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DAILY BRIEFS

October trial postponed for 5 men in Michigan governor plot

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — A federal judge on Friday said he would postpone the Oct. 12 trial of five men accused of planning to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

A new date wasn't immediately set, but U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker suggested the trial might get pushed to February or March. Defense lawyers said they needed more time to pore over evidence shared by federal prosecutors, especially the undercover work of FBI agents and informants.

"I trust the judgment of these five lawyers," Jonker said.

The delay means the trial, and subsequent sentencing hearings if there are convictions, would occur while Whitmer, a Democrat, is seeking reelection in 2022.

The five men have been in custody for nearly a year.

The government said the men were upset over coronavirus restrictions when they conspired to kidnap Whitmer, even scouting her second home in northern Michigan. They've pleaded not guilty and claim to be victims of entrapment.

A sixth man, Ty Garbin, pleaded guilty and was recently sentenced to slightly more than six years in prison. He's expected to be a major witness for the government at trial.

Law firm donates backpacks filled with school supplies to kids

Proper school supplies can help ensure a successful academic year for students. But all too many families cannot afford all of the supplies they need to help their children succeed. For this reason, Butzel law firm is continuing a tradition it started four years ago to give away new backpacks and supplies to students at a school in Detroit.

Butzel recently provided nearly 400 backpacks filled with school supplies to K-8 students at MacDowell Preparatory Academy on Outer Drive in Detroit. The academy's mission is to provide an excellent education for its scholars, prepare them for college, and build upon a tradition of excellence. Butzel hopes to help make that mission a little more attainable.

"Many students across the state come from homes that are considered below the poverty level. For many of these families, school supplies are not at the top of the list when they are trying to pay the bills and keep the lights on, to say nothing of trying to put food on the table," said Paul Mersino, attorney, shareholder, and Trustee of the Butzel Charitable Trust. "But studies indicate that students who have the proper supplies they need for school obtain better grades and higher test scores."

"Studies also indicate that when students have the supplies they need, their attendance improves, which also leads to better performance," he added. "Just as important, by providing students with materials they need for school, we can help parents and families make ends meet and ensure they do not have to choose between purchasing school supplies and purchasing food, clothing, and other essential needs."

This is the fourth year that Butzel partnered with the Kids in Need Foundation in order to bring these backpacks to these deserving school children. Butzel hopes to continue doing so every school year.

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LOCAL VOICE

A key component of Peacemaking circle rests on foundation of trust and respect

BY KATIE ORRINGER AND MEGAN WANG



Katie Orringer



Megan Wang

As young women beginning our journey in the legal world, we had the privilege of interning for Judge Timothy Connors of the Washtenaw County Trial Court this year. The two of us — one a senior at the University of Michigan and the other a soon-to-be member of the University of Michigan Law School Class of 2025 — learned about Peacemaking from our mentor.

We had the unique opportunity to be a part of a summer training Peacemaking course with approximately 20 peers from across the nation. Judge Connors and his wife Professor Margaret Connors were among the outstanding teachers and facilitators who presented at the conference. Students were taught by several other distinguished Peacemakers, many of whom are from the Native American Rights Fund Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative. The speakers included Cheryl Fairbanks, Judge Mike Petoskey, Brett Shelton, Carson Smith, Karen Biestman, Niyo Moraza-Keeswood, and Judge Yazzie. The extraordinary speakers taught us the importance of everything from self-care to compassion for fellow human beings. We are humbled to have had the opportunity to learn from such empathetic, energetic leaders in this up-and-coming field of conflict resolution.

Over the three days of the conference, we learned about the various aspects that comprise effective Peacemaking circles and even roleplayed mock Peacemaking circle scenarios to practice our new skills. Each of the students had a specialized character to play in the circle and the activity was intended to show how circles function and how it feels to be a part of this type of conflict resolution. The teachers first led these circles but by the end of the third day students were leading Peacemaking circles of our own.

