



# Media Monitor Newsletter



The Media Monitor Newsletter is produced by the Illinois Supreme Court Communications Office and is a summary of relevant media clips intended to keep readers informed about Court-related news.

## Illinois Supreme Court

### **AG Madigan's office gearing up to launch new statewide grand jury investigation**

*Madison - St. Clair Record*

The Illinois Attorney General's Office is in the early stages of assembling a statewide grand jury to conduct a criminal investigation, the nature of which is unclear. Earlier this month, Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Lloyd Karmeier granted a request by Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office to file a sealed application for the convening of a statewide grand jury. [Read more](#)

## Illinois Circuit Courts

### **ISBA Past President Vincent Cornelius Sworn in as Will County Circuit Court Judge**

*Illinois Lawyer Now*

Joliet attorney Vincent F. Cornelius was sworn in today as circuit judge for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court of Will County. The ceremony took place in the Joliet City Council Chamber, 150 W. Jefferson St., in Joliet. [Read more](#)

### **Justice Center Annex unveiled to public**

*Dispatch Argus*

Several years in the making and nearly \$28 million later, Rock Island County has a new courthouse. A crowd of more than 100 county officials, employees and residents packed into a new third-floor courtroom Monday to celebrate the unveiling of the new annex to the Justice Center, 1317 3rd Ave. [Read more](#)

### **Murder trial to begin for suspect who formerly lived with St. Clair County judge**

*Belleville News-Democrat*

The first-degree murder trial of 22-year-old David E. Fields, who was once the roommate of a St. Clair County judge, was set to begin Monday afternoon in the December 2016 shooting death of Carl Z. Silas during a home invasion. [Read more](#)

### **Two graduate from Winnebago County Veterans Court**

*Rockford Register Star*

Returning from war and turning to drugs and alcohol to cope with war experiences and civilian life. The stories of Thomas Gilbert and Aaron Hayford are familiar, but thanks to a 6-year-old program that has operated with little fanfare, their stories did not end abruptly in incarceration or death. [Read more](#)

### **Lincoln Photo Will Hang In Courthouse**

*The Journal-News*

A high-quality reproduction of a famous Abraham Lincoln photograph will hang in the lobby of the Montgomery County Courthouse, thanks to the Illinois Judges Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. [Read more](#)

## Federal Courts

### **Jim Dey | Status quo of 'double jeopardy' in some serious jeopardy.**

*The News-Gazette*

When former University of Illinois graduate student Brendt Christensen was arrested in June 2017 in connection with the disappearance and suspected death of a visiting Chinese scholar, both state and federal prosecutors could have pursued the case. [Read more](#)

### **Chicago Doctor Convicted of Sending Insurance Companies \$3.5M in Bogus Bills**

*NBC Chicago*

A doctor for a Chicago surgical center was convicted of health care fraud Thursday after a federal jury found he billed insurance companies \$3.5 million in operations that never occurred. [Read more](#)

### **Accused kidnapper's lawyers plan mental-health defense to avoid death penalty.**

*The News-Gazette*

If Brendt Christensen is convicted, lawyers for the accused kidnapper and killer plan to argue their client suffers from a mental condition to avoid the death penalty. [Read more](#)

## Immigration

### **Massachusetts State Judge Suspected Of Aiding An Immigrant To Flee ICE**

*NPR*

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker is calling for the temporary removal of a state judge who allegedly helped an undocumented immigrant to evade immigration authorities who were in a courthouse waiting to detain him. [Read more](#)

## Pretrial Reform

### **Punishing poverty: How Philly's cash bail system does more harm than good | Opinion**

*The Inquirer*

Our money bail system is a travesty. Every day in Philadelphia, people who are accused but not convicted of a crime are held in jail not because they are guilty, but because they are too poor to purchase their freedom. Judges here routinely put a price on a person's liberty, and it is often one they cannot afford. [Read more](#)

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