



Oakland County Legal News

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SHORT TAKES

COURTS CLOSED

The Oakland County Circuit and Probate Courts will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25, and Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1, for the holidays.

All offices of the United States District Court and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan will be CLOSED Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25, and Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1, for the holidays. In case of emergency, call (313) 234-5656.

The Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) will be closed for the holidays on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25, and Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

Inmate can sue officials over failed medical care

LANSING (AP) — A Michigan prison inmate with gender identity disorder can sue a doctor and a guard who are accused of ignoring problems with her breasts.

Vonlee Titlow says a corrections officer snickered and failed to seek medical care when she complained about pain in her breasts in 2006. It took three years for officials to approve a bilateral mastectomy.

Titlow was born a male but considers herself a female and had received silicone injections to increase her breast size before entering prison in 2002.

A federal appeals court on Monday says a corrections officer and a doctor are not immune to a civil trial over delays and their alleged indifference to Titlow's medical problems.

The 45-year-old Titlow is in prison for second-degree murder in Oakland County.

EMU settles lawsuit with booted student for \$75K

YPSILANTI (AP) — A lawsuit filed by a woman who contends she was kicked out of a master's degree program at Eastern Michigan University because of her opposition to homosexuality has been settled for \$75,000.

The Ypsilanti school announced the settlement Monday with Julea Ward, saying it leaves Eastern Michigan's policies and programs intact.

Ward's lawyer Jeremy Tedesco tells AnnArbor.com he feels Ward's constitutionally protected rights have been "vindicated."

A federal appeals court revived Ward's lawsuit this year. She was in a counseling program at the university when she asked her superiors to refer a gay client to someone else. She says she told professors that her Christian faith prohibited her from affirming homosexual behavior.

The university expelled Ward from the program, although she was just a few classes short of a degree.

Four convicted in deaths of two abducted women

DETROIT (AP) — Two juries have convicted four men of murder in the gunpoint abduction of two Detroit-area women who were shot and buried in a park.

Both Wayne County Circuit Court juries reached verdicts Monday. One jury convicted Reginald Brown and cousin Jeremy Brown, and the other convicted Brandon Cain and Brian Lee.

All but Lee face mandatory penalties of life in prison without possibility of parole for first-degree murder at their sentencing Dec. 21. Lee faces up to life for second-degree murder.

Co-defendant Miguel Rodriguez awaits sentencing Friday after pleading guilty to second-degree murder.

Hamtramck residents Abreeya Brown and Ashley Conaway were abducted and killed in February. The Brown cousins are unrelated to Abreeya Brown.

Authorities say the women may have been targeted for telling police about an earlier shooting.

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RETROSPECTIVE

IP firm has its roots in 1920s auto industry

By SHEILA PURSGLOVE
Legal News

The intellectual property firm law firm of Harness, Dickey, & Pierce—only a few years shy of its centennial celebration in 2021—has a long and fascinating history, dating back to its founder, Jake Harness, whose own star rose in tandem with the fledgling automotive industry.

"We're a national and international firm, and proud of our automotive and Midwestern roots," says Principal Monte Falcoff.

Harness, born in Corydon, Ky. in 1897, came to Detroit in 1916 to study at the Detroit College of Law. He put himself through school by working as secretary to the general attorney at Ford Motor Co.—at the grand starting salary of \$90 a month—and where, at the tender age of 21, he organized and headed the first patent department.

After graduating from law school in 1920, Harness left Ford the following year to enter private practice; and in November became patent counsel for Maxwell Motor Corp., which became Chrysler Corp. in 1925. Harness juggled private practice and his work as chief patent counsel for Chrysler until retiring from the automaker in 1962.

Harness launched his patent and trademark law firm on May 15, 1921, on the 10th floor of Detroit's tallest skyscraper, the Majestic Building; but soon moved his fledgling firm to the General Motors Building.

A former DCL classmate, litigator Arthur Dickey, joined him as a partner in 1925, as did Hodgson Pierce. The firm's letterhead proudly proclaimed: "Harness, Dickey, & Pierce—Attorneys and Counsellors,



A principal with the firm, Monte Falcoff leafs through some of the historical photos from the bygone days of Harness, Dickey, & Pierce.

Photo by Robert Chase



JAKE HARNES



ARTHUR DICKEY



HODGSON PIERCE

General Motors Building, Detroit—Patent and Trademark Practice Exclusively." Harness worked part of his day at Chrysler and in the other part his firm wrote and prosecuted patent applications for Chrysler.

