

THE SIMMONS LEGAL NEWS

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This is the year of government. Many have prophesized that the people will rise up this year and restore justice.

SIGN THE PETITION!

Signing the Petition will move the Working Class closer to amending the State Constitution

By: Shawndrica Simmons, Esq.
Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer

The purpose of the amendment is to enshrine into our state Constitution the basic right of every worker to collectively bargain for wages, hours, benefits, and work conditions.

How the Amendment Protects Working People

Collective bargaining gives people the freedom to negotiate fair contracts, just as businesses do when providing services to other businesses. Without these basic collective bargaining protections, CEOs can and do fire workers for no reason and unilaterally change working conditions.

The middle class was created right here in Michigan. Now it's time that middle class people speak out to protect their wages, benefits and workplace safety from continued attacks by politicians in Lansing.

Supporters include We Are the People, Michigan Nurses, Teachers, Professors, Electricians, Plumbers, Clericals, Attorneys, Painters, Judges, Operating Engineers, Food and Commercial Workers, Cosmetologists, Barbers, Communication Workers, State Employees, County Employees, Municipal Employees, Bus Drivers, Para-professionals, Clergy, Private-Industry Workers, and other trade workers.

We need to collect at least 322,609 valid voter signatures by July 1, 2012 to put the proposed constitutional amendment before Michigan voters in November.

BE SURE TO SIGN THE PETITION. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP BY VOLUNTEERING FOR THE EFFORT, YOU CAN DO SO AT WWW.PROTECTOURJOBS.COM.

We did it!

We collected more than enough signatures to Repeal Public Act 4. Once the signatures are certified, the law will be suspended until voters have a chance to approve or disapprove the law on the November 2012 ballot. Don't forget to vote yes to Repeal Public Act 4 of 2011, the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act: Dictator "Emergency Manager" Law.



Coming Soon: The People's Law School

Not everybody can go to law school, but everybody can use a working knowledge of the law. That's the principle behind the People's Law School, five (5) hour-long courses to be offered by a coalition of organizations in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Genesee counties. The sessions will take place beginning in May and end in July 2012. Classes will most likely be every Wednesday at a location to be determined by the coordinators and sponsors. The issues we are interested in addressing are core issues, pertaining to our children, our

money, and our lives: Criminal Expungement * Navigating Friend of the Court * Fighting Foreclosure & Filing for Bankruptcy * Informed Voting (*voting the whole ballot including judges*) * Fighting Workplace Discrimination (*disability, ethnicity, reverse, harassment*)



FOR MORE INFO OR TO ENDORSE OR BE A SPONSOR EMAIL ME AT: [SSIMMONS@MIAFSCME.ORG](mailto:ssimmons@miafscme.org)



Judgment Should Be Drug Free!

Flip the page for article calling for current Michigan Supreme Court Justices to be drug tested.

The 3 Supremes
Johnson
Kelley
McCormack

Restore Justice to the Michigan Supreme Court
Vote the bottom of the ballot or flip it!
November 6, 2012

Healthcare Law Highlights

Health Insurers cannot deny children health insurance because of pre-existing conditions. A ban on the discrimination in adults will take effect in 2014.

Businesses with fewer than 50 employees will get tax credits covering up to 50% of employee premiums.

Seniors will get a rebate to fill the so-called "donut hole" in Medicare drug coverage, which severely limits prescription medication coverage expenditures over \$2,700.


The cut-off age for young adults to continue to be covered by their parents' health insurance rose to age 27.

New plans must cover checkups and other preventative care without co-pays. All plans will be affected by 2018.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: IT'S THE BEST CARE!

All Michigan Supreme Court Justices Should be Drug Tested!

