

# THE BALTIMORE Barrister

WINTER 2023

VOL 13 | NO 1



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# JEZIC & MOYSE

## A WINNING DEFENSE

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#### Andrew Jezic

- Top 10 MD Lawyers, Superlawyers, 2022 and 2023
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Published West co-author, *Maryland Law of Confessions*
- Dozens of acquittals in felony jury trials



#### David Moyse

- Washingtonian Best Lawyers, 2017-2022
- Superlawyers Best Lawyers, Maryland, 2014-2023
- Chair, Montgomery County Criminal Law Section
- Handled 50+ jury trials

### IMMIGRATION



#### Tamara Jezic

- Washingtonian Best Lawyers, 2015-2022
- Harvard Law School
- Lectured around the U.S. on asylum law to immigration lawyers
- Several precedent-setting 4th Circuit wins



#### Himedes Chicas

- Washingtonian Best Lawyers, 2017-2022
- Maryland Federal Public Defender's on-call expert consultant
- Several precedent-setting BIA and Fourth Circuit decisions

\*Each case is different; prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

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# Table of Contents

Winter 2023 Barrister

4	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	17	YLD NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR
5	YLD CHAIR'S MESSAGE	19	NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY
6	PROTECTING ASSETS FROM MEDICAID ESTATE RECOVERY THROUGH HARDSHIP WAIVERS	20	THE 27TH ANNUAL PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON
8	SHARING OUR DISABILITY EXPERIENCE AND ITS ACCEPTANCE (OR NOT)...	23	BABC'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
11	HATS OFF TO SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES	24	ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFT DROP-OFF
13	BABC SUPREME COURT GROUP ADMISSION	25	YLD ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN SHELTERS
14	SLS PARALEGAL JACQUELINE JONES RECEIVES MLSC AWARD		
15	INVESTITURE OF THE HONORABLE CHARLES M. BLOMQUIST		

## The Baltimore Barrister

*Editorial Offices*

The Bar Association of Baltimore City, Inc.  
111 N. Calvert Street, Suite 627  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
410-539-5936

info@baltimorebar.org | www.baltimorebar.org

### Headquarters Staff

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*Executive Director*

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Bar Association of Baltimore City's  
Historical Committee  
Presents



### Thursdays at the Museum The Reckoning of Republican Allies

February 2, 2023  
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
via Zoom



**Domonique Flowers, Esq.**  
*PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTER OF MARYLAND*

Domonique Flowers will present the results of his thesis, *The Reckoning of Republican Allies*. This thesis examines the cooperative relationship between black and white post Reconstruction Republican leaders to understand what effect it had on the trajectory of black political participation in Baltimore between 1865 and 1908. Specifically, this study interrogates the nature of the relationship between black and white Republican leaders in Baltimore following the end of the Civil War; traces the nature of this relationship change over time; and details the impact of these changes on black political participation in Baltimore City.

FREE for BABC members and friends,  
but registration required. Register at  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZB02vuoyQAqaS1j62bPVwg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZB02vuoyQAqaS1j62bPVwg).

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# New Year, Same Commitment

## The President's Report

*The Honorable Myshala E. Middleton, President, Bar Association of Baltimore City*



I hope you enjoyed spending time with family and friends during the Holidays. A new year provides a wonderful chance for a new beginning. However, quite often we do not continue with our resolutions beyond the first of February. :) This year I am asking you to join me in maintaining our resolve to serve the citizens of Baltimore City and to recommit to the Bar Association of Baltimore City.

One way to recommit is to volunteer for Senior Legal Services (SLS). Founded in 1992, SLS is a joint program of The Bar Association of Baltimore City and the Baltimore Bar Foundation. SLS provides vital pro bono legal services to low-income seniors, aged 60 and over, in Baltimore City. Volunteer attorneys advise and represent clients on a broad range of civil legal matters, including estate planning, consumer and debt collection issues, landlord/tenant disputes, housing matters, foreclosure prevention, probate, and guardianship.

SLS is always looking for attorneys to serve on their volunteer attorney panel. Please reach out to Jacqueline Jones at [jjones@baltimorebar.org](mailto:jjones@baltimorebar.org) to sign up and learn more.

Here is a link sign-up to become a volunteer attorney <https://baltimorebar.org/volunteer/apply-to-be-a-volunteer-lawyer/>.

Thank you for your continued resolve to support the Baltimore community and the Bar Association of Baltimore City.

