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Vol. CXXX, No. 61

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

75 Cents

## DAILY BRIEFS

### Former NFL and college assistant coach pleads not guilty to hacking for women's images

DETROIT (AP) — A judge entered a not-guilty plea Monday for a former Baltimore Ravens and University of Michigan assistant football coach who is charged with hacking into the computer accounts of thousands of college athletes to find intimate images, primarily of women.

Matt Weiss' appearance in federal court in Detroit was brief and came four days after a 14-page indictment was filed. He's accused of unauthorized computer access and identity theft from 2015 until early 2023.

Weiss and attorney Douglas Mullkoff waived a public reading of the indictment and later declined to comment during a cold, windy walk to a parking lot.

Separately, a lawsuit seeking class-action status was filed Friday on behalf of a former University of Michigan female gymnast and a former member of the women's soccer team.

The university violated its duty "by failing to supervise and monitor Weiss and as a result plaintiffs and thousands of others have had their privacy illegally invaded," attorney Parker Stinar said in the lawsuit.

The university declined to comment. Weiss gained access to the databases of more than 100 colleges and universities that were maintained by a third-party vendor, Keffer Development Services, and then downloaded personal information and medical data of more than 150,000 athletes, according to the indictment.

He then got access to the social media, email and cloud storage accounts of more than 2,000 athletes, as well as more than 1,300 students or alumni from schools across the country, the indictment states.

"His goal was to obtain private photographs and videos never intended to be shared beyond intimate partners," according to the indictment.

Weiss spent two seasons with Michigan before he was fired in 2023 for not cooperating with a school investigation. He was co-offensive coordinator in 2022 when the Wolverines were 13-1 and played in the college football playoff.

He had previously spent more than a decade with the NFL's Ravens in various coaching roles.

### Annual MAJ Women's Caucus Judicial Mixer hosted April 8

The Michigan Association for Justice Women's Caucus will host its 7th Annual Women's Caucus Judicial Mixer "Sip & Socialize" on Tuesday, April 8, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Hazel's, 1 Peabody Street in Birmingham.

Space for this event is limited and registration is required. To register, visit [www.michiganjustice.org](http://www.michiganjustice.org) and click on "events."

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Photo by John Meiu

With the grandeur of the Million-Dollar Courtroom as a backdrop, Ireland Attorney General Rossa Fanning (fourth from right) was part of a photo op last Thursday at the federal courthouse in Detroit. Pictured (l-r) are U.S. Magistrate Judge Anthony Patti, U.S. District Judge Shalina Kumar, U.S. District Judge Stephen Murphy, Ireland Consul General Brian Cahalane, U.S. District Chief Judge Sean Cox, Attorney General Rossa Fanning, State Bar President Joseph McGill, U.S. District Judge Laurie Michelson, and U.S. District Judge Brandy McMillion.

## Touch of green

Attorney General of Ireland makes the rounds in U.S.

By TOM KIRVAN  
Legal News

When he visited Michigan last week on a goodwill tour, Ireland Attorney General Rossa Fanning experienced a homecoming of sorts.

Now in his third year as Ireland's chief law officer and legal adviser to the government, Fanning spent part of a day in Ann Arbor delivering a lecture at the University of Michigan Law School, where 25 years ago he earned an LL.M. degree as a Fulbright Scholar.

"It was special to be back at the University of Michigan, where I have many fond memories of my time studying there," said Fanning, who arrived in Ann Arbor in 1999 after obtaining his law degree from the University College Dublin. "It was a transformative year for me, as I didn't know anyone there when I arrived and then left a year later with lifelong friends."

Soon after earning his master of laws degree in 2000, Fanning received job offers from two major firms in New York and Washington, D.C., a pair of enticing options that he considered before deciding to return to Ireland to begin his legal career.

It wouldn't take long for Fanning to enjoy the taste of legal success, as within a short span he established a reputation as one of Ireland's most highly regarded barristers, representing such clients as Google, Facebook, and Twitter,

as well as star golfer Rory McIlroy, one of the most popular figures on the international golf circuit. He also successfully represented a concert promoter who sued the American singing and songwriting superstar Prince for canceling a concert after millions of euros had been spent promoting and booking the musical event.

Then in December 2022, after spending more than two decades in private practice, Fanning was nominated to become attorney general of Ireland, a coveted appointment that required him to divest himself from all matters tied to his law practice.

"Within a matter of days, I went from representing a range of business clients to representing the interests of the Irish government instead," Fanning recounted during a brief interview at the federal courthouse in Detroit on March 20. "It was a very quick transition from one to the other."

Fanning made his comments to The Legal News following a luncheon reception held in his honor that was hosted in the courthouse by Chief Judge Sean Cox of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Along with a number of his judicial colleagues from the Eastern District bench, Chief Judge Cox accompanied Fanning on a tour of the "Million-Dollar Courtroom," the magnificently restored courtroom that features a mix of marble and mahogany that has dazzled legal practitioners and judicial observers for decades.