By: Nic Morris
Staff Writer

In the past 10 years, there has been a wave of legislators proposing and passing laws to drug test recipients of public assistance. Those states that have adopted such a stance were gravely disappointed when the recipients repeatedly passed those drug testing requirements. "Republican Florida Gov. Rick Scott's plan to test welfare recipients for drugs is costing the state money, despite his claims that the program would actually save tax dollars." Wow, you don't say? Well I think that we should apply this same concept of drug testing recipients of public assistance to the judicial level. Our elected officials are indeed recipients of public assistance, through their wages and benefit packages paid for by taxpayers. They receive 6-figure salaries and free health coverage with no requirement to pass one drug test. How is that fair? It isn't. I know plenty of attorneys who would love to have those jobs and would pass a drug test at any time. How many of our current sitting Justices can say they would pass? I don't know, but I would like to. Wouldn't you? "It is not uncommon for individuals employed in the private sector to be tested for drug use when applying for a job. For business owners, this practice holds employees accountable for their actions, and if they do not pass the drug test, there is a very simple consequence: no job." 

Highest Paying Jobs Projected to 2018 in the USA

By: Patty English, MS
Blogger for HubPages.com

According to the US Federal statistics in employment projections to 2018, the US has only seven (7) job titles categories as **Very High Wages**:

1. **Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts.** 53+% increase in jobs. Bachelor's degree.
2. **Computer Software Engineers, Applications.** 34% increase. Bachelor's degree.
3. **Management Analysts.** 24% increase. Bachelor's or Advanced degree and work experience.
4. **Registered Nurses (RNs).** 22.2% increase. Associates degree, 3-yr RN, or 4-yr BSN.
5. **Physicians and Surgeons.** 21.8% increase. Professional degree(s)
6. **Accountants and Auditors -** includes Forensic Accounting. 21.7% increase. Bachelor's degree.
7. **Postsecondary (College/University/Trainig) Teachers with a Doctoral Degree.** 15% increase.

Among the jobs listed above, the first three are involved in IT (Information Technology); two are in **Healthcare**, one in **Accounting**, and one in **Higher Education**. The two IT positions are predicted to increase at much higher rates than any of the others in the list. This is particularly true of the Network Systems occupations and Systems and Software positions appear in Healthcare, Management Analysis, Accounting, and Education as well.

OUR RIGHT TO BARGAIN

By: Nora Grambau
Staff Representative, MI AFSCME Council 25

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the next couple of weeks your help is needed. Once again I am going to ask you to engage in a battle; a battle to protect collective bargaining rights for you, for me, for our children and families, for your co-workers and for our very future.

Through our combined efforts we were victorious getting the required petition signatures to move forward in repealing Public Act 4: the Local Dictator "EM" law. WE THE PEOPLE made our voices heard! However, it is clear that this and other victories are not going over well with the anti-labor legislatures. The legislature has "declared war" on labor. The anti-labor legislation is coming so fast, it's difficult to recover before the next assault begins.

We should not be surprised that we are moving from one battleground to another. We've got to STOP the attacks! We have to take back and protect our right to bargain, to ensure that we have healthcare, a regular work week, a retirement account, and grievance/arbitration protections from the ever changing whims of the employer!

To this end, I have made a commitment to work towards amending the Michigan Constitution enshrining our right to collectively bargain for our hours, wages and work conditions. I am asking you to stand with me and make a commitment to engage not only our families but everyone we know. We need to be proud that we are part of the movement that bettered working conditions for every worker. We need to protect and preserve our rights to collectively bargain! -In Solidarity



The Oakland County Democratic Black Caucus supports Congressman Hansen Clarke in his bid to win the newly created 14th Congressional District! We support his forgiveness of student loan debt platform, his mission to have a moratorium on foreclosures and his position on free trade.

STOP THE LIES! JOIN THE FIGHT!

UNIONS ARE GOOD FOR AMERICA. UNIONS BUILT MODERN DAY AMERICA. ONCE YOU STRIP AWAY UNION RIGHTS, YOUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS ARE SOON TO FOLLOW SUIT. THE GOP CAN REGULATE A WOMAN'S UTERUS BUT SHE CAN'T HAVE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE? WOW!

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WAL*MART.
Low Wages, Low Morals *Always*
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