



MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for September 2, 2010

PSAs aim to dispel "Islamaphobia"

From Click on 4 Detroit, 9/2/10

SOUTHFIELD – "The Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations has launched a national public service announcement campaign featuring Muslim 9/11 first responders and is designed to challenge the growing anti-Muslim bigotry in American society..."

Watch: [Mich. Chapter Of CAIR Has New PSA Campaign](#)

http://www.clickondetroit.com/community/24840850/detail.html?treetts=det&tid=26511625583813&tml=det_7am&tmi=det_7am_1_06000109022010&ts=H

Hate Crime Charges in Stabbing of a Cabdriver

From the New York Times, 8/30/10

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/31/nyregion/31cabby.html?th&emc=th>

"A film student arrested in the slashing of a Muslim taxi driver in Manhattan last week was indicted on Monday on charges of second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault as hate crimes..."

Walmart asks Supreme Court to End Giant Gender Discrimination Lawsuit

From Diversity Inc., 8/26/10

<http://www.diversityinc.com/article/8012/WalMart-Asks-Supreme-Court-to-End-Giant-GenderDiscrimination-Lawsuit/>

"Wal-Mart has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to block a mammoth class-action lawsuit that could cost the giant retailer billions of dollars in damages and go down in history as the largest gender-discrimination case in U.S. history..."

Hooters case to continue

From the Oakland Press, 8/25/10

<http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2010/08/25/news/doc4c751a021fe33524037303.txt>

Judge says 'Hooters girls' did not waive legal rights in signing

"A weight- and gender-discrimination lawsuit by two former Hooters girls will continue toward a potential trial after a judge denied its dismissal on the claim the issues should go to arbitration..."

Officials discuss race, timing in Flint serial killer investigation

From MLive/the Flint Journal, 8/23/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2010/08/officials_discuss_race_timing.html

MT. MORRIS TOWNSHIP— "Angry residents questioned police and city officials about why it took so long to realize that a serial killer was attacking men on Flint streets..."

Scant progress in effort on old racial killings

From the New York Times, 8/24/10

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/24/us/24rights.html?_r=1&th&emc=th

ATLANTA — "In February 2007, Alberto R. Gonzales, the attorney general under President George W. Bush, issued a stern warning to those who murdered blacks with impunity during the civil rights era: 'You have not gotten away with anything. We are still on your trail.'..."

Ousted worker Sherrod rejects return to Ag agency

From AP/the Detroit News, 8/24/10

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100824/NATION/8240399/1361/Ousted-worker-Sherrod-rejects-return-to-Ag-agency>

Washington – "Shirley Sherrod, the Agriculture Department official ousted during a racial firestorm last month, declined Tuesday to return to the agency, though she said it was tempting..."

Victor Ghalib Begg: Religious tolerance must trump bigotry that is occurring

From The Detroit News, 8/24/10:

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100824/OPINION01/8240322/1008/Victor-Ghalib-Begg--Religious-tolerance-must-trump-bigotry-that-is-occurring#ixzz0yNxIa0ko>

"Today, some of the very same groups that fight bigotry, oppose anti-Semitism and counter racism to ensure Americans don't fall prey to hatred, are giving in to bigots who are using all the ammunition they can gather to demonize another group -- American Muslims..."

Michigan bill aims to stop some harassment suits

From MLive/AP, 8/19/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/michigan_bill_aims_to_stop_som.html "The Michigan House has approved a bill supporters say protects people from retaliatory lawsuits for certain "free speech" activities, including what they post on social networking sites..."

Children of illegal immigrants at center of birthright citizenship issue

From The Detroit News, 8/19/10

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100819/OPINION01/8190340/1008/opinion01/Children-of-illegal-immigrants-at-center-of-birthright-citizenship-issue#ixzz0x9qwWEhh>

"Brenda Narvaez sees herself as a typical American teenager who works at a mall, likes to spend time outdoors, watches soccer and loves sappy songs..."

Dicken Principal Mike Madison will not be disciplined for black-only field trip, report indicates

From MLive/Ann Arbor.com, 8/17/10

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/dicken-investigation-report-released/>

"Ann Arbor elementary school Principal Mike Madison will not be disciplined for starting a Lunch Bunch study group open only to black students, despite repeated findings that the group broke district policy and state law..."

