

September 15-17, 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: High court to listen to arguments in pot case (fourth article)

The Michigan Supreme Court is interested in the case of a man charged in Kent County with crimes for giving free space to people to grow medical marijuana. There's no guarantee the court will take Ryan Bylsma's appeal. But the justices, in an order released Friday, said they will hear arguments."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Michigan Lawyer Blog: MSC orders oral argument in marijuana 'collective cultivation' case

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: County could be sued over blinding road dust (third article)

"In 2010, Debra Hagerty-Kraemer apparently was blinded by dust stirred up by a passing vehicle on Litzen Road near Copenish and smashed her car into a tree. She died. Now the state Court of Appeals says the county can be sued over the road's condition."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County judge tosses suit over high-priced snacks at movies

"[Wayne County Circuit Judge Kathleen Macdonald] made short work of dismissing Jason Thompson's lawsuit Friday that accused a Livonia movie theater of gouging customers on the price of popcorn and other snacks. The lawsuit made headlines worldwide when it was filed in March."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge denies Bob Bashara's request to reduce \$15M bond

"Bob Bashara will stay behind bars on a \$15-million bond after a judge denied his attorney's request for a bond modification. Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Bruce Morrow denied the request today, according to a court document."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Judge denies request to reduce Bashara's \$15M bond

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Huntington Woods man seeks new trial in 2003 slaying of wife while they were on vacation

"... Mark Unger, who was convicted of killing his wife in 2003 while they were on vacation, likely will have to wait until November or December to find out whether he'll get a new trial.... Unger was sentenced to life in prison. In 2008, the Michigan Court of Appeals upheld his conviction."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Unger hearing to continue; Mark Unger waits to hear whether he'll get a new trial

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Warren mayor's no-smoking zone gets tabled by City Council for now

"... The issue went before the [Warren] City Council after [Mayor James] Fouts used his executive authority to implement the ban without council approval. But Judge John Chmurna had the signs removed from the 37th District Court, saying Fouts didn't have the authority to issue the ban without the council voting on it."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: County prosecutor Smith donates \$5,000 to new veterans' court (fourth article)

"Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith donated \$5,000 on Thursday to the Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court, a new program to take into account the specialized problems veterans sometimes encounter when they are charged with a crime."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Awards

"... The SBM also will honor three Wayne alumni: Judy B. Calton, Judge James H. Fisher and Judge Willie G. Lipscomb Jr..... Fisher, retired from the 5th Circuit Court, will receive the Michael Franck Award. He graduated from Wayne Law in 1976. Lipscomb will receive the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award. A 1970 graduate of WSU, Lipscomb received his bachelor's in psychology before attending law school at Notre Dame. He retired from the 36th District Court in May."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Belle Isle Aquarium officially reopens [Saturday]

"... For organizers Jennifer Boardman [, judicial assistant for Court of Appeals Judge Elizabeth Gleicher,] and Vance Patrick of the Belle Isle Conservancy and fish curator Gary Balduc, the grand opening is the culmination of years of work, including a final six-month push to bring the aquarium back to life."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Belle Isle Aquarium opens doors to public [Saturday]

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Game show brouhaha ties up courts, costs lawyers friendship

"Both sides keep saying it's a simple legal case. Yet, nearly three years later, it continues to rage with no end in sight. Kevin Hirsch helped a friend get on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' in 2009 in return for a third of her winnings. The friend, Rebecca Kesler, won \$50,000 but refused to share the money. Hirsch sued for breach of contract."

[Full story](#)

Bay City Times: Protesters rally in front of courthouse opposing Bay County Chief District Judge Timothy Kelly's handling of domestic violence cases

"With the fervor of a brimstone-spewing preacher, Edward M. Czuprynski denounced Bay County Chief District Judge Timothy J. Kelly this morning in a protest against the judge's policy of handling all of the county's domestic violence cases.... Czuprynski, a local attorney who is challenging Kelly for his seat in the Nov. 6 general election, spurred the crowd on, vehemently expressing his disdain for the judge's practices."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: District court marks 'Constitution Day' with free legal advice (third article)

"In celebration of Constitution Day, the 36th District Court will again offer free legal aid to the general public. From 1-4 p.m. on Sept. 18 and 19, local attorneys will volunteer their time to answer legal questions in a variety of areas including real estate, traffic, social security family law, contracts, landlord-tenant, collections, bankruptcy, child support and probate."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Patriot Panel

"The Oakland County Bar Association's Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee and Thomas M. Cooley Law School held a panel discussion titled 'The First Amendment in the Digital Age: What Will Free Speech and Free Press Mean in a Minority-Majority Era' Sept. 13 in Auburn Hills. The school celebrated Constitution Day and Patriot Week at its four Michigan campuses this month."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: Happy Constitution Day, One and All