*Happy New Year!*

### The Baltimore Bar Foundation, Inc.

presents

*Survive & Thrive*

### How to Open and Grow Your Law Firm

This full-day program is designed specifically for new attorneys, law students or anyone planning to open their own firm.

You will hear from Baltimore's most successful solo practitioners and members of the Judiciary on:

- The Nuts and Bolts of Opening a Firm
- How to Manage Your Finances Without Breaking the Bank
- Best Marketing Practices
- How to Avoid a Grievance
- Best Practice Tips From The District and Circuit Court Benches

Friday, March 31, 2023

7:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This program is live at  
Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP  
One South Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

#### Price for Attendance

- \$100 Law Students
  - \$125 Gov't/Public Interest Lawyers
  - \$175 BABC Members
  - \$200 Non-Members
- Price includes breakfast, lunch, and networking reception.

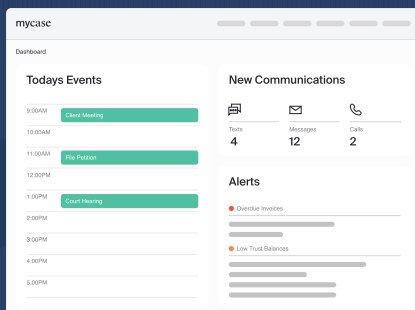
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# Ending 2022 on a High Note

## Young Lawyers' Division Update

*James P. Robinson, Esq., YLD Chair, Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP*



The YLD ended 2022 on a high note. On December 20, 2022, the YLD hosted its annual Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters. The event was a resounding success. Close to 100 children and families attended the Holiday Party at the Maryland Science Center where they were entertained by a magic show, face painting and crafts, local sports mascots, and of course, Santa. At the end of the night, the children received bags of new Christmas gifts that

had been generously donated.

The Holiday Party is a massive undertaking, and it would not have been possible without the time and effort of the dozens of volunteers who came to lend a helping hand. I would be remiss if I did not thank our perpetual volunteer and crowd-favorite, Wilhelm J. Joseph, Jr., who continued his long-running stint as Santa. Thank you, Mr. Joseph! Special thanks is also owed to Greg Waterworth. Greg is the Co-Chair of YLD's Public Service Committee and spear-headed this year's Holiday Party. Beginning in the summer, Greg spent countless hours planning the party and making all the necessary arrangements with the venue, entertainment, and caterer. Greg was unfortunately ill the night of the party and could not attend, but his planning and preparation were so thorough that the event still went off without a hitch. Thank you, Greg!

The Holiday Party is funded by the YLD through generous donations from individual and law firm donors and, most significantly, the silent auction held at the BABC's Annual Holiday Party. The majority of the silent auction items were secured not only by Greg Waterworth, but also by Jacob Ziff and Stephen Craig, who serve as the Co-Chairs of the YLD's Events Committee. In the months leading up to the BABC's Holiday Party, Jake, Steve, and Greg devoted hours to contacting local businesses requesting donations for the silent auction. This was not an easy task, as many businesses that had donated silent auction items in the past no longer existed or were not in a financial position to donate items because of the pandemic. But despite these obstacles, they secured dozens of items for the silent auction. Thank you, Jake, Steve, and Greg for all your hard work!

December also featured a CLE event. On December 15, 2022, the YLD CLE Committee held a virtual *Lunch & Learn: A View from the Bench and Tips for Young Lawyers*, which featured The Honorable Ana D. Hernandez and the Honorable Catherine Chen, both from the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City. The CLE was moderated by the

YLD's CLE Committee Co-Chairs, Kendrick McLeod and Kayla DiNuccio. Both judges provided useful tips for young lawyers practicing in the District Court. Thank you, Judge Chen and Judge Hernandez!

In the weeks ahead, the YLD will host several great events. On Thursday, January 19, YLD, along with the Maryland Association for Justice, will host a New Year Happy Hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Sammy's Trattoria in Mt. Vernon. The event is free for all law students, new and seasoned attorneys alike. And on Saturday, January 28, the YLD is hosting a Family Skate Date at the Mimi DiPietro Family Skating Center at Patterson Park from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The event is free to all BABC/YLD members and their family and friends and will include complimentary admission, skate rentals and hot cocoa. Hope to see you all there!



