

Legal Affairs

Submit news & views to
bc0x@legalnews.com

Mark the Date

Program looks at wrongful convictions of the Highers brothers

March 15

The Michigan Lawyers Chapter of the American Constitution presents "Justice Denied," a program about the wrongful convictions of Detroit brothers Thomas and Raymond Highers, for which they served 25 years in prison. The program will be held March 15 from 12:45-2 p.m. in Room 226, University of Detroit Mercy Law School, 651 E. Jefferson. Further information, call Prof. Gary Maveal, (313) 596-9826.

Lenten evening of reflection with Catholic Lawyers Society

March 15

The Catholic Lawyers Society extends an open invitation for a Lenten evening of Reflection starting with a 6 p.m. mass at Old St. Mary's Church, 646 Monroe Avenue, Detroit. The Homilist and speaker will be Deacon Tom Strasz, a lawyer and permanent deacon who graduated from the University of Detroit (BA), Detroit College of Law (JD) and Sacred Heart Major Seminary (MAPS). Mass will be followed by dinner at New Parthenon Restaurant in Greektown.

Detroit Mercy Law McElroy Lecture on Law and Religion

March 16

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law will host its 18th McElroy Lecture on Law and Religion at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 16 in Room 226 on the Detroit Mercy Law campus, 651 East Jefferson Avenue, Detroit. This year's topic is "Religious Exemptions in Same-Sex Marriages." Professor Kent Greenawalt of Columbia Law School is the lecturer. He will be joined by two commentators: Andrew M. Koppelman, the John Paul Stevens Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University; and Michael P. Moreland, a Professor at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law and Concurrent Professor at University of Notre Dame Law School. The lecture is complimentary and open to the public. Parking is provided nearby at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan in the parking garage at 611 Congress Street. For additional details and to register online, visit www.law.udmercy.edu.

Straker Bar Association membership meeting

March 17

The D. Augustus Straker Bar Association will hold its membership meeting at the law offices of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. A light dinner will be served. The offices are located at 27777 Franklin Road – Suite 2500 in Southfield. Guest speakers will be City of Detroit Corporation Counsel Attorney Melvin "Butch" Hollowell, Attorney Genelle M. Allen, Assistant County Executive for Wayne County, and Attorney Harnetha B. Jarrett of the Wayne County Office of the Corporation Counsel. The meeting topic will discuss representing local government as in-house counsel as well as outside counsel retention by local government. Guests will share their thoughts on their practice, the type of work they do, in-house recruitment, outside counsel retention policies, and the types of cases sent to outside counsel.

LAD free outreach clinic in Detroit

March 17

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Wednesday, March 17 from 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Don Bosco Hall, 19321 W. Chicago St. Registration begins at 10 a.m., and space is limited.

Peter J. Hammer to lecture on history of Southeast Michigan's "spatial racism"

March 17

Peter J. Hammer, director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and Wayne Law professor, will discuss an evolutionary transformation from slavery to Jim Crow segregation to the "spatial racism" that defines Southeast Michigan, and will explore its policy implications in light of the promises of the 13th Amendment. "150 Years Later: The 13th Amendment - Freedom Comes to Michigan?" is part of the 2016 Winter Speaker Series sponsored by the Escalating Inequality Task Force. The lecture will be held at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The cost to attend the event is \$7 and light refreshments will be served. For more information about this event, contact Pat Hammer at 248-644-6568 or patriciahammer@gmail.com.

LAD free outreach clinic in Fraser

March 18

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, from 9 a.m. to noon Friday, March 18 at the HOPE Center, 33222 Groesbeck Highway, Fraser. Attendees are asked to register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time. For further information, contact Stacey Felder, paralegal at LAD's Oakland County office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

ees are asked to register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time. For further information, call LAD's Macomb County office in Mount Clemens at (586) 465-1344.

24th Annual MLK Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

March 19

The D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and the Wolverine Bar Association are sponsoring the 24th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition March 19 at noon at Wayne State University of Law School Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, 471 W. Palmer St. in Detroit. Selected 11th and 12th grade students from local high schools will present their position on whether if Dr. King were alive he would argue that blacks should focus on the #AllLivesMatter movement to focus more globally and generally on all lives or he would support the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Admission is free to all persons wishing to attend the event. Light refreshments will be served during the reception immediately following the program. Contact Michael K. Jackson at jacksonm@millerkanfield.com for more information.