On the first day, we learned the foundations of Peacemaking including how to pick an effective talking piece (something meaningful, light, and appropriate for the setting) and discovered the importance of setting and respecting circle values (such as love, respect, and humility). Every participant is given the opportunity to speak when they hold the talking piece. This allows the holder to speak freely and state their thoughts without interruption which is essential to Peacemaking as it allows equal opportunity to speak. However, passing is always an option. Everyone who has been affected by the situation can feel heard but is not pressured to speak.

On the second and third days, students had the chance to practice leading Peacemaking circles. In so doing, we learned how to listen

closely to others and summarize and repeat what we heard during each round of discussion. To give a concise yet all-encompassing summary, the Peacemaker had to be engaged for the duration of the entire circle. Obviously, this was hard work, so we followed up with a self-care workshop to teach us rising Peacemakers how to fight "burnout." Incorporating time for ourselves allows us to recharge and be energized to more effectively act as Peacemakers. This is an invaluable lesson.

Themes

A key component of a Peacemaking circle is the foundation of trust and respect. Participants must trust one another to not judge, interrupt, or enter the circle displaying outright anger. A Peacemaking space relies on respect for one another and the situation at hand. The goal is conflict resolution and the means are communication and empathy. Without respect and trust, no progress can be made. In order to establish the trust and respect a Peacemaking circle requires, core values must be set. At the facilitator's request, each member of the circle is asked to name a value that they wish to display during the circle. These values often mirror the cultural values from the local Indigenous community, such as love, honesty, humility, or wisdom. Effective conversation can be extremely difficult to accomplish with feelings of mistrust or a lack of respect as Peacemaking requires conversation and openness. Setting values aims to ameliorate such challenges.

Peacemaking circles are meant to resolve conflicts in a productive, safe manner. However, it is understandable why participants may enter the circle with negative feelings. During Brett Shelton's segment, he educated the class about the concept of fighting the problem, not the person. He emphasized the importance of working together to resolve the issue instead of placing blame on others. The purpose of a Peacemaking circle is for the participants to communicate with one another and work together to resolve an issue. This cannot be done while people are blaming each other so it is crucial to remember to fight the situation, not the person.

It can be easy for parties to lash out at each other during a circle, but they must remember that they are there to resolve issues and create solutions, not hurt each other. This not only encourages mutual respect of individuals but is actually far more productive than blaming.

It is understood that the actual practice of fighting the problem and not the person can be incredibly difficult, especially with tension and built-up anger. One thing that Peacemakers encourage is compromise, as difficult as it may be. If no party is willing to compromise, nothing can be resolved. In situations where every party has differing thoughts about a certain problem, it is crucial for participants to be willing to compromise to resolve the issue. It can be easy for participants to be too stubborn for their own good, however, they must be encouraged to compromise on a resolution.

While finding a solution may be difficult, it is not impossible. In our mock scenarios during this training, we witnessed people with a wide



Judge Timothy Connors of the Washtenaw County Trial Court was among the facilitators at a recent conference on Peacemaking.

range of ideas agree on a solution.

The diversity of a circle group can sometimes slow the process of coming to a solution, but that diversity is critically important. A group of diverse minds gives way to creating more effective solutions, and this process, if done properly, is inherently slow-moving. A variety of opinions and thoughts allows more room for discussion and growth by bringing different and fresh perspectives to the circle. One person may discuss something that no one else had considered. Openness to diverse viewpoints can create meaningful change and this can be seen through Peacemaking circles no matter the size.

Of course, respecting each other's differences of opinion is the crucial first step.

Evidently, participating in Peacemaking circles requires an immense amount of effort and willingness to change. Peacemaking circles are incredibly productive and successful in conflict resolution, but these resolutions do not materialize in one session. It can take multiple sessions, weeks, or even months to create solutions and see change. This is because people do not change overnight.

In order for Peacemaking circles to be successful, they require a lot from their participants including a willingness to compromise, development of trust and respect, as well as an ability to maintain a mindset of fighting the problem instead of the person. These skills require time and practice to develop but they benefit circle participants outside of circles. Peacemaking circle participants must work with each other to hone and place these skills into practice.

The success from these circles requires tremendous amounts of preparation, time, and commitment. They require a true willingness and drive to resolve an issue, even if that resolution requires change.