### TO: MEMBERS OF THE YOUNG LAWYERS' DIVISION

### FROM: SAMUEL PULVER, CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### RE: APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the Young Lawyers' Division (Samuel Pulver, Chair, Kerri Smith, Divya Potdar, Alison Schurick, Letam Duson, and Kate McComiskey) is soliciting applications for the following YLD positions for the 2023-2024 Bar year:

Chair Elect

Treasurer

Secretary

3 Members-At-Large

1 Elected Member

Applications may be made by anyone who is a young lawyer and a member of the BABC. Any member of the BABC may recommend the name of any Division member for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

If you are interested in being considered for any of the above positions, please write to Samuel Pulver, Chair, YLD Nominating Committee, c/o Bar Association of Baltimore City, 111 N. Calvert Street, Suite 627, Baltimore, MD 21202, or email to [info@baltimorebar.org](mailto:info@baltimorebar.org). **Your letter and resume must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2023.** All applicants or recommended persons must be available for an interview by the Nominating Committee between February 8-10, 2023.

# Protecting Assets from Medicaid Estate Recovery Through Hardship Waivers

*Timothy Chance, Esq., Tangled Title Attorney, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service*



At Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, and particularly within our *My Home My Deed My Legacy* program, our clients have encountered many barriers to homeownership and wealth building in Maryland's communities of color. For clients with tangled titles who are living in the family home still titled in a deceased relative's name, *Medicaid Estate Recovery* is one such barrier.

Beginning with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) of 1982, Maryland was permitted, but not required, to impose pre-death liens on a beneficiary's property under certain circumstances.<sup>1</sup> While estate recovery does not begin until the Medicaid recipient dies, a TEFRA lien may be placed against the real property of a recipient of any age who is an inpatient of a medical institution if they have been deemed permanently institutionalized. Additionally, a TEFRA lien does not interfere with the recipient's use of the home but, if a Medicaid recipient with property subject to a TEFRA lien attempts to transfer the house, Maryland can oblige them to use the equity value of the home to repay past Medicaid spending. If the recipient is discharged and returns home, the lien must be released. Also, a lien may not be placed if a spouse, child under 21, or a blind or permanently disabled child of any age reside in the home.

Then in 1993, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) required States to pursue recovery from the estates of three categories of beneficiaries: (1) individuals who were expected to be permanently institutionalized; (2) individuals who received Medicaid when they were age 55 or older – when they received certain services; and (3) individuals with long-term care insurance policies under certain circumstances. There are some exceptions to OBRA recovery. If a beneficiary has a surviving spouse, recovery must be deferred until after the spouse's death. States can also choose to exempt such estates from recovery rather than pursue them after the spouse's death. States must also exempt recovery if a beneficiary has a child who is under age 21 or a child of any age who is blind or has a disability.

If none of these three exemptions apply, recovery may be waived due to a substantial hardship. Hardship can be established if there is a dependent who: (1) lived in the property at the time of the Medicaid recipient's death; (2) lived there continuously for a period of two years before the Medicaid recipient's death; and (3) cannot find another place to live.<sup>2</sup> To establish that the dependent lived in the property prior to the recipient's death and during, the recipient will need to send proof, such as old mail, to the Maryland Department of Health. The Maryland Department of Health will also consider the

dependent's household income to determine if the dependent can find another place to live. Sometimes, when all those conditions are not met, Medicaid will allow the dependent to continue to live in the property but may place a non-interest-bearing mortgage on the property. Medicaid, based on the dependent's ability to pay, determines monthly payments.

Medicaid's estate recovery policy punishes low-income families. Medicaid beneficiaries have few assets, given that most individuals must meet asset limits to qualify for coverage. Additionally, wealthy families can legally shield assets from Medicaid estate recovery. This leaves the burden of estate recovery to fall primarily on those of modest means and this disproportionately affects people of color given the disparities in household wealth. Beyond falling primarily on families of color, estate recovery recoups extraordinarily little, only about 0.55 percent of total long term treatment spending.<sup>3</sup> In Maryland, during 2019 out of 2,378 estates that were pursued, only 498 were recovered with an average recovery of \$5,508.37 and a minimum recovery of \$168.64.<sup>4</sup> Medicaid estate recovery, like the tax sale system, predatory lending, redlining, and blockbusting has contributed to the extraction of wealth in communities of color. Hardship waivers are one way to combat this extraction, but it is underutilized. In 2018, only four hardship waiver applications were filed in Maryland.<sup>5</sup> The ability to prove hardship usually requires the help of a lawyer, which not everyone can afford, so it is critical that families receive pro bono legal representation in these matters. It is equally important that more people know about the program in general, whether attorneys or members of the public.

