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Michigan Links: State bar calls for statewide standards, funding for public legal representation

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By Mike Itchue | MLive.com

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- A state bar association group in charge of finding ways of improving the Michigan judicial system has **recommended establishing statewide standards for providing legal representation** for those that cannot afford it and shifting funding responsibility from the counties to the state. Michigan is one of seven states that requires counties to provide legal services, meaning quality of representation varies by county with no oversight. The study also found that counties with the greatest needs for defense oversight are the ones that can least afford it. [Mich.Mess.]



Grand Rapids Press file photo

The Michigan Supreme Court hears a case in October 2007.

- The House **Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee** has approved an **additional \$10 million for the Pure Michigan tourism campaign**, money that would come from a fund set aside to promote venture capital funds. The bill must now go through the House and Senate. The money would increase Pure Michigan funding to \$25.4 million this fiscal year. [Freep]

- Three Michigan School districts and an educational association have **filed a lawsuit against the Michigan Department of Education**, saying basing accreditation on standardized tests is "legally unsound." Ferndale, Lansing and Kalamazoo Public Schools and the Middle Cities Education Association have asked a circuit court judge to bar accreditation standards from taking effect. The Education Department says the accreditation system was changed to a data driven system from a self-evaluated system in order for results to be more objective, and the charges in the lawsuit are not true. [DetNews]

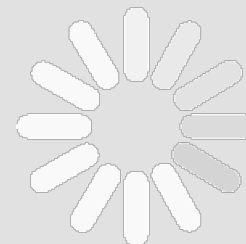
- The Michigan Court of Appeals has **ruled that anonymous informants can direct police to pull over a motorist** regardless of having any other probable cause to do so. The ruling overturns a circuit court finding that said officers must have other probable cause to make a traffic stop. The ruling revolved around a 2008 incident in which a woman signaled a state trooper that she had almost been hit by a car. The trooper immediately went in pursuit with no further information, and the driver was eventually arrested for drunk driving. A district court first upheld the arrest, but then a circuit court judge ruled it a violation of Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. [TheNewspaper]

- Traverse City has set **new rules for its medical marijuana collectives**. Each collective must be at least 1,000 ft. apart and shop owners must give the city 10-day's notice before opening.

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