After patent attorney William Hann joined the team, for a brief time the firm's moniker was "Harness, Dickey, Pierce, & Hann," before reverting to "Harness, Dickey & Pierce."

"Within the past 10 years, we use the shortened trendy version 'Harness Dickey' to make it a bit easier to say and write," Falcoff says. "However, we're still proud to be the same 'Harness, Dickey & Pierce' that's excelled for more than 90 years. The firm may have a slightly strange name but no one will ever forget it."

(See HARNES DICKEY, Page 2)

Veterans Law Series concludes with look at federal benefits

The Veterans' Law Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA) concluded its Introduction to Veterans Law Series on Thursday, Nov. 29, with a look at "Federal Veterans' Benefits Law" at the OCBA Center in Bloomfield Hills. Speaking at the program was Margaret Costello (pictured), director of the Veterans Law Clinic at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. "We're here today to provide a training for pro bono attorneys as part of the Oakland County Bar Association's series for veterans during the month of November," Costello noted. "The training will allow the attorneys to be accredited to practice before the VA (U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs) and then they will hopefully take on one of our cases on a pro bono basis to help veterans get federal benefits."

Photo by John Mei



Three honored at 20th Annual Q2 Awards

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson honored three outstanding Oakland County residents with his annual Quality People/Quality County (Q2) Awards on Monday for their efforts to improve the quality of life of others. This year's recipients are George Mosher, co-founder of Oakland Community College; Curt Catallo, owner of Union Ad Works and popular restaurants the Clarkston Union, Union Woodshop, and the Vinsetta Garage; and Erica Cale, a Clarkston-area native who at the age of 15 founded Helping Hearts Helping Hands to change the lives of poverty-stricken children and families in Honduras.

"This year's Q2 recipients are impacting the lives of thousands of people," Patterson said. "They epitomize what the award is all about—having a big vision that has a positive impact on others."

George Mosher

Nearly five decades ago, Mosher had a vision of accessible and affordable educational excellence. His pioneering efforts, steady-handed stewardship and unwavering determination have made it possible for OCC to become one of America's premiere community colleges.

Today, OCC is the largest community college in Michigan with five campuses across the county offering 100 two-year degree programs and 45 certificate programs. OCC is surpassed only by the University of Michigan and Wayne State University for enrollment. OCC is a partner of Oakland County's Department of Economic Development & Community Affairs. It trains and instructs individuals to join the work force in Patterson's knowledge-based Emerging Sectors and Medical Main Street companies.

Curt Catallo

Catallo's achievements are nothing less than exceptional. By day, he is an ad agency executive; by night, he is a popular restaurateur whose endeavors have put Oakland County on the culinary map. He is the founder of Union Ad Works whose major client is Chrysler.

However, Catallo may be best known throughout the region for his unique restaurants which serve his variations on comfort food such as the Clarkston Union and the Union Woodshop, the 2011 Detroit Free Press Restaurant of the year; the landmark Vinsetta Garage in Berkley; and the soon-to-be renovated Fenton Fire Hall. The Clarkston Union and Union Woodshop, both in Clarkston, have been featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives."

Erica Cale

At the extraordinary age of 15, Cale realized her calling to be a missionary—to live her life helping others. On April 10, 2007, she established Helping Hearts Helping Hands, a family-based non-profit organization, in Honduras. Helping Hearts Helping Hands' goal is to change the lives of poverty-stricken Honduran children and families.

It provides immediate assistance by delivering food, fresh water, clothing, shoes, vitamins and other needed items to Honduran villages. It provides personal care items and (See AWARDS, Page 3)

Agency hosts gift basket auction to benefit Michigan charities

Farmington Hills-based Attorneys Title Agency (ATA), a full-service title insurance agency providing comprehensive services to companies and individuals involved in real estate transactions, internally auctioned off gift baskets on Wednesday, Nov. 21. Proceeds from the charity event will be evenly distributed to Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, Kids First Initiative, Orion/Oxford Fish Organization, and Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County. ATA President Bill Robinson made the announcement.

ATA employees from all 30 branches statewide volunteered their time and worked in teams to create and build 32 gift baskets filled with items, including a variety of cheeses, sweet treats, and gift cards. In a private online auction among locations, each gift basket was sold to raise money for the four charities ATA employees selected prior to the event.