*Timothy Chance, Esq. is the Tangled Title Staff Attorney at Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. His practice focuses on estate planning, estate administration and housing issues for Marylanders of limited means.*

<sup>1</sup><https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/medicaid-estate-recovery-0>

<sup>2</sup>COMAR 10.09.24.15 A-3 (3)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.macpac.gov/publication/medicaid-estate-recovery-improving-policy-and-promoting-equity/>

<sup>4</sup>*Id.*

<sup>5</sup>*Id.*





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# Sharing our Disability Experience and Its Acceptance (or not) in the Legal Profession

*Gary C. Norman, Esq.,<sup>1</sup> Norman Access and Conflict Resolution Consultants Group*

*Daniel Hodges, J.D.,<sup>2</sup> President and Co-Founder, Pieces of Me Foundation*

*Richard E. Shermanski, Esq.,<sup>3</sup> Associate Director for Ethics Adjudication, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*



“Men at some times are masters of their fates. The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves, that we are underlings.”

All professions, including the legal profession, must accept disability as a dimension of diversity. Two amazing legal professionals with disabilities, Daniel Hodge, J.D., President and Co-Founder of Pieces of Me Foundation and Richard Shermanski, Esq., ASHA Associate Director for Ethics Adjudication possess individual experiences and insights related to disability inclusion. I conversed with them as to the question: What does it mean for the legal profession truly to be inclusive of people with disabilities?

## Commentary

One hopes that an understanding of all our mutual frailty but our ability to contribute has started. “As the United States begins the shift to a majority-minority country, it is the responsibility of individuals at all levels of the legal profession to embrace a new paradigm that recognizes the value of diversity.” Whether we work virtually with no disability, whether we work virtually with a disability, even one caused by COVID-19, let us commit to this truth. Our economy requires all our talents. The alternative is more people not engaging the workforce, a net loss to the economy not to mention to our fellow citizens from the leadership, perspective,



and skills lawyers bring to public policy or to public service. To actualize this goal, disability must be a part of our diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts as a profession.

A mixture of “hard law,” “soft law,” and technology change comprise fundamental levers towards achieving inclusion. Legal tools should nudge institutions and systems, and in some cases, bolster gains already made through societal shifts in thinking. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, are examples of how shifts in societal thinking proceeded future legal developments. Moreover, a need exists to shift inclusion as a positive net conversation rather than a legal compliance burden.

Soft law measures, such as non-binding best practices and codes of conduct, is critical in expanding and in deepening inclusion. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals and metrics arguably falls within this rubric. “The idea of using well thought out, written, and documented best practices for diversity and inclusion is commonplace when dealing with race, ethnicity, and gender, but is noticeably absent when we study the population of people with disabilities.” The Commission on Disability Rights, in 2009, established a Pledge for

Change as a strategy for increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion. “In addition to using more accessible technology, the ABA encourages law firms to include disability in their diversity efforts.” Yet the results are arguably not that forthcoming. That stated, legal employers increasingly engage Employee Resource Groups as a strategy. State Bar Associations must arguably play a supportive role in promoting disability inclusion.

In 2022, I enjoyed the honor of a short-term Fellowship at the Wilson Center for federal executives related to Artificial Intelligence. The prestigious organization honored me on two-levels: people with disabilities remain under-represented in many prestigious developmental programs. Moreover, it is frankly a win-win when I can make my screen-reader work. Seriously, emerging technology, such as Artificial Intelligence or AI, may amplify disability inclusion or further erode hard-won gains.

Disability impacts how one navigates life and otherwise resolves challenges physically, emotionally, or cognitively. This difference should be observed as an asset and not as an outlier and deficit to be eliminated. The reliance by AI on the standard rather than the outlier or the non-standard reinforces bias and discrimination. This could reinforce the long-standing pressure of lawyers with disabilities to obfuscate disability-specific requests, or even pride, because of the risk of confronting bias and stigma.

When one confronts daily micro-aggressions and utter bias about an identity and legal status as not only a blind person, but as an attorney; one may naturally wish for a personal and professional pathway not characterized with a disability. As one example of bias and poor behavior that remains, I have partaken breakfast with a former Executive Director of the state bar association who hinted that I would not be interested in fashion at the famous avenue in Paris, France. On more than one occasion, materials have not been provided in advance, nevertheless in accessible form. Yet, I have mentored and opened doors to many, many, law students and lawyers with and without disabilities, leveraging my disability as a unique gift and element of overall public policy. In addition, I have forged a career, sometimes with extra effort than most other lawyers, with a wonderful sidekick: first Mr. Langer, then Brother Pilot, and now Brother Bowie.