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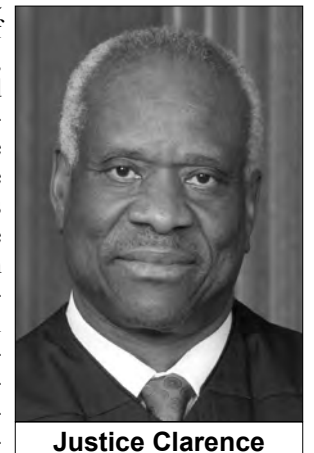
U.S. SUPREME COURT

Clarence Thomas criticizes judges for veering into politics

BY SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on Thursday criticized some in the judiciary for veering into the role of legislators and politicians, saying it is not the role of judges to make policy or to base decisions on their personal feelings or religious beliefs.

Speaking at the University of Notre Dame, Thomas said judges "venturing into areas we should not have entered into" is part of why the nomination process, particularly for federal judges with lifetime appointments like himself, is so contentious.



Justice Clarence Thomas

"The court was thought to be the least dangerous branch and we may have become the most dangerous," Thomas said. "And I think that's problematic."

He did not cite any specific examples. Thomas is the most senior justice on a court that grew more conservative under President Donald Trump, who placed three justices on the court. His speech Thursday is at the alma mater of his newest colleague on the court, Amy Coney Barrett, who graduated from Notre Dame Law School and served on the faculty there.

Thursday's speech at the Catholic university by Thomas, a Catholic, was delivered two weeks after he was among the majority in the Supreme Court's 5-4 vote to deny an emergency appeal of a new Texas law banning most abortions. The court suggested it was not their last word on the matter. The law is the biggest restriction of abortion rights since the court's landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that women have a constitutional right to abortion, and supporters of abortion rights say it's evidence Roe v. Wade could be threatened.

Thomas has called on the court to overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that extended abortion rights across the country, and he was one of four justices who would have overturned Roe in a 1992 decision, during his first term on the court.

The Catholic church opposes abortion. Asked Thursday if there have been times when he had to resolve legal questions that conflict with his Catholic faith, Thomas said it has not been a problem for him. He said some cases were very hard, particularly early on in his career, but added "that's not the role of a judge."

"You do your job and you go cry alone," he said.

Thomas was accused of sexual harassment by former employee Anita Hill during his own bruising 1991 confirmation hearing — charges he denied.

On Thursday, he said "the craziness" during his confirmation was the result of the politicization of the judiciary, saying "it was absolutely about abortion, a matter I had not thought deeply about at the time."

At one point during the lecture three protesters stood and yelled "I still believe Anita Hill." They were escorted out of the auditorium without incident; the crowd then stood and applauded.

Thursday's lecture was a rare public speech by Thomas, who typically shies away from public speaking. He is known for going years without asking questions during arguments before the Supreme Court, unlike his colleagues, though during the pandemic Thomas has asked questions at every one of the telephone arguments.

Thomas acknowledged his reticence, telling the crowd that years ago the late Justice Antonin Scalia, a fellow conservative, "told me I should get out on the road and fly the flag."

"He was more of an extrovert than I am," Thomas said. "I'm quite content not to get out on the road."

ABA NEWS

Program previews upcoming Supreme Court term

Abortion, the death penalty and the Second Amendment is on the docket for the Supreme Court when the new term begins on Monday, October 4. The American Bar Association and the American University Washington College of Law will host the virtual program "On the Docket: Looking Ahead at the New Supreme Court Term" Thursday, September 30, from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The program will feature legal experts on the court discussing the latest developments in abortion cases both Texas Heartbeat injunction order and Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson, the Boston Marathon bombing (United States v. Tsarnaev), and the Second Amendment case (New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen) amongst others.

The experts will also discuss the debate about the credibility of the justice system in

light of the high court's "shadow docket." Recent Supreme Court decisions made from the shadow docket, which is the high court's expedited decision-making process, includes Texas' six-week abortion ban, President Joe Biden's eviction protection for tenants, and the Trump administration's asylum rule.

