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MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for August 1, 2011

State Rep. Jim Ananich pushing bill to end unemployment discrimination

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 7/31/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/index.ssf/2011/07/state_rep_jim_ananich_pushing.html

FLINT, Michigan — State Rep. Jim Ananich is pushing new legislation to prevent employers from discriminating against unemployed job applicants.

Latinos accuse Border Patrol and Immigration Customs Enforcement agents of racial profiling

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/30/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110730/NEWS05/107300409/Latinos-accuse-Border-Patrol-Immigration-Customs-Enforcement-agents-racial-profiling>

On a sunny afternoon last month, Francisco Arguelles Jr. was fishing for silver bass along the Detroit River near Jefferson when a Border Patrol agent pulled up.

Local Latinos allege profiling by federal agents

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/30/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110730/NEWS05/110730025/Local-Latinos-allege-profiling-by-federal-agents>

Local Latinos say they have been increasingly profiled by agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), also known as the Border Patrol.

Long Fights for Sports Equity, Even With a Law

From the New York Times, 7/29/11

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/29/sports/review-shows-title-ix-is-not-significantly-enforced.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th27

In 1998, the University of Southern California was accused of denying its female students a fair chance at participating in sports. Thirteen years later, the federal agency charged with investigating sex discrimination in schools has not completed its inquiry of U.S.C.

Michigan Supreme Court tightens rules for workplace liability

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/29/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110729/NEWS06/110729030/Michigan-Supreme-Court-tightens-rules-workplace-liability>

The Michigan Supreme Court says public employers are not liable for sexual harassment committed by workers if the behavior was not foreseeable.

Fraser man's parole upheld in racially charged 1990 murder

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/29/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110729/NEWS04/110729026/Fraser-man-s-parole-upheld-racially-charged-1990-murder-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

A Macomb County Circuit Court judge decided today not to reverse a state parole board decision to release a Fraser man convicted of second-degree murder in what some have called a racially charged fight in 1990.

State attorney general Schuette to appeal ruling striking down affirmative action ban

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/29/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110729/NEWS05/107290360/State-attorney-general-Schuette-appeal-ruling-striking-down-affirmative-action-ban>

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette said Thursday that he plans to appeal a July ruling by a federal appeals court that struck down the state's voter-approved ban on affirmative action, saying the "nutty" ruling defies common sense and turns the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause "on its head."

Grand Rapids man says he was victim of gay hate crime, police investigating

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 7/28/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/07/grand_rapids_man_says_he_was_v.html

GRAND RAPIDS -- Wearing his West Michigan Pride shirt, David Battjes was walking along Grandville Avenue last night when he says he was the victim of a hate crime against gays.

Equality Michigan names Executive Director

From PrideSource, 7/28/11

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=48328>

Equality Michigan, the statewide gay and transgender advocacy and anti-violence organization, is pleased to announce that Denise Brogan-Kator has been appointed to the role of executive director after six months of serving as the interim executive director. Praise for her selection came from around the community and across the state.

Letters-Danger Profiling?

Letters to the Editor (Detroit Free Press), 7/28/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110728/OPINION04/107280411/Letters-danger-profiling?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Opinion>

The tragic shooting in Norway reflects the danger in adopting a security policy of profiling people. No doubt the terrorists of the Sept. 11 tragedy came from the Middle East and claimed to be Muslim. What has been spawned since this tragedy 10 years ago has been the call and general acceptance for simply weeding out want-to-be terrorists by just targeting people of brown color, Middle Eastern, or those who have strange Arab or Muslim names.

Man faces charges for sending hate mail to interracial Detroit couple

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/27/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110727/NEWS05/107270452/Man-faces-charges-sending-hate-mail-interracial-Detroit-couple>

The federal government charged a man Tuesday with sending hate mail and a 4-inch noose to an interracial couple in Detroit, telling them they "should be lynched for being race traitors."

UPDATE: Discussions about homosexuality, gender identity in classroom of transgender professor Julie Nemecek lead to complaints at Lansing college

From the Jackson Citizen Patriot/MLive, 7/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2011/07/discussions_about_homosexualit.html

A transgender professor from Spring Arbor Township is at the center of a dispute at Lansing Community College about classroom discussions on homosexuality and gender identity.

Records show how Ann Arbor public schools are dealing with cyberbullying

From Ann Arbor.com, 7/25/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/ann-arbor-schools-cyber-bullying/>

In May, Ann Arbor public schools moved to cut off wireless access for students using smartphones and other devices, citing the potential for cyberbullying as one reason.

