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LW photo by Douglas J. Levy



Junior justices now have a home

At the Michigan Supreme Court courtroom in Lansing, Ionia County Probate Court Judge Robert S. Sykes Jr. tries to maintain decorum as the soon-to-be-adopted Lasby brothers Christopher, 3 (from left), Skyler, 5, and Brayden, 6, take to the microphones. The three Saranac youths, clad in mini judges' robes, were among the 145 adoptions finalized in 30 counties statewide as part of the annual Michigan Adoption Day. For the first time since Adoption Day began nine years ago, this year the state's high court held adoption proceedings in its courtroom, with Sykes and Ingham County Probate Judge Janelle A. Lawless presiding over adoption finalizations for their respective counties. Also present were Department of Human Services Director and former Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan, who founded Adoption Day, and current Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr. Before the proceedings, Gov. Rick Snyder signed the "Fostering Connections" legislation, which will allow for youths aging out of the state foster care system to be able to receive life-directing support until age 21; previously, 18 was the cutoff age.