



Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers

117 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-398-9800
www.pittlawpc.com

Our Featured Stories

State's Longest Serving Juvenile Offender to be Released

Morris Dees Honored as Champion of Justice by MCHR

PMP&R Hosts Flint Water Informational Meeting Update

Firm Welcomes New Attorney Wagner

UIA Fraud Class-Action Gains Steam

7th Circuit Rules Workplace Sexual Orientation Discrimination Violates Fed Law

Former Firm Law Clerk Back as Attorney

Pro Bono Client Henry Hill, State's Longest-Serving Juvenile Offender, to be Released this Summer After 35 Years Behind Bars

Henry Hill, who was 16 years-old when convicted of homicide in 1980, will be freed later this summer. Hill has served over 35 years of a mandatory life sentence in Michigan prisons. The decision was handed down in early May by Judge Darnell Jackson in Hill's Saginaw Circuit Court resentencing hearing.

Firm co-founder Michael Pitt is part of a collective pro bono initiative which provided representation for Hill as he sought resentencing. Hill has spent nearly four decades behind bars for his role in the 1980 shooting murder of Anthony Thomas in Saginaw.



Michael Pitt, co-counsel Deb LaBelle with Henry Hill at his recent resentencing hearing.

Cary McGehee, the firm's other co-founding partner, is also part of the Juvenile Life Without Parole legal effort. She is representing convicted juvenile offender Barbara Hernandez. Hernandez is seeking resentencing after serving 25 years for her role in a 1980 homicide committed when she was 16 years old.

[Read the entire story HERE](#)

Renowned Attorney Morris Dees Honored as Champion of Justice by Michigan Coalition of Human Rights



Cary McGehee presents the Champion of Justice award to Morris Dees at MCHR Annual Dinner.

The Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR) recognized the lifetime efforts of iconic civil rights attorney Morris Dees at its recent annual dinner held at Marygrove College in Detroit.

Cary McGehee, firm co-founder and longtime MCHR Chair, presented Dees with the organization's Bishop H. Coleman McGehee Jr. Champion of Justice award for his 50 years of commitment to human rights causes.

The award is named in honor of Cary's late father, who founded MCHR in 1980 with Rabbi Richard Hertz and Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton amid a growing conservative climate in religion and politics.

[Read the entire story HERE](#)

PMP&R Host Flint Water Informational Update Meeting

On April 24, 2017, the Flint Water Class Action Legal Team held an informational meeting for the Flint community at Greater Holy Temple Church of God in Christ in Flint. Throughout the night, Flint residents and other attendees spoke with representatives from the legal team about our class actions and representatives from community organizations about how the water crisis has affected housing and health.

Approximately 200 individuals came to learn about the legal team's most recent efforts in their fight to secure justice for those who have been exposed to Flint's contaminated water.



Michael Pitt addresses audience at recent Flint Water Informational Meeting

[Read the entire story HERE](#)

Firm Welcomes Robin Wagner as New Attorney

The firm is pleased to announce that Robin Wagner has joined our firm as an associate.

Before joining the firm, Robin served as a law clerk for the Hon. Judith E. Levy of the Eastern District of Michigan. And prior to clerking for Judge Levy, Robin clerked for the Hon. Michael H. Dolinger, Magistrate Judge, Southern District of New York.



A native of Baltimore and a third-generation woman lawyer, Robin graduated from DePaul University College of Law in 2014, summa cum laude and Order of the Coif, with a certificate in public interest law.

[Read the entire story HERE](#)

False Fraud Epidemic Class-Action Lawsuit Against Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency Continues to Gain Steam



Jennifer Lord

In September 2015, firm attorneys filed a class-action lawsuit against the State of Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA). The complaint alleges that the automated system used for adjudicating unemployment insurance fraud, falsely accused as many as 46,000 innocent claimants of fraud.

Claimants were then slapped with quadruple penalties, interest on a debt they did not owe, and subjected to aggressive collection practices including the seizure of tax refunds and 25% wage garnishments.

The lawsuit, as well as intensive reporting by multiple news organizations, and support from state and federal lawmakers, has begun to force changes within the UIA. Earlier this year the head of the Agency was removed and replaced. The UIA has started the process of issuing refunds to some of the wrongly accused victims. But the fight is far from over.

[Read the entire story HERE](#)

7th Circuit Rules that Workplace Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation Violates Federal Civil Right Law

by [Beth M. Rivers](#)

In a groundbreaking decision, the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit has ruled that workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation violates federal civil rights law. In *Hively v Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana*, 853 F3d 339 (7th Cir 2017) the court found that such discrimination is a form of sex discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal law which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin and religion. This is the first time that a federal court of appeals had reached this conclusion and could potentially change the national and local landscape of employment law for LGBT people.



[Read the entire article HERE.](#)

Former Firm Law Clerk Returns as Attorney

Channing Robinson began working as a law clerk at the firm in October 2015 while she was still in law school. Since that time, she has devoted innumerable hours to the firm's class actions against Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency, as well as the firm's several class actions filed on behalf of those affected by the Flint Water Crisis.

She has also assisted in many of the firm's civil rights cases, including discrimination cases based on age, national origin, sex, race and disability, cases alleging retaliation and sexual harassment, and violations of the Family Medical Leave Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.



[Read the Entire Story HERE](#)

About Pitt McGehee

[Pitt McGehee](#) Palmer & Rivers

(www.pittlawpc.com) is one of the largest law firms in Michigan specializing in employment-related matters. It represents individuals and groups in matters relating to sexual harassment, wrongful discharge, whistleblower rights, Family Medical Leave Act and workplace discrimination relating to

age, sex, race, disability, religion and national origin. Founded in 1992, the firm's attorneys are widely acknowledged as leading civil and employment rights experts and advocates.



Pitt McGehee
Palmer & Rivers

www.pittlawpc.com