Therefore, I thought it important for you to learn of comments and insights by a couple of other legal professionals with disabilities. Each of these gentlemen have confronted intractable levels of barriers or bias that remain in our society. Yet Daniel and Richard are finding their own path in doing meaningful work that shapes what it means to be differently abled during the 21st Century.

## Coffee Conversation

*What is the state of disability inclusion? (As to overall society and then as to the legal profession)*

**Daniel:** Institutions, systems, and in some cases, individuals possess meager understanding of the complicated history and the obstacles that all people with disabilities daily experience. Arguably, society has grasped that there is an issue but without full comprehension of depth, breadth, or general complexity. Converting vague awareness to actionable comprehension has proven to be a challenge.



**Richard:** I serve on my local County Commission for People with Disabilities. I also thank the Maryland State Bar Association and its Leadership Academy for providing me the opportunity to develop as a young attorney with or without a disability. Specifically, I possess the privilege of observing and providing input into the amount of time and effort our local government specifically dedicates to helping those with disabilities. Politicians, employers, and other actors want arguably to collaborate with our community with a willingness to provide various accommodations. Yet, many of them require education, technical assistance, and also managers, or employees, or vendors who know the disability experience personally.

**What makes you proud to be a lawyer with a disability?**

**Daniel:** As the co-founder and president of a non-profit, I have the privilege of performing meaningful work every day. For some, I unconventionally use my legal education. My lived experience with a disability and my legal education has infused and directly affects the laws, policies, and “soft law” measures for which I advocate and the strategies I use to achieve the non-profit’s objectives.

**Richard:** My invisible disability has enabled me, even taught me, to “work with a problem” and never relinquish my life goals. Specifically, I encountered significant barriers in law school and then barriers and failures when sitting for the bar exam. While my journey into the legal profession has not been simple, I possess pride in my status as a lawyer. Through the mentorship of gentlemen like Daniel and you (Gary), I am learning to accept the disability element of my personal and professional brand.

**What kind of inadvertent or intentional barriers do you observe other Attorneys/Professionals impose or have imposed?**

**Daniel:** The legal profession has narrowly defined what it means to be a successful lawyer. Specifically, the ever-present search for excellence has led to us idealizing certain traits that may or may not be material. For instance, is it really necessary for someone to work that 10-hour shift consecutively? Or could that workload be broken up in a manageable way for someone with chronic pain/fatigue? Likewise, if I am able to comprehend and assess written material, why should it matter if I utilized hard copy print or digital technology to do so? In most cases, these distinctions are irrelevant. Harking on them fails to raise the standard of work, but it has the unfortunate consequence of relegating qualified applicants to form rejection letters.

**Richard:** Barriers to acquiring reasonable accommodations in law school education, in licensure examinations, and then in the practice of law or in the job setting segregate law students with disabilities and lawyers with disabilities as a deficit and not as an asset. For attorneys with my invisible disability, attitudinal barriers particularly inhibit advancement. Examples of challenges encountered with my invisible disability include failing to prioritize projects or missing typos on legal documents. Lawyers with invisible disabilities often hear this following trope. “You do not work hard enough.”

**What advice do you have for future Attorneys with disabilities?**

**Daniel:** As someone who lives with chronic pain and blindness, I generally foreclosed the possibility of pursuing a career in the law. A couple of mentors encouraged me to dream expansively. I never would have even applied to law school, much less be where I am today, but for the mentorship of many people with and without disabilities who encouraged me to think of disability as an asset and not as a deficit.

**Richard:** Lawyers can have a straightforward mentality that, to seek help, is to admit weakness. By its very virtue, becoming a lawyer and practicing law is meant to be difficult, even for those without disabilities. No medal or award is waiting at some imaginary finish line. I wish I had actively defined my disability earlier in life and then sought assistance. That would have been helpful in adjusting to my invisible disability and the way it influences how I learn or practice. I owe where I am to the support of mental health experts that allowed me to feel heard and assisted me with my medication regimen.

In conclusion, I reflect upon these following words, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” I enjoyed recently interviewing a couple of gentlemen I consider to be emerging giants in the “March of Progress” for disability inclusion: Daniel and Richard. In addition, a confluence of law and “advances in technological applications” may spur inclusion. I owe it to these giants to influence positive public policy and the role of lawyers with disabilities to serve in its stewardship.