LAD free outreach clinic in Pontiac

March 22

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Tuesday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, 196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Pontiac. Attendees are asked to bring copies of their documents and register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time. For further information, contact Stacey Felder, paralegal at LAD's Oakland County office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

U.S. District Court Judges discuss challenges and practices

March 24

Michigan Employment Lawyers Association and Oakland County Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law Section will co-host a special event, "Lessons Learned from Trials & Tribulation," with four federal judges from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium, Wayne State University Law School, 471 W. Palmer St., Detroit. U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan participating judges are the Hon. Sean F. Cox, Hon. Laurie J. Michelson, Hon. George Caram Steeh and Hon. Arthur J. Tarnow. Challenges faced, mishaps witnessed and recommended practices will be discussed at the social mixer. Admission is free and complimentary refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Space is limited. RSVP by Monday, March 21, to kbrown@seelawpc.com. For more information about this event, please contact Lynne Sheridan at 248-258-2500 or lsheridan@deborahgordonlaw.com.

An Evening with Dan Gilbert at Wayne Law

March 30, 2016

Join Wayne Law as the school welcomes businessman Dan Gilbert, '87, well-known for recognizing and investing in the potential of Detroit, from 5-7 p.m. March 30. The event is free, beginning with a brief hors d'oeuvres reception at the Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium, 471 W. Palmer St., Detroit. Parking will be available for \$7 (credit or debit cards only) in Structure One across West Palmer Street from the law school. Gilbert will participate in a question-and-answer session with Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson, discussing his work in Detroit and beyond. Gilbert is chairman and founder of Quicken Loans Inc., the nation's second-largest mortgage lender; founder and chairman of Rock Ventures LLC, the umbrella entity for his portfolio of business and real estate investment; and majority owner of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers. He also founded JACK Entertainment, a developer and owner of unique urban casinos in downtown Cleveland, Cincinnati and Baltimore. In 2013, the company also acquired Detroit's Greektown Casino-Hotel, which will be renamed as JACK Detroit Casino-Hotel Greektown later this year. For more information about this event, contact Duc Abrahamson at 313-577-6199 or duc.abrahamson@wayne.edu.

LAD free outreach clinic in Southfield

April 1

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Friday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at Southfield Human Services, 26080 Berg Road, Southfield. Attendees are asked to register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time. For further information, contact Stacey Felder, paralegal at LAD's Oakland County office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

Wayne Law presents Mindful Lawyering: The Ethics of Knowing When to Say No

April 4

Recently "60 Minutes" reported on an undercover investigation in which 16 New York lawyers were asked about helping a client hide questionably obtained money. Only one said "no." How do lawyers keep their moral compass on true north when confronted with the pressures of their boss, their clients, their firm, making money? A panel will discuss the "60 Minutes" case and the complex issues when lawyers are involved in matters that challenge their personal values and ethics. You also will hear about the role of attorneys in tax avoidance and money laundering investigations. This special event will take place from 12:15-1:15 p.m. April 4 in Lecture Hall 2242 at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. Panelists include:

- Former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, chair, Levin Center at Wayne Law; distinguished legislator in residence, Wayne Law; senior counsel, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP
- Judge Nancy Edmunds, '76, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan; executive committee member, Wayne Law Board of Visitors
- Reginald Turner, member, Clark Hill PLC; past president, State Bar of Michigan; member, Levin Center External Advisory Board

The event is free and lunch is provided. For more information, contact Kaylee Place at 313-577-2731 or kaylee.place@wayne.edu.

LAD free outreach clinic in Pontiac

April 4

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Monday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, 196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Pontiac. Attendees are asked to bring copies of their documents and register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time. For further information, contact Stacey Felder, paralegal at LAD's Oakland County office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

LAD free outreach clinic in Detroit

April 6

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Wednesday, April 6 from 1:15 to 5 p.m. at the office of State Rep. Stephanie Chang and City Councilmember Raquel Castañeda-López, 1927 Rosa Parks Blvd., Suite 110. Registration begins at 1 p.m., and space is limited.

LAD free outreach clinic in Ferndale

April 8

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Friday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, 1956 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Attendees are asked to register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time. For further information, contact Stacey Felder, paralegal at LAD's Oakland County office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

LAD free outreach clinic for veterans

April 13

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible veterans on Wednesday, April 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Detroit Veterans Center, 2770 Park Ave. Registration begins at 9 a.m., and space is limited.