Through the auction, ATA employees raised \$3,300 for the causes, and the company contributed a \$2,700 gift. In total, the event raised \$6,000, exceeding ATA's goal, and will allow each local charity to receive \$1,500.

"Each year we strive to help build and support our state through a variety of efforts," said Robinson. "Being able to partner with four charities for this auction is a great honor, and I am proud of the generosity our employees have shown—from putting the baskets together to donating to the causes—that has allowed us to surpass our goal."

ATA is committed to giving back to the community by partnering with various local nonprofit organizations that work to provide homes and shelter to those in need. The gift basket auction is part of an ongoing corporate giving program carried out by the company.

Attorneys Title Agency, LLC (ATA) is a full-service title insurance agency providing comprehensive services to companies and individuals involved in real estate transactions. With 30 offices throughout the state of Michigan, ATA is committed to its mission of building strong and lasting relationships with its clients and providing them with dependable, timely and accurate service.

For additional information, visit www.atatitle.com.



Attorneys Title Agency (ATA) Director of Client Services Steve Frank (left) and Account Executive Ashley Roukis show off one of the many gift baskets auctioned off internally on Nov. 21. The auction raised \$6,000, which will be evenly distributed to Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, Kids First Initiative, Orion/Oxford Fish Organization and Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County.

Selling Shares

Treasury Department selling remaining shares of AIG to wrap up bailout.

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Bashara Sentenced

Bob Bashara sentenced to prison in hit man scheme.

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Midtown Social Issues

Wayne Law prof. addresses health policy at Planned Parenthood.

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Madoff trustee still pursuing assets

By TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When he was first told in 2008 about Bernard Madoff's epic Ponzi scheme, attorney David Sheehan had a response that now sounds inconceivable.

"Who," he wondered, "is Bernie Madoff?"

Four years after Madoff's arrest, Sheehan has been thoroughly educated about the disgraced financier.

Irving Picard, the trustee appointed to recover funds for Madoff victims, and a battalion of lawyers headed by Sheehan have spent long days unearthing Madoff's fraud. On the fourth anniversary of Madoff's Dec. 11, 2008, arrest, it's an international effort that shows no signs of slowing.

So far, they have secured nearly \$9.3 billion of the estimated \$17.5 billion that thousands of investors put into Madoff's sham investment business. In a recent interview, Sheehan said his team at the Manhattan law firm of BakerHostetler is hopeful it can recover \$3 billion more over the next 18 months, cutting investors' losses to around \$5 billion. Of the money collected so far, about \$3 billion has been approved for redistribution to victims through an ongoing claims process.

It's an outcome that neither Sheehan nor Picard thought possible at the outset.

"I don't think either of us thought we could achieve these results," Sheehan said. "There's never been any case like this."

Sheehan described the task first faced four years ago as daunting: It required cracking the code on a secret Ponzi scheme that spanned decades and victimized thousands of customers on a scale never seen before. Madoff, 74, pleaded guilty and is serving a 150-year sentence.

"We had to reconstruct this from ground zero and put it back together again," Sheehan said.

After examining the books at Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, lawyers quickly realized that statements showing investors held more than \$60 billion in securities were fiction.

Madoff made no investments. Instead, principal was simply being paid out bit by bit to other investors.

Having to hammer home that reality — over and over — to disbelieving investors was one of the first major hurdles, Sheehan said. Win or lose, Madoff clients were entitled only to what they put in.

Investors who had reaped fake profits had to accept they had "someone else's money," Sheehan said. "We had no choice but to get it back."

Last year, an appeals court concluded that the trustee's calculation was "legally sound" and that a bankruptcy court was correct when it rejected arguments from lawyers for investors who said their clients should receive more than what they initially gave to Madoff.

Picard couldn't be expected "to step into the shoes of the defrauder or treat the customer statements as reflections of reality," the court said.

Most of the conflicts over what's owed to the burned clients have been resolved without a serious fight. But in scores of other cases, the trustee has sued wealthy individuals and institutions, claiming the defendants knew or should have known their returns were fraudulent and asking a judge or bankruptcy judge to force them to return them.

The litigation has resulted in a series of settlements, including a historic \$7.2 billion deal with the estate of Jeffrey Picover, a close Madoff associate who drowned in 2009 after suffering a heart attack in the swimming pool of his Palm Beach, Fla., mansion.

A lawsuit against the owners of the New York Mets was settled last spring in a deal that called for them to pay up to \$162 million

after four years. The deal was structured so that the owners will likely pay much less than the maximum depending on what happens to their own claims against Madoff's estate.