Raleigh, N.C.'s secret to great schools: Consolidation, busing and putting poor children in middle-class schools

From MLive, 8/18/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/raleigh_nc_a_picture_of_equal.html

"Q: Which big city in America has no bad schools, according to a new book?"

A: Raleigh, N.C..."

Hate Crime Rhetoric Not Supported by Facts

Arab-American girl in 2009 fight to be sentenced next week

From the Ann Arbor Chronicle, 8/15/10

<http://annarborchronicle.com/2010/08/15/hate-crime-rhetoric-not-supported-by-facts/>

"Last September, the start of the Ann Arbor Public Schools academic year was marred by news of a fight described as an attack on an Arab-American girl..."

ACLU warns Flint Housing Commission: Drug testing tenants is unconstitutional

From the Flint Journal, 8/15/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2010/08/aclu_to_flint_housing_commissi.html

FLINT – "Drug testing public housing tenants as a condition for getting an apartment apparently won't happen here without a fight from the American Civil Liberties Union..."

OJJDP plans to publish a bulletin series, Bullying in Schools

From the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, July/August 2010

http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/news_at_glance/230815/sf_6.html

"OJJDP plans to publish a bulletin series, Bullying in Schools, that summarizes findings from OJJDP-funded research on the impact of bullying on student engagement, attendance, and achievement. The research, conducted by the National Center for School Engagement (NCSE), found that a caring school community, in which individual students are meaningfully challenged and supported by the adults around them, can serve as a powerful antidote to the process by which victimization distances students from learning and leads to truancy, academic failure, and other problems..."

From the National Employment Law Project, July 2010

Costly In Every Way: Anti-Immigrant Laws Hurt States Financially

<http://www.nelp.org/page/-/Justice/2010/CostlyInEveryWay2010.pdf?nocdn=1>

"At a time when 46 states are suffering from budget shortfalls totaling \$121 billion, this fact sheet details the costs to states of implementing and litigating anti-immigrant laws. According to a 2008 study by the Perryman Group from Texas, the negative effect of eliminating the undocumented workforce from the US would be a loss of more than \$651 billion in annual economic output and \$1.8 trillion in annual spending. Arizona stands to lose \$90 million due to boycotts, as well as spend millions of dollars litigating the constitutionality of its harsh SB 1070, which has been partially enjoined..."

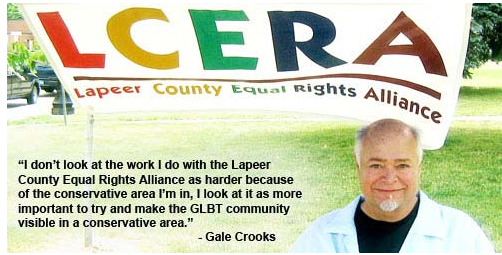
From Anti-Immigrant to Pro-Worker: What States Can Do About Immigration & Workers' Rights

<http://www.nelp.org/page/-/Justice/2010/FromAntiImmigrant2010.pdf?nocdn=1>

This fact sheet explains why anti-immigrant state laws are the wrong solution to the wrong problem. Millions of workers across the country are suffering daily violations of basic labor standards. State-level laws penalizing businesses that hire unauthorized workers serve primarily to increase off-the-books employment and give unscrupulous employers a tool to retaliate against workers who complain. Instead, states should strengthen their labor standards and ensure that they are vigorously enforced.

From Between the Lines, 8/12/10

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=42703>



Between Ourselves: Gale Crooks

“Gale Crooks, who lives just outside of Columbiaville, Mich., is a founding member and current co-chair of the Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance, which hosts LGBT educational events and works toward equal rights in the county and beyond...”

Former Willow Run building supervisor files lawsuit, says he was harassed and fired for being white

From MLive, 8/12/10

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/former-willow-run-building-supervisor-claims-in-lawsuit-he-was-harassed-and-fired-for-being-white/>

“Former Willow Run Superintendent Doris Hope-Jackson forced district building and grounds supervisor Todd LaPrairie to work in an unheated building with no working bathrooms or water as part of an attempt to rid her administration of white men, LaPrairie alleged in a lawsuit filed this week...”