<sup>1</sup>Gary is a lawyer, a consultant, and an author. He serves on the Board of Governors at the Maryland State Bar Association. The opinions stated in this column do not represent the views or official positions of any of his for-profit or pro bono clients or of any Board on which he may serve. He writes in his private capacity.

<sup>2</sup>Daniel is an activist dedicated to helping people with disabilities and chronic illnesses achieve their full potential. Mr. Hodges is President and Co-Founder of Pieces of Me Foundation. This is a non-profit dedicated to a collaborative and inclusion-informed approach to addressing disparities confronted by people with disabilities, focusing on healthcare. As a blind man and a person with chronic pain and other conditions, he has experienced a life of surpassing low expectations by others, regularly striving to help other people with disabilities to do the same.

<sup>3</sup>Richard is a lawyer who is licensed in Maryland. He is a 2022-23 Leadership Academy Fellow of the Maryland State Bar Association and serves as ASHA Associate director for Ethics Adjudication. Gary is his class mentor within the Leadership Academy. Richard writes in his private capacity.

<sup>4</sup>William Shakespeare 1564-1616, *Julius Caesar*, Act 1, Scene 6, Line 140 (N.Y. Dover Publications 1991)

<sup>5</sup>Heli Garrido Hula, *Diversity in the Legal Profession: Moving from Rhetoric to Reality*, 4 Colum. J. Race & L. 1, 22 (2013)

<sup>6</sup>See e.g. Gary C. Norman, *Diversity in the Legal Field Means the Inclusion of Lawyers with Disabilities*, June 25, 2019, <https://www.acslaw.org/expertforum/leading-the-way-increase-diversity-and-inclusion-of-lawyers-with-disabilities-in-the-field-and-in-the-public-arena/>

<sup>7</sup>This following article has a good if brief definition of “soft law” in terms of its specific tools, e.g., codes of conduct. The regulations related to various forms of anti-discrimination that the EEOC enforces would be an example of “hard law.” Dr. Jenifer Zerk, Chatham House: International Affairs Think Tank, *Influence of Soft Law Grows in international Governance*, Comment, June 17, 2021, <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2021/06/influence-soft-law-grows-international-governance#main-content>

<sup>8</sup>*Id.*

<sup>9</sup>Leslie Paige Wolfson, *The Law Versus Best Practices: Are People with Disabilities Included in Your Diversity Practices?* 34 No. 8 ACC Docket 62, 263-64 (Oct. 2016)

<sup>10</sup>Stephanie Villinski, *It is Time to Remove Professional Barriers for Lawyers with Disabilities*, LexBlog, Jan. 30, 2020, <https://www.2civility.org/its-time-to-remove-professional-barriers-for-lawyers-with-disabilities/>

<sup>11</sup>*Id.*

<sup>12</sup>*Id.*

<sup>13</sup>See e.g. Nicolas Economou, *Artificial Intelligence: The ABA’s Timely and Important Contribution*, [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/business\\_law/publications/committee\\_newsletters/legal\\_analytics/2019/201908/ai\\_law/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/business_law/publications/committee_newsletters/legal_analytics/2019/201908/ai_law/)

<sup>14</sup>Our conversation could have covered a hundred questions. However, the questions below address, I think, a good sampling of the many barriers within the legal profession. Yet, what I find impressive about Dan and Richard, and perhaps myself, is that we want to keep all conversations as positive ones that “call-in” rather than “call-out” our colleagues.

<sup>15</sup>Allison E. Laffey & Allison Ng, *Disability, and Inclusion in the Law: Challenges and Initiatives*, <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/litigation/committees/jiop/articles/2018/diversity-and-inclusion-in-the-law-challenges-and-initiatives/> (Last visited Jan. 14, 2021) (“Despite the increased emphasis on diversity and inclusion within the legal field over the past decade or so, the legal profession remains one of the least diverse of any profession.”).

<sup>16</sup>Jamie L. Vernon, *On the Shoulders of Giants*, Vol. 105 No. 4 American Scientist 194 (Jul.-Aug. 2017), <https://www.americanscientist.org/article/on-the-shoulders-of-giants>.

<sup>17</sup>Leandra A. Bedoni, *Technology and People with Disabilities: Ethical Considerations* (1993).

<sup>18</sup>I personally thank my two greatest daily mentors: my wife and my third guide dog, Bowie, for their support. More specifically, I am appreciative of the insights and the patience of these two gentlemen for sitting with me and in responding to my questions. I thank them for collaborating with me to edit their responses. Any inadvertent omissions or mistakes to translate their thoughts into a column-based conversation remain as those of my own.