Moderating the discussion will be Stephen Wermiel, professor of Practice in Constitutional Law at American University Washington College of Law. He is the author of a monthly column on SCOTUSblog.com aimed at explaining the Supreme Court to law students. A former Supreme Court reporter for The Wall Street Journal, Wermiel covered and interpreted more than 1,300 Supreme Court decisions and analyzed legal trends for 12 years.

The panelists will include:

- Erwin Chemerinsky, dean, University of

California, Berkeley, School of Law

• Kimberly Atkins Stohr, senior opinion writer and columnist for Boston Globe Opinion and MSNBC contributor

• Gregory Garre, partner, Latham & Watkins, global chair of the firm's Supreme Court & Appellate Practice

• Jennifer Chacon, professor of law, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law
To register for the program, visit www.wcl.american.edu and click on "News Events."

This program is hosted by Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases, a comprehensive source of information on and analysis of matters before the Supreme Court, giving a ringside seat to every case argued. Preview publishes monthly while the Supreme Court is in session and includes a wrap-up issue reviewing the year at the end of the session.

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Money Matters

WILLIAM RUTHERFORD, BRIDGETOWER MEDIA NEWSWIRES

Market's bounce from pandemic low is fastest in several decades

It took the S&P 500, a proxy for the U.S. stock market, 354 trading days to double in value from its 2020 bottom. That was the fastest bull market double since WWII. Usually it takes a bull market 1000 days to reach that milestone, according to CNBC analysis.

What powered the rally? Relief from the pandemic ignited the rally, as people ached to get out, liberate themselves from virus-related constraints (however mis-placed) and spend money.

In 2020, the Federal Reserve slashed interest rates to near zero and released \$120 billion in emergency bond purchases in response to the fastest drop in S&P 500 history. The federal government also injected trillions of dollars in COVID relief spending into the economy. The response of the Fed and the legislative and executive branches of government primed the pump and overwhelmed the sagging economy.

The resulting massive earnings comeback further fueled the rise. Corporate profits jumped off the pandemic bottom, with S&P companies reporting a 53 percent year-over-year growth in earnings in the first quarter and poised to post a 98 percent surge in the second quarter, according to Refinitiv market data services.

The second quarter of 2021 was characterized by not only a large number of beats, but also an impressive magnitude of surprises, said David Kostin, head of equity strategy for Goldman Sachs. For example, the economy added 943,000 jobs in July, above the consensus estimate, but failed to follow through in August.

Can the market continue to move in this direction? Now, the Fed is reevaluating its easy money policies and weighing whether to raise interest rates. The market has not had a sizable pullback in about 10 months, so a reversal could be in the cards.

As the market continues its record streak, the question arises: Is market sentiment too stretched? Investors continue bullish bets. For instance, 2021 inflows to exchange-traded funds topped \$500 billion in late July, sailing past the 2020 record with only seven months of the year gone. Long-term trends remain healthy. The decline in the number of stocks trading above their 50-day moving average hasn't been large enough to dent 200-day moving average trends.

But hanging over the market is the virus. It has resurged and developed ever more variants. The virus represents a big headwind for the market and shows no sign of abating.

Climate issues also present uncertainty for the economy and hence the market. Forest fires, hurricanes and excessive flooding all created massive problems for emergency crews and medical facilities. The impact on casualty losses for insurers (which will have to sell securities to draw down investment reserves to pay claims) is huge.

A massive lack of computer chips is weighing on industrial

production: Chip manufacturers cannot keep up with demand, which further slows production – especially for automobiles. Logistics problems interrupt deliveries. There are many headwinds for the market.

Even so, per-share earnings growth is expected to exceed pandemic levels, according to Charles Schwab Market Perspective. The rise in earnings has lowered stock market valuations, as measured by price-earnings ratios. International stocks are relatively undervalued, trading at the largest discount ever to U.S. stocks.

Prime-age workers continue to return to the market, with the labor participation rate for those ages 25-54 at 81.8 percent. Yields on U.S. Treasuries are climbing, also suggesting that the economy is strong. The Fed will likely announce a decision to reduce its bond purchases. But its balance sheet will continue to grow, because it will be reinvesting the interest from its bond holdings.