LAD free outreach clinic in Pontiac

April 19

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. (LAD) will conduct a free outreach clinic on civil legal services for income-eligible residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the city of Detroit, Tuesday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency, 196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Pontiac. Attendees are asked to bring copies of their documents and register before 10 a.m., as a LAD attorney will assist only those persons who have done so by that time. For further information, contact Stacey Felder, paralegal at LAD's Oakland County office in Pontiac, at (248) 253-1548, ext. 4005.

To include your event in "Mark the Date," send information to bc0x@legalnews.com.

Soul Practitioners



The new Soul Practitioners all-lawyer band debuted Feb. 28 at a private event at the LIVE nightclub in Ann Arbor, featuring (l-r) vocalists Fawn Montgomery, Rita White, and Elizabeth Janovic.

Elizabeth Janovic and Scott Munzel

Photos by Frank Weir

PROBATION:

Georgia is trying to overhaul probation system

From Page 3

about how they're extorted and victimized are, to me, just really disturbing."

It's 23 degrees out, and downtown Milledgeboro's street lights are still on when Sherril Barker pulls up in front of the PCC probation office to drop off her son, Charlie. Wearing five shirts under his hoodie to fend off the cold, he claims a spot by the locked door — just as he does every Thursday.

"I've been on probation since I was 23 years old. I'm 35 now," he says, recounting eight arrests for driving on a suspended license and another for drug possession. Each brought more probation, fines and fees. Barker used to work construction to pay. But driving to work got him rearrested, he said.

Soon, seven others join him in line. One man, arrested for driving under the influence, has come to pay the \$84 weekly fee for an electronic ankle bracelet. Another complains about company-run anger management classes that cost \$17.45 each.

Barker says when his mother gets a tax refund, he plans to pay the last \$500 he owes. But he wonders if he'll have to keep paying for drug tests or supervision fees until probation runs out in September.

"Just \$500," he says. "But I don't know what they're going to try to pull. I wish you could just pay it off and be done with it."

Georgia is trying to overhaul its misdemeanor probation system, following a scathing state audit that found it was poorly run, lacked transparency and was abusive to some poor offenders.

Legislative reforms that took effect last summer include caps on the amount for-profit companies can charge probationers and a ban on jailing those who can prove they're unable to pay. Companies also are now required to disclose the number of offenders they supervise, and the fees and fines collected. The firms don't have to make public their profits and losses.

Prescott, whose association helped shape the Georgia reforms, says poor people should not be jailed solely because they can't pay fines and noted the new law allows for more alternatives, including community service.

But Long, the lawyer representing probationers, dismissed the reforms as "window-dressing."

Geraghty, of the Southern Center for Human Rights, says it's too soon to tell, labeling the reforms a first step.

"We still have a system in which there is a profit motive to keep people on probation and to keep them there for as long as possible," she said, "and that has not changed."

Tucked in one corner of the Rutherford County Jail's "C" block, cell 2 has a pair of steel sleeping platforms, a sink and toilet, and little else. For Rachael Hamm, jailed for her third violation of probation in two years, this is home until at least April.

"It's been a revolving door," says Hamm, who has run up \$5,000 in probation fees since a 2012 arrest for possession of marijuana. "I've missed Thanksgiving. I've missed my baby's first Christmas..."

Hamm, who is 28 and has two of her children's names tattooed

on the inside of her wrists, says her own mistakes got her here. She acknowledges abusing drugs. Her first violation was for failure to report to the probation officer. Then, when she and her boyfriend were pulled over, and police found marijuana and a container of urine that could be used to falsify a drug test, she went back to jail and probation was renewed again.

But Hamm says the court isn't helping her address her drug problem by piling on probation fees she has no way of paying.

The jail released 13 inmates in December, after a judge ordered the county to stop incarcerating people solely for not paying probation fees. But dozens are still being held, at a cost of \$63 a day, for other probation violations.

The jail's records room holds 9,990 warrants for violating probation, the majority for non-payment. No doubt, many of those on probation could come up with the money. But what about those who can't?

Since the ruling, Fred Robinson worries less about being jailed again for not paying thousands of dollars in supervision fees. But more than four years after Robinson, 31, was arrested for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, he still can't escape probation.

Robinson endures recurrent internal bleeding and cirrhosis that forced him to give up a restaurant job. He says he told a probation officer that his \$750 monthly disability check left nothing for court costs, fines and fees. But a judge renewed his probation and extended it.

"It's not about what I did," Robinson says. "It's about the money."