Picard is "a very aggressive advocate of the people who were scammed," said Richard Roth, a Manhattan securities lawyer.

"While his aggressiveness has been a topic of controversy, as several institutions object to it, in light of the extent of the fraud, he has been a strong, positive advocate for those individuals whose money was stolen by Madoff," Roth added.

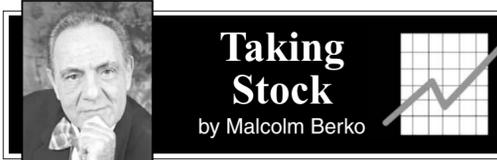
Still, Picard has had to fend off accusations that he's dragging out the process because it's a windfall for his firm. He's so far sought more than \$600 million in fees for work done between Sept. 15, 2008, and Sept. 30 of this year — money that comes from a federally-authorized nonprofit, not from Madoff victims.

Sheehan said the critics are ignoring the true magnitude of the fraud and the work still needed to get what's recoverable, some of it overseas. The trustee is involved in Madoff-related "litigations, investigations and proceedings" in Great Britain, Spain and Israel and is chasing customer money throughout the Caribbean, Sheehan wrote recently on a Madoff victim-information website.

On balance, Picard "is doing a good job" with a recovery process that usually fails to satisfy fraud victims, said Jeffrey Klink, a former federal prosecutor who runs his own private investigative firm that researches the safety of potential investments and performs fraud probes.

With most investment swindles, once "the money is gone, the odds of getting most of it back are almost zero," Klink said. "The investors end up holding the bag."

Associated Press writer Larry Neumeister contributed to this report.



F Funds, first hour trading and flim-flam

Dear Mr. Berko:

I work for Social Security and have their Thrift Savings Plan. I would like to transfer some of my money from the very conservative and guaranteed G Fund that just pays about 2.2 percent to the F Fund that pays 4.28 percent but isn't guaranteed even though the money is in bonds. I understand that the G Fund invests its money in U.S. Treasury bonds. But I do not understand how the F Fund can pay so much more and still be invested in bonds. I've emailed you a copy of the F Fund fact sheet which I don't understand and would appreciate your explanation and recommendation.

Also, my husband wants to know what you think of a short-term (in and out) trading program called First Hour Trading. He has \$32,000 from a recent inheritance and would like to buy this program for \$495 plus monthly fee of \$75. He explained the trading concept to me and it seems so simple and easy to make a minimum of \$500 to \$700 every morning between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. when the market opens. The genius who created the program is a chess prodigy and used his chess skills to design this stock program that picks stocks at the open of the market and tells you to sell them an hour later. This is very exciting and impressive. I know the old saying about things that sound too good to be true, but this seems to be an exception and I could quit my lousy job.

MM, Punta Gorda, Fla.

Dear MM:

The imperious mentality of government bureaucrats who composed the following F Fund description is typical of the smelly bloviation and effluvia that cover almost everything in Washington. And I quote: "The F Fund invests in the U.S. Debt Index Fund by purchasing shares of the U.S. Debt Index Fund 'E,' which, in turn, holds shares of the U.S. Debt Index Master Fund. Interest income equaled 3.68 percent of the U.S. Aggregate Index. The average duration of the U.S. Aggregate Index was 4.36 years which means that a 1 percent increase (decrease) in interest rates could be expected to result in a 4.36 percent decrease

(increase) in the price of a security." Cheese and crackers got all muddy MM, I have no idea what this bibacious language means. Still, the other bonds funds in this Thrift Savings Plan have done modestly well over the past decade and the F Funds should also perform moderately well over the long term, if interest rates remain stable.

Now this www.firsthourtradingsmart.com (FHT) is pure bosh and blatherskite, so tell your spouse to keep his inheritance dry though I'm certain I'd be wasting time telling you that FHT's boldly advertised results are impossible. In fact, every advertised stock market trading scheme or investing program that claims it can beat the market is the kind of flim-flam and humbug that would make Phineas T. Barnum proud. And because you so badly want this to be true, I know you're going to swallow the hook regardless of what I tell you.

