

October 19, 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.

The Detroit News: Life sentence for man in Livingston County killing

"[Brian Stafford] has been sentenced to life in prison in the murder, mutilation and burning of a 40-year-old man a year ago in Livingston County.... The prosecutor's office is asking the state Supreme Court to overturn [Circuit Judge David] Reader's ruling that the jury cannot hear [co-defendant George] Tanner's alleged confession to police."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Man gets life sentence for Livingston County murder, mutilation, burning

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Mich. judge moonlights in famous comic opera

"A Michigan Supreme Court justice is trading her robe for a maid's costume. Marilyn Kelly has a role in 'The Barber of Seville,' which has a final run this weekend at the Detroit Opera House in downtown Detroit. Kelly plays a maid in Rossini's famous comic opera."

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article has appeared in a large number of news outlets, including The Oakland Press and WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit.

Also see:

Detroit Legal News: Justice Kelly to appear in 'The Barber of Seville' Oct. 19-21

[Full story](#)

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

State Bar of Michigan Blog: What Do Michigan Supreme Court Justices Do For Fun?

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor.com: Judge decides to check out safety of Jenny's Market straw maze himself

"Judge Timothy Connors was not convinced. Webster Township officials and attorneys wanted him to shut down a straw maze at a popular Dexter-area farm market during a hearing Friday in Washtenaw Circuit Court.... 'Show me,' the judge said. Township attorneys couldn't. At least not to his satisfaction. So [Judge Connors] decided to go have a look himself."

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor.com: Connors vs. Woodyard: Judge looks to keep spot on Washtenaw County's 22nd Circuit Court bench

"Tim Connors says he has loved being a judge in Washtenaw County for the past 21 years and he hopes voters on Nov. 6 will give him a chance to continue serving. He faces his first-ever political opponent in next month's election: Michael Woodyard, an Ann Arbor resident who works as an assistant county prosecutor in Detroit."

[Full story](#)

The Daily Tribune: Judicial misconduct cases draw action

"It has been a tough year so far for some judges.... The [Judicial Tenure Commission] is an investigatory and prosecutorial arm of the Michigan Supreme Court with oversight responsibility for 1,259 state court judges."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily.

Detroit Legal News: How should profanity be handled in the courtroom?

"Jackson County 12th District Court Judge Darryl Mazur has seen people standing before him get angry and use profanity. In fact, the judge said it happened in September."

[Full story](#)

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

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Students to witness MSC oral argument

"A collection of firearms owned by a convicted felon, and his efforts to have police deliver the guns to his mother, are at issue in a case that the Michigan Supreme Court will hear on Oct. 25 in Grand Rapids as part of the 'Court Community Connections' program."

[Full story](#)

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

Also see:

Kent County Students to Witness Michigan Supreme Court Oral Argument for 'Court Community Connections'

[Press release](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Bills creating specialized courts signed by Governor Snyder

"Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation to increase the efficiency of the Michigan court system and enhance responsiveness for certain complex cases on Tuesday.... The bills create [business and veterans'] specialized courts."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Detroit Legal News.

Also see:

The Oakland Press Blog: Business Courts Begin Statewide in January

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Fisher receives award for a lifetime of service to courts

"One would think that 16 years as a popular judge who led the way in making his court a model of efficiency would be enough. But not for James Fisher, who has gone on to lead a major task force, act as a consultant to courts statewide, and develop a mediation and arbitration focus at Law Weathers."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Sentence upheld in armed robbery of 80-year-old Lansing woman

"... The Michigan Court of Appeals determined that [Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Rosemarie] Aquilina should re-sentence [Adam] Weaver based on the appropriate guidelines. Aquilina ruled Wednesday that the original sentence fits into the corrected guidelines and it should remain the same."

[Full story](#)

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

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County board demands dozens of documents before considering Mark Hackel's budget

"... Meanwhile, the commissioners and the executive's office are eagerly anticipating a [Michigan Court of Appeals] ruling that will determine whether the board has the authority to play a role in approving government contracts and purchasing agreements. The Hackel administration successfully challenged in Macomb County Circuit Court the board's attempt to establish a power-sharing agreement regarding contracts and purchasing."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: The jail dilemma: Muskegon County judges favor keeping facility by courts, claim more efficient

"The chief circuit court judge in Muskegon County can remember when the county's court system was spread out around the community, causing inmates, prosecutors and police to rack up travel mileage. Judge William C. Marietti, who worked in the Prosecutor's Office back then, called the spread out court system inefficient. He is now worried that a jail on a remote location could have a similar effect on the flow of the county's justice system."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Pro Bono Pledge

"Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Joan E. Young (center) and Oakland County 46th District Court Judge William Richards (not pictured) administered the Cooley Voluntary Pro Bono Pledge to Thomas M. Cooley Law School students, faculty, staff, alumni, and local attorneys."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: GILBERT: Keep Oakland courts impartial

Executive Editor Glenn Gilbert writes "Rapid social and cultural change is a fact of modern life, but do we really think it is a good idea to give up on the idea of an impartial judicial system?... Oakland County's 18 circuit judges reflect a diversity of background, experience, age, approach, temperament and ethnicity. But there is no evidence that any of them carry their political philosophy into the courtroom, or that they are anything other than impartial."

[Full story](#)

Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford: 51st District Court hopeful sued for Wendrow remarks

"[Andrea Dean,] a candidate for the 51st District Court in Waterford Township, is being sued for defamation following public remarks she allegedly made insinuating that a man many consider falsely accused of raping his then 14-year-old autistic daughter was guilty of the crime — over four years after the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office dropped the charges against him due to lack of evidence."

[Full story](#)

The State News/East Lansing: 54B judicial candidate debate appeals to young voters

"... East Lansing attorney Andrea Larkin and state Rep. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, went blow-by-blow in student issues before a mixture of roughly 40 students, faculty members and residents in the Lincoln Room of Kellogg Center."

[Full story](#)

WJR 760 AM/Detroit: Justice Stephen Markman (12 minute podcast)

Frank Beckmann speaks with Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman who is running for re-election.

[Full story](#)