The Fed may taper its bond purchases, as long as economic data confirm that the recovery is gaining strength. The stock and bond markets have priced in rate hikes for mid-2022. Portions of the bond market, such as high yield and emerging market bonds, have benefited from the Fed's very easy money policy and from rising equity values, but volatility could return as the Fed shifts policies.

In 2019, Congress voted to suspend the debt ceiling (the cap on the total amount of debt the U.S. can accumulate) until July 30, 2021. That date has come and gone. The U.S. Treasury has already begun employing "extraordinary measures" to ensure that the U.S. does not default on its debts, but these measures will likely run out soon. Congress will have to raise or suspend the debt limit, but there is no clear path to do so.

In a letter to Congress in late July, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the Treasury could run out of money to pay its bills soon after lawmakers return to Washington in September. She did not set a specific date. Analysts have estimated that the deadline will be reached by mid- to late October. Congress has always managed to find a solution. The expectation is that it will do so again, but there is no assurance.

And so it goes. Ride the record streak or choose your poison. The choices are not clear, but historically the stock market has been the best place to hide out. We recommend a cautiously defensive portfolio, diversified toward growth.

William Rutherford is the founder and portfolio manager of Portland-based Rutherford Investment Management. Contact him at 888-755-6546 or wrutherford@rutherfordinvestment.com. Information herein is from sources believed to be reliable, but accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. Investment involves risk and may result in losses.

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26211 Central Park Blvd, Suite 508 - Southfield, Michigan 48076
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Sales Calendar Report

Local Municipal Bond Sales

Sales Date	Bid Type	FA	County	Rate
Time	Amount	At Legal	Municipality / Debt Type / Purpose	Publications
Tue 09/21/2021	4,365 M @F	Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc.	City of WYOMING	5.00%
11:00 AM	@1	Dickinson Wright	(1)REV Water Supply System Revenue Bonds Series 2021	2041
Thu 09/23/2021	3,065 M @E	PFM Financial Advisors LLC	Drainage District of Angel Acres Drain Drainage District	5.00%
11:00 AM	@1	Dickinson Wright	(1)GO (2)LT (6)QTE 2021 Drain Bonds	2041
Mon 09/27/2021	15,750 M @F	PFM Financial Advisors LLC	Township of ADA	6.00%
1:00 PM	@1	Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones	(1)GO (2)LT 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS	2041
Tue 09/28/2021	19,000 M @E	PFM Financial Advisors LLC	County of MONROE	4.00%
11:00 AM	@1	Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone	(1)GO (2)LT	2041
Wed 09/29/2021	5,650 M @E	PFM Financial Advisors LLC	School District of CARSON CITY-CRYSTAL	3.50%
11:00 AM	@1	Thrun Law Firm	(1)GO (2)LT (4)QU (6)QTE 2021 School Building and Site Bonds	2046
Wed 10/06/2021	1,700 M @F	PFM Financial Advisors LLC	School District of LAWRENCE	3.00%
11:30 AM	@1	Thrun Law Firm	(1)GO (2)LT (4)QU (6)QTE 2021 School Building and Site Bonds	2030
Mon 10/18/2021	3,950 M @F	Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC	School District of PORTLAND	5.00%
10:00 AM	@1	Thrun Law Firm	(1)GO (2)LT (4)QU (6)QTE 2021 School Building and Site Bonds	2048
Tue 10/19/2021	5,900 M @F	Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC	Township of PAW PAW	5.00%
10:00 AM	@1	Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone	(1)GO (2)LT (6)QTE	2051
Tue 10/19/2021	4,700 M @F	PFM Financial Advisors LLC	School District of MARION	3.00%
11:00 AM	@1	Thrun Law Firm	(1)GO (2)LT 2021 School Building and Site Bonds	2033

Negotiated Sales

Sales Date	Bid Type	FA	County	Rate
Time	Amount	At Legal	Municipality / Debt Type / Purpose	Publications
Thu 09/30/2021	9,145 M	PFM Financial Advisors LLC	City of ISHPENING	
		Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone	(1)GO (2)LT (6)TAX Series 2021 LTGO	2041

