



MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for November 5, 2010

Why discrimination case was dropped against woman who posted ad seeking Christian roommate

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 11/5/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/11/why_discrimination_case_was_dr.html

GRAND RAPIDS – “In a battle between the U.S. Constitution and federal fair housing law, the Constitution always wins.”...

Man accused of impersonating Marine, immigration officer to collect cash for promises of citizenship

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 11/5/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/11/man_accused_of_impersonating_m.html

KENTWOOD – “A Vietnamese man who portrayed himself as a Marine Corps officer and an immigration official faces federal charges after he collected cash in return for his promise to help immigrants gain citizenship, the government said in court records...”

Federal government drops case against Grand Rapids woman seeking Christian roommate

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 11/4/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/11/federal_government_drops_case.html

GRAND RAPIDS – “On the surface, an [ad posted in a church by a 31-year-old nursing student seeking a Christian roommate](#) does violate fair housing law, but other issues prompted the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to drop its case against her...”

Jackson-area students tackle issue of bullying at annual Challenge Day event

From the Jackson Citizen Patriot/MLive, 11/3/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2010/11/jackson-area_students_tackle_i.html

“Collin Francis’ voice cracked with emotion as the seventh-grader apologized to another student he had bullied at Western Middle School...”

Historic DPS case resonates

Students see reenactment of landmark court proceedings in 1970s segregation suit

From the Detroit News, 10/30/10

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20101030/SCHOOLS/10300349/1026/local/Historic-DPS-case-resonates>

Auburn Hills — “The impact of housing segregation in southeastern Michigan hit home for local high school students Friday during the re-enactment of a landmark court case involving Detroit Public Schools...”

Federal grant to help educationally and economically challenged GVSU nursing students may encourage diversity

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/29/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/10/federal_grant_to_help_educatio.html

GRAND RAPIDS – “An effort to diversify Michigan's nursing pool is being boosted by a \$774,000 federal grant to Grand Valley State University for educationally and economically challenged students -- a larger portion of which are likely to be minorities...”

Dow Corning employees from Great Lakes Bay Region gain culture, experience in India

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 10/28/10

http://www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/index.ssf/2010/10/dow_corning_employess_from_gre.html

WILLIAMS TWP. — “Bay County-based [Dow Corning Corp.](#) feels technology at home can't replace hands-on experience abroad...”

Consumers Energy asks judge to throw out \$8 million verdict in sexual harassment, hostile work environment case

From the Grand Rapids Press, 10/27/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/10/consumers_energy_asks_judge_to.html

GRAND RAPIDS – “Consumers Energy asked a judge to reject a [recent \\$8 million jury verdict](#) for a worker who claimed she was subject to sexual harassment and a hostile work environment...”

It's time Michigan got it right for indigent defendants

Free Press Editorial, 10/27/10

<http://www.freep.com/article/20101027/OPINION01/10270320/1322/Its-time-Michigan-got-it-right-for-indigent-defendants>

“Michigan is notoriously tough on crime, but no one should want innocent people to go to prison. Nor should anyone condone a system that sentences poor defendants more harshly than those who can pay for competent counsel. That's exactly what's happening in Michigan with an indigent defense system that saddles thousands of poor defendants with inadequate lawyering...”

Coalition forms to support workers' rights: Movement prompted by mistreatment of undocumented immigrant in Southwest Michigan

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 10/27/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/10/coalition_forms_to_aid_with_wo.html

KALAMAZOO — “A meeting prompted by the story of an undocumented immigrant who won a conviction against a co-worker who sexually assaulted her at her home drew nearly 30 people who listened to a host of speakers tell them that they didn't have to stay in the shadows if they were mistreated at their jobs...”

Anti-gay bullying could be a federal civil rights violation, according to U.S. Dept. of Education

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 10/26/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2010/10/anti-gay_bullying_could_be_a_f.html

"Bullying students based on their sexual orientation could be a federal civil rights violation, [according to new guidance](#) released today by the U.S. Department of Education's office of civil rights..."

Ogemaw Heights teen drops out of school after being bullied for being a lesbian

From Bay City Times/MLive, 10/25/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2010/10/ogemaw_heights_teen_drops_out.html

WEST BRANCH — "A 17-year-old Alger girl says she has dropped out of Ogemaw Heights High School after being suspended for fighting with another student over the fact that she is a lesbian..."

Drug Testing Poses Quandary for Employers

From the New York Times, 10/24/10

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/25/us/25drugs.html?_r=1&th&emc=th

LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn. — "The news, delivered in a phone call, left Sue Bates aghast: she was losing her job of 22 years after testing positive for a legally prescribed drug. ..."

City of Flint admits past mismanagement, seeks leniency in new federal HUD audit report

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 10/22/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2010/10/city_of_flint_admits_past_mism.html

FLINT, Michigan — "The city misspent more than \$2 million in federal grant funds on housing projects and may have to repay up to \$500,000 of it, according to a [new audit report](#)..."

Holland commission unanimously recommends adopting gay anti-discrimination measure, but public debate continues at meeting

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/22/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/10/holland_commission_unanimously.html

HOLLAND — "After some impassioned opinions on both sides of the issue, a proposal to expand Holland's anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity is headed to the City Council..."

Eastern Echo to revive reader advisory board following outcry over controversial KKK cartoon

From Ann Arbor.com, 10/22/10

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/ypsilanti/eastern-michigan-university-continues-dialogue-afer-ku-klux-klan-editorial-cartoon-runs-in-the-stude/>

"Eastern Michigan University's independent student newspaper has decided to revive its reader advisory board following an editorial cartoon it published last month that many deemed racially insensitive..."

Bullied boy stays home on National Bullying Prevention Day at Jackson school (with video)

From the Jackson Citizen Patriot/MLive, 10/21/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2010/10/bullied_kid.html

"Ajani Rivers, 8, stayed home from school on National Bullying Prevention Day..."

MLive readers' online comments against Muslims cited as bias in murder trial

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/21/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/10/lawyers_cite_mlive_readers_onl.html

GRAND RAPIDS – "Rami Saba's conversion to Islam threatens to break his school chum bond with Raogo Ouedraogo, who has asked a judge to separate the men's trial for allegedly kidnapping and killing Donald Dietz..."

State hits Detroit Public Schools for \$5M over disabled

From the Detroit News, 10/21/10

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20101021/SCHOOLS/10210398/1408/local#ixzz14O2s6x2g>

Detroit — "The educational system for the city's disabled children is in such disarray the state has taken the extraordinary step of withholding federal money from the Detroit Public Schools. The man in charge of fixing the system — Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb — received a letter from the state Department of Education dated Sept. 2, informing him that the state would block nearly \$5 million in cash because of persistent noncompliance with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act..."

How conservative Holland became latest battleground for gay rights

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/20/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/10/how_conservative_holland_becam.html

HOLLAND – "Given its conservative reputation, Holland might seem unlikely ground to launch a battle for gay rights..."

Jackson County students plan to wear pink to support anti-bullying movement

From the Jackson Citizen Patriot/MLive, 10/20/10

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2010/10/jackson_county_students_plan_t.html

"Jordan Diefenthaler wadded up her pink piece of paper and dropped it in a box to be set on fire along with other students' written memories of bullying..."

Gender equity proponents behind movement to change GLIAC scheduling

From the Midland Daily News, 10/20/10

http://www.ourmidland.com/sports/article_c5e85e20-b059-52d6-bbcc-9507ede26bd4.html

BIG RAPIDS – "One of the central figures in the controversial lawsuit that changed high school sports in Michigan forever, now has her sights set on college athletics, specifically the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, and is speaking to the media for the first time about it..."