But before you sign on the line, consider the following: (1) If FHT can make every investor a minimum of \$500 to \$700 every morning between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. why do they spend so much money advertising on Sirius Radio and the print media? Wouldn't you think that word of mouth would sell FHT like hot cakes? (2) If one can easily earn an average of \$500 every morning — which is over \$100,000 a year — how come the Wall Street Journal, Barons, Business Week, Bloomberg, Fortune, Kiplinger, Time, Money Magazine or Investor's Business Daily have failed to report these amazing successes? Finally (3) if FHT performs as advertised, why don't money managers, bank trust departments, mutual funds, hedge funds professional stock traders, retirees who need extra income or investment advisers use this program across the country? And the answer is ... FHT isn't worth a cow pat. Give your boss 3 months' notice just in case.

Please address your financial questions to Malcolm Berko, P.O. Box 8303, Largo, FL 33775 or e-mail him at mberko@yahoo.com. Visit Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Report finds Fannie, Freddie managers earned \$200K

By MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government report finds median pay for nearly 2,000 senior managers at government-controlled Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac exceeded \$200,000 last year.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency, which oversees the two mortgage giants, also did an inadequate job monitoring pay, according to the report released Monday from the inspector general for the FHFA.

The median figure means that half the managers received salaries above \$200,000 and half received less.

Those managers represent nearly 17 percent of the roughly 11,900 total employees at the two bailed-out companies. Compensation for senior managers at the companies cost about \$455 million in 2011, according to the report.

The report also says the top 333 of those managers are vice presidents who had median pay of \$388,000. That's close to salaries paid by private financial firms and exceeds pay for similar jobs at federal agencies.

Because the FHFA doesn't closely evaluate the compensation of senior managers, it is unable "to ensure that the costs associated with senior professional compensation are warranted," the report says.

The FHFA said Monday that it agreed with the inspector general's conclusion that it should improve its oversight of senior managers' pay. The FHFA said it plans to make a full review.

Taxpayers so far have paid roughly \$170 billion to rescue

Fannie and Freddie, which suffered huge losses from risky mortgages during the 2008 financial crisis.

Fannie and Freddie together own or guarantee about half of all U.S. mortgages, or nearly 31 million home loans.

Under pressure from Congress, the FHFA earlier this year capped pay for Fannie and Freddie's CEOs at \$500,000 a year. The agency also cut pay for about 50 other executives, who were earning more than the companies' senior managers looked at in the latest report.

In December 2010, the agency imposed a freeze on merit pay increases and cost of living adjustments for all Fannie and Freddie employees in 2011. It later was extended to cover 2012.

The agency and the two companies have said that the relatively high levels of compensation are needed to attract and keep qualified employees.

"There's a lot at stake for our country and it is absolutely critical that Fannie Mae compensation is competitive in the market for financial services talent," Fannie spokeswoman Kelli Parsons said in a statement Monday.

Compensation for Fannie employees has declined "substantially" from the levels of pay before the government takeover, Parsons said.

Brad German, a spokesman for Freddie, said "We compete every day with Wall Street for finance experts, mathematicians, engineers and other professionals."

Freddie uses "a rigorous compensation process" to offer pay that is reasonable yet competitive, German said in a statement.

Treasury Department sells remaining shares of AIG

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury Department said Tuesday that it has sold all of its remaining shares of American International Group Inc., moving to wrap up the government's biggest bailout of the 2008 financial crisis.

Treasury said it received \$32.50 per share for its 234.2 million remaining shares, which represented a 16 percent ownership stake in the giant insurance company.

With this sale, Treasury said the government has received \$22.7 billion more than the \$182 billion bailout it provided to support AIG during the height of the financial crisis.

It was the largest government bailout package, including both loans and federal guarantees.

AIG, which is based in New York City, nearly collapsed at the height of the financial crisis. The company suffered massive losses from financial instruments whose value was based on mortgage securities.

AIG became a symbol for excessive risk on Wall Street and a touchstone of public anger. It was criticized by some members of Congress for spending \$440,000 on spa treatments for executives only days after it was bailed out and for millions of dollars in

bonuses it provided executives.

AIG stock closed at \$33.36 on Monday, down 77 cents from Friday's close. Its shares rose 35 cents, or 1 percent, to \$33.71 in premarket trading two hours before the market opening on Tuesday. Its stock has traded between a low of \$22.19 and a high of \$37.67 over the past 52 weeks.

The proceeds from the final stock sale are expected to total approximately \$7.6 billion.

Treasury said with the stock sale it had realized a positive return of \$5 billion while the Federal Reserve had received a positive return of \$17.7 billion.