Debt Type Legend	3 - Other Security	4 - Debt Feature	6 - Tax Designation	Sales Legend	Bid Acceptor	Publisher
1 - Debt Type COCP Certificate of Participation GO General Obligation GOAU General Obligation/Authority GOSA General Obligation/Special Assessment IO Installment Obligation OTH Other Exempt REV Revenue REVAH Revenue/Authority SA Special Assessment 2 - Tax Based Security LT Limited Tax Security UT Unlimited Tax Security XT No Tax Security	BAN Bond Anticipation EREV Electric Revenues GAN Grant Anticipation GOP GO Pledge LREV Lease Revenues MREV Mortgage Revenues MTF State Transportation Fund PREV Public Utility Revenues RAN Revenue Anticipation REV Revenues SAN State Aid SREV Sewer Revenues SS Self Supporting TAN Tax Anticipation Note TAX Income/Sales Tax UREV Use Fee Revenues WREV Water Revenues XSEC No Security	BQ Bank Qualified CAB Capital Appreciation Bonds GF General Fund Pledge GOP Hospital Qualified NG State School Fun Not Qualified QU State School Fun Qualified XF No Feature 5 - Enhancement ESC Escrowed CAB Government National Mortgage Assoc. INS Insured INSLC Insured - Letter of Credit INSNIC Insured - No Credit Support LOC Letter of Credit NCS No Credit Support XEN No Enhancement	AMT Alternative Minimum Tax PAB Private Activity Bond QTE Qualified Tax Exempt TAX Taxable XTD No Designation 7 - USA Involvement FHA Federal Housing Authority HUD Housing Urban Development USDA U.S. Dept. Agriculture USPU U.S.A. Purchase USRD USDA Rural Development XUSA No USA Involvement 8 - Refunding RF Refunding XR Non Refunding	S Sealed P PFM Auction E Electronic A Party A Auction E Email F Fax P Phone	1 MAC Office 2 Bendzinski & Co 3 Issuer Office	DLN Detroit Legal News BB Bond Buyer IDI i-Deal Prospectus Benz Bendzinski & Co Donnelley Donnelley Financial FPR Financial Printing IM Imagemaster Financial Publishing Bovee Bovee of Detroit MunD MuniDeals Com World World Financial Printing Thru Thompson Financial MunO MuniOS DMuni Digital Muni

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PEACEMAKING:

Through the Peacemaking process, participants learn how to communicate

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does not mean no progress has been made.

Conclusion
Our course leaders taught us numerous lessons, many of which are unique to those learned in a traditional legal setting. One of our most important takeaways from this course was learning how to listen effectively to others as well as to our own feelings. We worked on listening to and separating out facts, emotions, and interests. This is obviously unique

to the traditional law school "IRAC" formulation during cases, but in Peacemaking circles, it was important to recognize and validate emotions.

Acknowledging and "leaning into" our emotions allows us to truly connect with others and change for the better. We will take the lessons we learned about trust, respect, love, and humility with us not only our careers, but our personal lives as well. These are life-long skills that if utilized by many have the power to create

stronger, more compassionate communities. We may even utilize these skills during conflicts at the dinner table in honor of our mentor Judge Connors.

Katie Orringer was accepted to the University of Michigan Law School and will be a part of the Class of 2025. She graduated from Williams College with honors in Political Science and minors in Environmental Studies and Leadership Studies. She is currently taking a gap year before

she begins law school and is working for Judge Connors of the primarily on his Peacemaking initiatives. Megan Wang is a rising senior at the University of Michigan. She is majoring in Sociology and minoring in Crime and Justice. She plans to take a gap year after graduation and pursue her goal of attending law school shortly after. This past summer, she interned for Judge Connors, gaining valuable experience in the courtroom and learning about Peacemaking.

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Heart Attack STROKE Kidney Failure
Next time you joke about high blood pressure... Laugh these off!
Uncontrolled high blood pressure may lead to all of the above. 50 million Americans have high blood pressure and half don't even know it. Get your blood pressure checked regularly and call for more information.
NE National Kidney Foundation