"It is truly one of the finest courtrooms that I've ever seen," said Fanning, marveling at the architectural detail throughout, including the two 12-foot columns made of white marble with pink marble bases that are emblematic of the "strength of justice."

Fanning and several members of his staff came stateside last week as part of his country's outreach efforts that are annually tied to the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. In 2024, Fanning spent St. Patrick's Day in Buenos Aires, Argentina, enjoying the special Irish holiday by visiting the Southern Hemisphere.

This year, before arriving in Michigan, Fanning made official visits to Butte, Mont. and the Colorado capital of Denver to spread the goodwill of the Irish.

When he touched down in the Great Lakes State, Fanning said he had "the pleasure of meeting" with Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Attorney General Dana Nessel, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Congressman Debbie Dingell, and State Senator Sue Shink.

"During my visit, I met three attorneys general, two governors, and several mayors, all of whom were very welcoming and gracious," said Fanning. "I especially want to thank (State Bar President) Joe McGill for inviting me to a meeting of the Irish-American Lawyers and for all his hospitality and help during my stay."

## ACG Detroit announces winners of 10th Annual M&A All Star Awards

Recipients to be recognized May 7

ACG Detroit, a nearly 400-member organization of middle-market M&A professionals, has announced the winners of the 10th annual M&A All Star Awards. The winners will be honored at The Townsend Hotel in Birmingham, Michigan, on May 7 from 6-8:30 p.m.

"Amid another year of challenging economic conditions and a growing backlog of deals, this year's honorees have demonstrated remarkable agility and innovation, undoubtedly showcasing the M&A community's adaptability and persistence," said Bryan Berent, chair of the M&A All Star Awards committee. "This year's winners exemplify the continued strength of Detroit's deal community, and we are honored to recognize and celebrate their achievements alongside the region's premier dealmakers at our biggest event of the year."

The 10th annual M&A All Star Award winners are:



**Deal of the Year (Over \$50M)**  
Huron Capital Sale of ExperiGreen  
Lawn Care to Wind Point Partners  
**Deal of the Year (Under \$50M)**  
N.A. Mans & Sons, Inc. Acquisition of Michigan Timber & Truss, Inc.  
**Dealmaker of the Year**  
PMCF Investment Banking  
**Investment Banker of the Year**  
Chris Caron, Managing Director, Blue River Financial Group  
**Advisor of the Year**  
Matthew VanWasshnova, Partner, Honigman

**Rising Star**  
Ashley Gray, Managing Director, Aquila Equity Partners  
**Thomas S. Vaughn Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Mike Kulka (Posthumous), Co-founder and former CEO, PM Environmental Inc.  
Foley & Lardner, LLP serves as the event's Diamond sponsor. Ruby sponsors include BDO, Datasite, DBusiness and Peninsula Capital Partners. Emerald sponsors include AON and Blue River Financial Group.

## The Conversation

Trump seeks to starve libraries and museums of funding by shuttering little-known agency

By DEVON AKMON  
Michigan State University

(THE CONVERSATION) — On March 14, 2025, the Trump administration issued an executive order that called for the dismantling of seven federal agencies "to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law." They ranged from the United States Agency for Global Media, which oversees Voice of America, to the Minority Business Development Agency.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services was also on the list. Congress created the IMLS in 1996 through the Museum and Library Services Act. The law merged the Institute of Museum Services, which was established in 1976, with the Library Programs Office of the Department of Education.

By combining these two departments, Congress sought to create an overarching agency that could more cohesively and strategically support American museums and libraries. The agency's mission, programs and funding have been reaffirmed through subsequent legislation, such as the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003.

The Conversation U.S. interviewed Devon Akmon, who is the director of the MSU Museum at Michigan State University. He explained how the agency supports the nation's cultural institutions and local communities — and what could be lost if the agency were dissolved.

### What does the Institute of Museum and Library Services do?

The agency provides financial support to a wide array of cultural and educational institutions, including art, science and history museums, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens and historic sites. Libraries of all types — public, academic, school and research — also benefit from the agency's funding.

Through grants, research and policy initiatives, the IMLS helps these institutions better serve their communities.

In the 2019 fiscal year, for example, the IMLS awarded funds to libraries in Nebraska to support economic development in 30 rural communities. The project created rotating "innovation studios" in local libraries and provided residents with tools, instructional materials and programming to foster entrepreneurship and creativity. More recently, IMLS awarded a grant to the Hands On Children's Museum to develop a toolkit that museums across the country can use to support families with relatives who are in prison.

For libraries, the IMLS might fund technology upgrades, such as virtual reality learning stations, AI-assisted research aids or digitization of rare books. The agency also pays for community programs that take place in libraries, from early childhood reading initiatives to workshops that help people land jobs.

### How has the Institute of Museum and Library Services supported your work at the MSU Museum?

IMLS grants have played a vital role in enabling the MSU Museum to preserve, enhance and expand access to its collections.

For example, we've used IMLS grants to develop high-quality audio aids for museum visitors who are blind or have poor vision. Recent funding has supported the digitization of over 2,000 vertebrate specimens, including rare and endangered species.

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