Detroit known as "Gruesome" faces human trafficking charges

From the Detroit News, 7/25/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110725/METRO/107250398/Detroit-known-as-%E2%80%98Gruesome%E2%80%99-faces-human-trafficking-charges>

Lansing — A 32-year-old Detroit resident with the street name of "Gruesome" became the first person charged under the state's new human trafficking law.

Michigan ban on affirmative action may get 2nd look

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/24/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110724/NEWS06/110724004/Michigan-ban-affirmative-action-may-get-2nd-look>

Facing a deadline this week, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has pledged to ask an entire federal appeals court to suspend and re-examine a landmark decision that overturned the state's ban on affirmative action in college admissions.

NAACP regains prominence by diversifying agenda

From the Detroit News/AP, 7/22/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110722/NATION/107220401/1361/NAACP-regains-prominence-by-diversifying-agenda>

Los Angeles — Jobs, education, health, housing — the issues driving the NAACP these days look much like the concerns of most Americans, and that's by design.

Michigan ACLU sues US over racial profiling concern

From the Associated Press, 7/21/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/07/michigan_aclu_sues_us_over_rac.html

The Michigan branch of the American Civil Liberties Union is suing the U.S. Justice Department to get access to records about the use of race and ethnicity in FBI investigations.

Midland County woman claims Delta College, science department chairman created hostile environment for openly practicing Christians

From The Bay City Times/MLive, 7/19/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/07/midland_county_woman_claims_de.html

BAY CITY — A former Delta College assistant professor, who urged school leaders to add creation science to the curriculum, is suing the college and her former boss for allegedly discriminating against her because of her Christian beliefs.

Flint teacher fired over racial comment awarded \$535,000

From the Oakland Press, 7/16/11

<http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2011/07/16/news/state/doc4e20d8269993d334349224.txt>

FLINT (AP) — A jury has awarded \$535,000 to a white former Flint teacher who claimed he was illegally fired for a racial comment.

Federal lawsuit: Ex-Washtenaw County employee claims discrimination after Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 7/14/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/former-washtenaw-county-employee-claims-he-was-discriminated-against-after-sept-11-2001-terrorist-at/>

A former Washtenaw County employee is alleging in a federal lawsuit that his co-workers discriminated against him for years after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, calling him a terrorist and bin Laden to his face.

Democrat's bill would let students like Julea Ward decline to counsel clients over beliefs

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 7/13/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/ypsilanti/democrats-bill-would-let-students-like-julea-ward-decline-to-counsel-clients-over-beliefs/>

A Michigan state senator's bill would give students like Julea Ward the freedom to refuse to counsel a client based on religious beliefs or moral conviction, the Detroit Free Press reports.

Guest commentary: Universities, like businesses, benefit from affirmative action

From the Detroit Free Press, 7/12/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110712/OPINION05/107120320/Guest-commentary-Universities-like-businesses-benefit-from-affirmative-action?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

The recent 6th Circuit Court of Appeals decision striking down 2006's anti-civil rights Proposal 2 state constitutional amendment gives Michigan governments and universities the opportunity to run their operations like a business.

Former Detroit water chief sues city, alleging pay discrimination

From the Detroit News, 7/11/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110711/METRO01/107110338/1409/Former-Detroit-water-chief-sues-city--alleging-pay-discrimination>

Detroit — The former head of Detroit's scandal-plagued water department is suing the city for sex discrimination, complaining she was paid about \$100,000 less than her male predecessors — one of whom is accused of helping steal millions from the city.

Workplace bullies bearing down

From the Detroit News, 7/11/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110711/BIZ01/107110310/1488/BIZ01/Workplace-bullies-bearing-down>

As soon as I heard my friend's voice, I could tell she was upset. Over the phone, she described an awful scene that had just happened at her workplace. Her new boss called a staff meeting and began to humiliate each sales person one by one, dishing out personal insults. "He's a bully, and everyone at the office is miserable," she said.

Merrill female principal denies strip-searching male student, calls lawsuit on his behalf 'frivolous'

From the Saginaw News/MLive, 7/7/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/07/merrill_female_principal_denie.html

MERRILL — A female Merrill Community Schools principal denies accusations she "strip-searched" a 12-year-old male student, calling a lawsuit filed by his grandparents "frivolous" in court documents.