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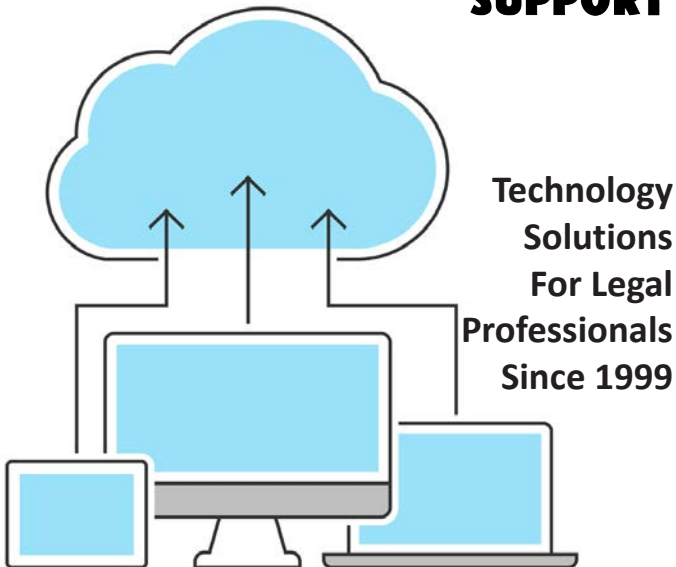
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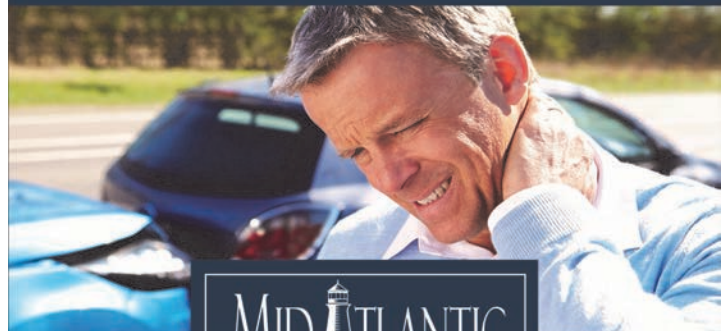


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# Hats Off to Senior Legal Services

*Jim Astrachan, Esq., Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP*



The holidays make us think of others: family, friends, and those we don't know who are less fortunate than we are for many reasons. I also think of Senior Legal Services which exists under the umbrella of the Bar Association of Baltimore City and the Baltimore Bar Foundation. Senior Legal Services and its employees help older people in need. The Baltimore Bar Foundation (BBF) is a 53-year-old organization created as the charitable arm of the Bar Association.

The Foundation has multiple objectives; including "investing" its funds in community activities that will foster and enhance the integrity of our profession and improve and facilitate the administration of justice in the Baltimore community.

Some might say the Foundation's most important sponsored activity occurs through Senior Legal Services, whose stated mission is to provide quality legal services to an underserved population, seniors, who are at risk of having their lives destroyed, so late in their lives, through the loss of their assets, home, or financial means. These services provide an aging community a means to age, thrive in place, peace of mind, and basic necessities like food and shelter. Surely, I want to feel secure knowing each of us will have a roof over our heads and food on the table in the last years of our life. One day, if we are lucky, each of us will be a part of an aging community, and likely we will need someone's help and support for one reason or another.

The lawyers and staff at Senior Legal Services, Viola Woolums,

Jackie Jones, Muriel van den Berg, Ian Clark, and Nicholas Pycha, and those who support their efforts do great work with limited resources. They are dedicated to their clients (City residents aged 60 and above, usually low-income) and provide to those clients the highest quality of legal services, including estate planning, foreclosure assistance, tax, and other services that assist this population, with the sort of vexing matters the solutions to which most of us, as lawyers, take for granted.

This brief note is written not as a call to donate. You can contribute money or volunteer your time and legal skills if you wish, and it will be appreciated. Instead, it's a thank you on behalf of the Trustees of the Foundation and those seniors they have and will serve, to the members of the Senior Legal Services' team, and their support. These people dedicate themselves to working every day to enhance the lives of the older population of our City and to enable those senior citizens to live full and productive lives. They provide critical services that, in many cases, allow seniors to keep their homes, and have enough money to pay for heat, food and water. Their work is important because they touch lives for the better. They go home, look in the mirror and know they have made a positive difference in the lives of people who needed help to achieve the basics.

