. She said about 30 employees and 25 members of the public were evacuated. The court is expected to reopen at 1 p.m."

*Full story*

**Also see:**

### **The Detroit News: District Court building evacuated on bomb threat in Clinton Twp.**

*Full story*

### **WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Bomb scare reported at Clinton Township District Court**

*Full story*

### **WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Clinton Township District Court evacuated due to bomb threat**

*Full story*

### **Battle Creek Enquirer: Big Marsh Drain ruling reversed**

"Both sides are studying a court ruling that throws out a challenge to the Big Marsh Drain project. In a ruling released Wednesday the Michigan Court of Appeals reversed itself and a Calhoun County Court judge and dismissed an effort by Battle Creek's Miller Foundation to stop the project."

*Full story*

**\*\* The article is available by subscription only.**

### **City Pulse/Lansing: Lansing prevailing wage ordinance in limbo**

"The city of Lansing's prevailing wage ordinance, which requires area-standard wages be paid on city-funded construction projects, has been on hold since November after a building trades group challenged its constitutionality under state law and won. A month later, Mayor Virg Bernero ordered the city to appeal Circuit Judge Clinton Canady III's ruling to the state Court of Appeals, where the case now sits."

*Full story*

### **The Daily Tribune: Site for 36th District Court prelims is changing**

"A judge appointed to fix the finances of a troubled Detroit court is making changes to the way some key court hearings take place. Starting Thursday, 36th District Court's preliminary hearings will be at the nearby Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, which houses the Wayne County Circuit Court's criminal division."

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Macomb Daily.

**Also see:**

**Detroit Legal News: 36th District begins holding preliminary hearings at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice**

[Full story](#)

**Oakland County Legal News: District court to conduct hearings at Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit**

[Full story](#)

**The Daily Tribune: Ferndale court ready for its makeover**

"Construction to renovate Ferndale's courthouse and police station is expected to get underway this month now that the city has hired a contractor. Ferndale officials this week hired the Dailey Company -- a commercial contractor headquartered in Lake Orion -- to make about \$2 million worth of upgrades to the Ferndale 43rd District Court and police building."

[Full story](#)

**Flint Journal: Flint Township-based attorney reprimanded after misdemeanor conviction**

"A Flint Township-based attorney was officially reprimanded by a state board after he was convicted of a misdemeanor in Genesee Circuit Court. Steven F. Spender was officially reprimanded July 10 by the state's Attorney Discipline Board. He was also ordered to pay nearly \$2,400 in costs associated with the discipline board's hearing panel."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The MiLW Blog: Attorney reprimanded for hacking into former colleague's email**

[Full story](#)

**Grand Rapids Legal News: Jerome W. Zimmer, Jr., named Michigan Court of Appeals Chief Clerk**

"Attorney Jerome W. Zimmer, Jr., District Clerk of the Court of Appeals' Detroit office, has been named the court's Chief Clerk, Chief Judge William B. Murphy has announced. Zimmer's appointment became effective July 17."

[Full story](#)

**Grand Rapids Press: Former Grand Rapids federal judge Wendell A. Miles dies at 97**

"A former Grand Rapids federal judge who served 48 years on the bench, and was known to some as a 'judge's judge', has died at the age of 97. Wendell A. Miles died Wednesday, July 31, at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital.... In the 1960s and early 1970s, he was a circuit court judge for Ottawa County."

[Full story](#)

**Jackson Citizen Patriot: State Court of Appeals rules city of Jackson's stormwater fee is illegal**

"In a published opinion, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the city's stormwater 'fee' is an illegal tax partly because a public vote was not taken on the issue and it also violates the Headlee Amendment, according to the opinion. The city must now stop billing residents, local governments and businesses."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Jackson County Wins Lawsuit vs. Jackson City**

[Full story](#)

**Jackson Citizen Patriot: Group of Consumers Energy customers wants out of smart meter program, files claim with Michigan Court of Appeals**

"A group of Consumers Energy customers hopes to get rid of the utility's opt-out fees for people who do not want smart meters installed on their homes.... On July 25, the group filed a claim of appeal with the Michigan Court of Appeals on a state order that will allow Consumers Energy to charge an opt-out fee for those who choose not to have smart meters installed on their homes."

[Full story](#)

**Lansing State Journal: 6 cleared by Port Huron judge in marijuana shop case**

"A judge in Port Huron has dismissed charges against six people linked to medical marijuana dispensaries, saying it wasn't clear the pot shops were illegal until the Michigan Supreme Court ruled earlier this year."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.**

***Also see:***

**The MiLW Blog: Lawyer twice successful with 'ex post facto' argument**

[Full story](#)

**The Macomb Daily: St. Clair Shores attorney pleads to \$300,000 trust-fund theft**

"A St. Clair Shores attorney accused of stealing more than \$300,000 from a trust fund has pleaded no contest and was ordered to repay the money. Robert Buschmohle, 40, pleaded to the charge of embezzlement over \$100,000 on Thursday in front of Judge James Biernat Jr. in Macomb County Circuit Court in Mount Clemens."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.**

**The Macomb Daily: Macomb Daily to live stream from Gratiot Cruise**

"... The Macomb Daily in partnership with MichiganLiveEvents.com and its parent company SoundQue Multimedia will live stream from the [Gratiot Cruise in Clinton Township on Sunday.]... This year's grand marshal is Michigan Supreme Court Justice David Viviano, a former Macomb County Circuit Court judge who grew up in Clinton Township. He will be joined by family members including his father, former Macomb County Judge Antonio Viviano, as he rides in the VIP parade that kicks off the cruise."

[Full story](#)

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

**WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Detroit clerk candidate D. Etta Wilcoxon fought to stay on the ballot**

"It took weeks longer that it was supposed to for City Clerk Janice Winfrey to print and mail out absentee ballots. The cause? A legal fight involving a woman who wants to take Winfrey's job. That woman is D. Etta Wilcoxon, who the clerk's office put on the ballot and threw off the ballot before a court ordered them to let her run."

[Full story](#)