Why Lawyers Should Work No More than 40 Hours a Week

(forwarded article, no link available)

By Debra Cassens Weiss Aug 11, 2010, 06:44 am CDT

Lawyers, doctors and others in the service industry can be more productive and creative if they stop working so much and put away their BlackBerrys, according to a media executive and “serial CEO.” Manufacturers already focus on “asset integrity”—preserving plants and machinery from damage due to wear and tear, Margaret Heffernan, CEO of five businesses, writes for BNet.com.

The professional service industry should do the same by preserving their greatest assets: the minds of their workers, she argues. “For the last 100 years, every productivity study in every industry has come to the same conclusion: After about 40 hours in a week, the quality of your work starts to degrade,” she writes. “You make mistakes. That’s why working 60 hours may not save you time or money: You’ll spend too much of that time fixing the mistakes you shouldn’t have made in the meantime. That’s why software companies that limit work to 35 hours a week need to employ fewer QA engineers: There isn’t as much mess to clean up.” Heffernan also argues that multitasking causes distraction, and BlackBerry addicts lose focus and concentration.

Businesses that want to improve their employees' cognition should encourage exercise, one thing shown to help. Writes Heffernan, "Leaders need to take seriously a century's evidence that 1) overwork doesn't make us productive, it makes us stupid, 2) looking away from a problem is often the best way to solve it, and 3) burnout is what happens when people are asked to work in ways that obliterate all other parts of their lives."

Michigan has to shoulder public defense

Editorial from the Lansing State Journal, 8/10/10

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20100810/OPINION01/8100312/1086/OPINION01>

"The Michigan Supreme Court turned away a challenge last month to the state's county-based system of public defense attorneys..."

Muslim group files more suits in slain imam probe

From MLive, 8/9/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2010/08/muslim_group_files_more_suits.html

"A Muslim civil rights group has sued more police agencies for failing to release information about the killing of a Detroit mosque leader during a shootout with the FBI..."

The Speed-Up in the Fields

From In These Times, 7/29/10

http://www.inthesetimes.com/working/entry/6270/the_speed-up_in_the_fields/

KALAMAZOO – "Amid the gentle rolling hills and lush emerald green fields of Michigan's bucolic farm belt, the news is not so good....Not from the farmworkers...."

Valuing everyone ensures greater...By Rabbi Aaron Bergman

From the Detroit News, 8/10/10

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20100810/OPINION03/8100322/1008/OPINION01/Valuing-everyone-ensures-greater>

"No nation ever disappeared or seriously declined because of an over abundance of compassion toward the outsider or the stranger. The opposite is usually the case. Indifference or cruelty toward those we do not feel belong in our midst usually leads to exile or at least great loss for all..."

Tom Rademacher writes about his time in a wheelchair: at first depressing, humbling

From the Grand Rapids Press, 8/8/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/08/spending_time_in_a_wheelchair.html

"More than two decades ago, I interviewed a one-armed heavy equipment operator, and I'll never forget his biggest fear in life..."

Muskegon restaurant reduces employment barriers for people with disabilities

From the Muskegon Chronicle, 8/9/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2010/08/muskegon_restaurant_reduces_em.h
[tml](http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2010/08/muskegon_restaurant_reduces_em.h)

MUSKEGON – "Finding a job is tough in this economy, and for some people with disabilities, it's even harder..."

New offices to ease access for disability claims

From the Free Press, 8/9/10

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100809/COL07/100809029/1322/New-offices-to-ease-access-for-disability-claims>

"Michigan residents who face some of the worst waits nationwide when appealing a Social Security disability claim may see some relief with the opening of two new offices and a satellite office in Michigan..."

Fixing what wasn't broken

From Michigan Farm News, 7/15/10

<http://www.michiganfarmbureau.com/farmnews/transform.php?xml=20100715/cover.xml>

"As bees float from one flower to the next, guided by navigation only they understand, there's quiet and peace between blueberry rows..."