

May 24, 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.

GOP activist asks tenure panel to review judge's real estate transactions - Detroit Free Press

"A veteran Republican activist and court watcher asked the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission to investigate a series of real estate transactions conducted by state Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway that he said appear to have been unethical, if not illegal."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

JTC asked to look into Hathaway real estate deals - Michigan Lawyer Blog

[Full story](#)

Complaint against Justice Hathaway filed with Judicial Tenure Commission; Fmr. JTC member, a Republican, lodges complaint - WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit

[Full story](#)

Letter: Michigan Judicial Task Force misunderstood - Detroit News

Janet Welch writes "I am writing in response to the May 10 commentary by Matt Davis on the Michigan Judicial Task Force report ('Judicial task force was a farce'). I served as a member of the Judicial Task Force and as the executive director of the State Bar of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Partial Praise For Effort At Judicial Selection Reform in Michigan - State Bar of Michigan Blog

[Full story](#)

Macomb commission votes to appeal ruling; Board wants checks and balances over county contracts - Detroit News

"A legal battle between Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel and the Board of Commissioners continues despite a judge's ruling last week, and so do the fees associated with the fight."

[Full story](#)

Testimony could lead to new trial for husband - Detroit Free Press (second article)

"A judge in Manistee will hear testimony that could lead to a new trial for Mark Unger, a Huntington Woods man convicted of killing his wife in 2003 by dragging her into a lake in northwestern Michigan."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County wants Chelsea to close its district court - Ann Arbor.com

"In an effort to curtail county spending, Washtenaw County Commissioner Rob Turner has asked the city of Chelsea to consider closing its district court."

[Full story](#)

Election Lineup: Here's what you can expect in Bay County for the Aug. 7 primary - Bay City Times

"Deadlines for filing and withdrawing from races in the Aug. 7 primary have passed. Here are the candidates and proposals on the ballot in Bay County [scroll down for judicial elections]."

[Full story](#)

Judge castigates man who raped 12-year-old Warren boy - Daily Tribune

"[Macomb County Circuit Judge Edward Servitto] lambasted a man who raped a 12-year-old Warren boy and then ordered him to spend virtually the rest of his life in prison."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Judge castigates man who raped 12-year-old Warren boy - Macomb Daily

[Full story](#)

'Every parent's worst nightmare': Warren man gets 85 years for abduction, rape of 12-year-old boy - Oakland Press

[Full story](#)

Ceremony of Success - Detroit Legal News

"Judge Edward Ewell, Jr., speaks during the Third Judicial Circuit Adult Drug Treatment Court commencement ceremony on May 18, at The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, located at 1627 W. Fort Street in Detroit. This is the Court's 8th formal ceremony since it was founded in 2003."

[Full story](#)

Appeals Court overturns jury verdict for man found guilty of racketeering - Grand Rapids Press

"In a fairly rare move, the Michigan Court of Appeals overturned the verdict of a jury that found Eric Andrew Kloosterman guilty of racketeering. The decision, handed down this week by the three-judge panel, found that the Kent County Circuit Court jury had not been able to establish that 30-year-old Kloosterman was convicted under the right charge."

[Full story](#)

Michigan's police union names Judge Steven Servaas 'Jurist of the Year' - Grand Rapids Press

"The union that represents police Michigan has named Kent County District Court Judge Steven Servaas as its 2012 Jurist of the Year. The decision by the Police Officers Association of Michigan was announced by Timothy Lewis, president of the Kent County association."

[Full story](#)

State assigns Tomblin's Canton cases to Romulus district court - Hometown Life Newspapers

"Canton charges against former Wayne-Westland teacher Brandon Tomblin, accused of sexual relations with teen males while he taught vocal music at Wayne Memorial High School, will be handled by Romulus 34th District Court along with charges out of Garden City, Wayne and Romulus, officials confirmed this week."

[Full story](#)

"Electronic Signatures" considered by Michigan Supreme Court - Ingham County Legal News

"A proposed rule that would specifically allow the use of electronic signatures on court records is under consideration by the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

Judge to decide whether jury was sworn in sex-related extortion case involving father, daughter, strip club patron - Jackson Citizen Patriot

"A Jackson County judge is to decide whether jurors who convicted a man of conspiring with his daughter to extort money from her sex partner were sworn at the beginning of a trial."

[Full story](#)

Error in judgment: How a small oversight commission can wield major power over judges - Jackson County Legal News

"Judges are among the most powerful individuals in our society. A judge's ruling can bring down a powerful politician, destroy a major business or deny a citizen their freedom for decades. We rely on judges to wield this power wisely in the protection of society and the administration of justice."

[Full story](#)

Judge calls attack by Kalamazoo man on his wife 'animalistic,' orders him to stand trial for attempted murder - Kalamazoo Gazette

"In the days after her husband punched and kicked her so hard that she was left with a fractured skull and placed in an induced coma, Rhonda Todd told Kalamazoo Public Safety detectives that she had endured similar beatings at least 50 other times during the couple's 10-year marriage."

[Full story](#)

Juvenile court competency standards would include mental health treatment - Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor

"Michigan lawmakers are expected to vote next week on two bills that would create a system to determine the mental competency of juveniles who break the law."

[Full story](#)

Justices Allow Retrial if Jury Rejects Some Charges - New York Times

"The [U.S.] Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that a criminal defendant may be retried even though the jury in his first trial had unanimously rejected the most serious charges against him. The vote was 6 to 3, with the justices split over whether the constitutional protection against double jeopardy barred such reprosecutions."

[Full story](#)

Judges gather at MDTC reception - Oakland County Legal News

"... Among the members of the bench in attendance were Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Michael Talbot; Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan Judge Jeanne Stempien;... Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Cynthia Stephens; and Midland County 42nd Circuit Court Chief Judge Jon Lauderbach."

[Full story](#)

Review teams not subject to open meetings - Oakland County Legal News

"The teams that reviewed the finances of Detroit and Flint weren't subject to the state's Open Meetings Act, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday in a decision that could allow future panels to act without holding public hearings."

[Full story](#)

Lifeguards sued in wave pool death are cleared - Oakland County Legal News

"The Michigan appeals court has dismissed a lawsuit against lifeguards who were accused of gross negligence in the death of a woman at a Detroit-area wave pool."

[Full story](#)

Local officials are hog-wild on drug treatment courts - Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford

"It's not every day that you see a respected jurist riding a hog. Wearing jeans and a long-sleeved black Harley-Davidson shirt, 52-1 District Court Judge Robert Bondy — as well as Commerce Township Supervisor Tom Zoner and others — ditched his robe last week for more comfortable clothing when a small group helped commemorate National Drug Court Month by kicking off a cross-country motorcycle relay in front of the courthouse located on Grand River Avenue in Novi."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Editorial: 48th District Court, others, should consider implementing a drug court - Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford

[Full story](#)

Mich. GOP accuses Rep. Meadows of judicial code violation - State News/East Lansing

"The Michigan GOP is accusing Rep. Mark Meadows, D-East Lansing, of violating Michigan's judicial code of conduct, after allegedly advocating for a Democratic win in the November election while seeking a position as an East Lansing judge."

[Full story](#)

Applications accepted for Supreme Court Moot Court - Washtenaw County Legal News

"This summer, teachers and students can experience what it's like to argue a case before the Michigan Supreme Court, thanks to programs being offered by the Court's Learning Center."

[Full story](#)