"... Kudos to all the Michigan lawyers who make special efforts to increase the public's knowledge of the Constitution, most especially to Judge Michael Warren and daughter Leah, and to those of you who go into classrooms throughout the state. In Lansing, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center will celebrate Constitution Day on Wednesday with visits from 4th graders at Lake Orion's Paint Creek Elementary."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

CONSTITUTION DAY IS SEPTEMBER 17; SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER OFFERS WEBCASTS, OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

[Press release](#)

Detroit Legal News: Chief Judge King appoints Paul Brown new civil court officer (second article)

"On Aug. 24, the 36th District Court's Chief Judge, Hon. Kenneth J. King officially swore in Paul Brown as a civil court Officer. Brown, a former 36th District Court supervisor of the Traffic & Ordinance Division, was Chief Judge King's first appointment to court officer."

[Full story](#)

Evening News/Sault Ste. Marie, MI: Shannon files suit: Probate court judge candidate seeks shot at Nov. election

"Refusing to go down without a fight, candidate Patrick Shannon has filed a suit against the Michigan Election Bureau in the 50th Circuit Court to prevent the removal of his name from the Nov. 6 ballot as a candidate for Chippewa County Probate Court Judge."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Steelcase extortion convictions stand for man who threatened company executives, demanded cash

"A man sentenced to up to 20 years in prison for sending threatening emails to Steelcase executives will spend at least a few more years behind bars. In an opinion handed down last week by a Michigan Court of Appeals panel, justices affirmed a Kent County trial court judge's 2011 prison sentence for Patrick Joseph Morrissey, a former employee of the Grand Rapids-based office furniture manufacturer."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: St. Joseph County judge Paul E. Stutesman among a dozen Michigan jurists recognized for efforts that led to jury reforms

"A St. Joseph County judge is among a dozen judges who will be recognized along with the Michigan Supreme Court next month for a pilot program that led to several jury reforms in the state."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Macomb County Legal News: Court, judges honored for jury reform project

[Full story](#)

Note: The Macomb County Legal News article also ran in the Muskegon County Legal News. NATIONAL JURY INNOVATION AWARD HONORS MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, TRIAL COURT JUDGES FOR MICHIGAN JURY REFORM PROJECT

[Press release](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Kalamazoo-area obituaries today: Patrick McCauley served as judge in Kalamazoo's district court

"Former Kalamazoo district and circuit court judge Patrick McCauley died on Wednesday at the age of 91.... Following time spent as a general practice lawyer, McCauley served as district judge of the Ninth District Court of Kalamazoo and then was appointed to the circuit court in the same district. Following his retirement, McCauley was appointed as a visiting judge by the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Kalamazoo Gazette: Obituary: Judge Patrick McCauley

[Full story](#)

Daily Press/Escañaba: Judge Patrick H. McCauley

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: In Memoriam: Hon. Patrick H. McCauley

[Full story](#)

Midland Daily News: SVSU students simulate argument before [U.S.] Supreme Court for Constitution Day

"Saginaw Valley State University students will get an opportunity to hone their debating skills and explore their legal and constitutional knowledge as part of Constitution Day activities at SVSU Monday, Sept. 17 [at 6 p.m. in the Ott Auditorium.]"

[Full story](#)

Monroe Evening News: ATF: Surprised No Arrest Made In Car Bombing

"Even federal agents are surprised that no one has been arrested in the car bombing that injured a Monroe attorney and his two sons one year ago Thursday. Donald Dawkins, an agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said the agency appeared close to making an arrest in the case but it didn't work out."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Report: Baby Kate's parents won't be getting married after all

"Ariel Courtland, mother of the long-missing 'Baby Kate' Katherine Phillips, has decided to cancel her plans to marry Sean Phillips, the baby's imprisoned father, WOOD TV-8 reported Friday. The Grand Rapids TV station reported that Courtland said she decided it 'wasn't the right thing to do.' "

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: ASKED & ANSWERED: Andrew Moore on UDM Law's Red Mass

"The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law will host its 100th annual Red Mass on Tuesday, Sept. 25, from 5 to 6 p.m. at Saints Peter and Paul Jesuit Church located at 629 E. Jefferson Avenue in downtown Detroit.... This year's Oath will be led by Michigan Supreme Court Michael F. Cavanagh."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: EDITORIAL: Court wrong to allow 3 election proposals

"The Michigan Supreme Court has caved into special interests to allow three proposals that promise to spawn endless and costly litigation if they manage to sneak past the scrutiny of voters."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Judge appointed to 22nd District Court

"Gov. Rick Snyder last week announced the appointment of Sabrina Johnson as judge of the 22nd District Court, based in Inkster.... Johnson fills a seat left vacant by the Michigan Supreme Court's removal of Sylvia James for misconduct. Her appointment runs through Jan. 1, 2013. She will have to seek election in November 2012."

[Full story](#)