Treasury conducted six public offerings of AIG stock over the last 19 months selling a total of 1.66 billion shares of the company. At the start of the sales, Treasury had owned 92 percent of AIG's outstanding common stock.

Since the financial crisis, AIG has undergone a significant restructuring which has cut the size of the company nearly in half aimed at focusing on its core insurance operations.

The AIG stock sale was the latest step in an ongoing effort by the government to wind down the Troubled Asset Relief Program or TARP.

With the AIG stock sales, the government has gotten back \$380 billion, or more than 90 percent of the \$418 billion in funds it disbursed through TARP.

HARNESS DICKEY: Firm has history of notable lawsuits, interesting patents

(Continued from page 1)

By the mid-1960s, HDP had grown to 26 lawyers and moved to larger space in the Fisher Building. Harness was still associated with the firm, but Dickey and Pierce were deceased. Two of Harness' sons had become partners of the firm and his son, Don, a well-known patent trial attorney, became a driving force in leading the firm after his father's retirement.

In 1973, the firm moved to North Woodward Avenue in Birmingham, and in the early 1990s shifted to its current address in Troy, now within an easy drive of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Detroit branch. In 2001, HDP opened sizable offices in Reston, Va., close to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office headquarters; and in 2000 in Clayton, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis.

Collectively, HDP has approximately 110 patent and trademark attorneys. About 66 of these attorneys are in Troy, along with about 146 non-attorney employees—making HDP the largest law firm office in Oakland County. Most of the firm's attorneys hold technical degrees beyond law, including biological and engineering backgrounds; and the firm handles several industries, including Business & Information, Electrical & Computer, Life Science, Material & Chemical, Mechanical & Electromechanical, and Pharmaceutical.

"It's remarkable how diverse the clients, patents and lawsuits have been over the 90-plus-year history of the firm," Falcoff says. "Some of the early patents seem quaint today—they're a fascinating part of U.S. industrial history. The old patent drawings were usually much more artistic than the computer drawings used in modern patents."

Some of these interesting early patents obtained by HDP include patents for a "Universal Joint" issued to Crist in 1926, and "Muffler for Internal Combustion Engines" issued to Schwager that same year. "Washing Machine" was issued to Gies in 1927; and in 1928, "Airplane Motor" was issued to Stalker and "Refrigeration" was issued to Nelson and assigned to Copeland Products Inc.—still a client of HDP. "Seat

Construction" was issued to Selje in 1929; and assigned to the Murray Corp., another former automotive supplier legend.

The firm has also fought some notable lawsuits through the years, including a rather strange one in the late 1980s/early '90s—*Shearing v. Iolab Corp. and Johnson & Johnson*—in which HDP represented the defendants in the District of Nevada, and well-known general practice trial attorney Morton Galane represented the plaintiff. The subject was a patent covering a method for inserting an artificial optic lens having resilient J-loops to hold the lens in the eye, for cataract surgery.

"The plaintiff had a cadaver exhumed to determine if a third-party doctor had inserted an invalidating lens in this patient—it turned out the doctor's notes were incorrect and the cadaver was not the correct patient—big oops," Falcoff says.

In the late '60s, HDP represented Sears Roebuck & Co. against Jerome Lemelson, about a patent covering toy guns having a ratchet sound-producing mechanism.

"HDP would have many additional run-ins with the infamous 'patent troll' Jerome Lemelson again in the 1980s and 1990s with regard to his bar code reading and automated manufacturing 'submarine' patents," Falcoff says.

According to Falcoff, the firm—whose work includes preparing patent and trademark applications, rendering freedom-to-practice and infringement opinions, negotiating licenses, and taking the vanguard in patent and trademark lawsuits throughout the world—receives a significant amount of patent and trademark business from Asian and European companies.

"Yet unlike many of our D.C. competitors, the majority of our work is still U.S. originating, and most of our new clients come from word of mouth and referrals," he says.

"We've been ranked among the top five in U.S. patent issuances for the past three years and among the top 25 in 2011 U.S. trademark issuances—we've come a long way since the firm's sole practitioner beginnings almost a century ago."

Holiday schedule

The offices of the Oakland County Legal News will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24-25, for the Christmas holiday.

This requires the following deadline for the submission of legal notices:

- Notices for publication on December 21 and 24 must be received by Thursday, Dec. 20, by noon.
- Notices for publication on December 25 and 26 must be received by Friday, Dec. 21, by noon.

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