*Jim Astrachan is a partner at Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP. He has been a mediator on the panel of neutrals maintained by the International Trademark Association (INTA) and has mediated IP and other cases for approximately 20 years. Since approximately 1997, he has taught IP courses in two Maryland law schools. See his bio at: <https://www.gdldlaw.com/attorneys/james-b-astrachan>.*



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*June 12, 2023*

*Woodholme Country Club  
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*The Baltimore Bar Foundation's*

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**7:00 p.m. - Dinner & Performance**



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## BABC Supreme Court Group Admission

October 31, 2022

Moved by our BABC President, The Honorable Myshala Middleton, ten BABC members were sworn into the Supreme Court. Once sworn, the members heard arguments for *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina*, which made national headlines.



## SLS Paralegal Jacqueline Jones Receives MLSC Award

November 14, 2022

Congratulations to our very own Jackie Jones, Senior Legal Service's most dedicated Paralegal. She was awarded the MLSC William L. Marbury Outstanding Advocate Award. We are so proud of you Jackie! Thank you for your hard work, sunny disposition, and huge heart. You are an asset to our program.



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## Investiture of the Honorable Charles M. Blomquist

November 17, 2022

The BABC was proud to bestow a crystal gavel to former BABC President, The Honorable Charles M. Blomquist, by current BABC President, The Honorable Myshala Middleton, at his investiture. We wish him the best for his time on the bench.



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FEBRUARY 7, 2023 | 12:30 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.  
VIA ZOOM

### Panelists

**Miriam Alexander, M.D., M.P.H.** | Medical Director  
of Employee Health & Wellness

**Drew Pate, M.D.** | Chief of Psychiatry

**Lisa Caplan, LCSW-C** | Director,  
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## YLD Networking Happy Hour

November 17, 2022

Another great turnout at the YLD's Networking Happy Hour. Thanks to our sponsor W. Home Group.





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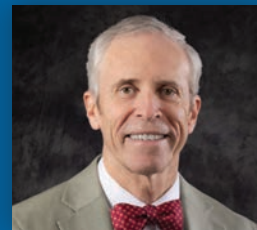
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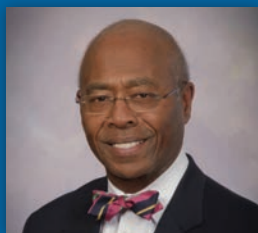
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## National Adoption Day

November 19, 2022

Another great event the BABC takes part in every year. This year, thirteen children were sworn into their forever families. Each family received a lovely gift basket, proclamations from the city and state, and freshly baked cookies. Thank you to Erika Slater and Ashley Ward Co-Chairs of this event and The Department of Social Services for sponsoring.





## The 27th Annual Past Presidents' Luncheon

November 22, 2022

What an amazing awards luncheon in honor of Past Presidents of the BABC. Congratulations to our award recipients James Motsay, Valda Ricks, Rachel Samakow, and The Honorable Lynn Stewart Mays. It was a pleasure to recognize our recently retired judges and newly admitted judges for Baltimore City.













# BABC's Annual Holiday Party

December 14, 2022

A lovely evening celebrating the holidays with great friends.

The fundraising auction and wine pull were fun and made a huge impact to the YLD's Annual Holiday Party for Children.





## Adopt-a-Family Gift Drop-Off

December 15, 2022



In the spirit of service and giving, BABC members adopted a family of five as well as three seniors. Board members bought gifts and staples for their adoptee and our very own President, The Honorable Myshala Middleton, bore bad weather to ensure all gifts were dropped off in time. Thank you to all who stepped up to volunteer to make the holidays just a little extra special for these people.

The Bar Association of Baltimore City's  
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### VIRTUAL VITTLES

*Cooking Class*

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February 9, 2023



6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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## YLD Family Skate Date

Ice Skating | Hot Cocoa | Fun

**January 28, 2023**  
**3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Mimi DiPietro Family Skating Center**  
200 S. Linwood Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

Event Includes complimentary admission,  
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**BABC, YLD members and their family and friends welcome.**  
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## YLD Annual Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters

December 21, 2022

The YLD held their Annual Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters on December 21, 2022. What an amazing team of attorneys and volunteers who put this together and made a special night for 100+ kids and their families at the Maryland Science Center. They provided a magnificent dinner, face painting, a magic show, crafts, a balloon artist and more.



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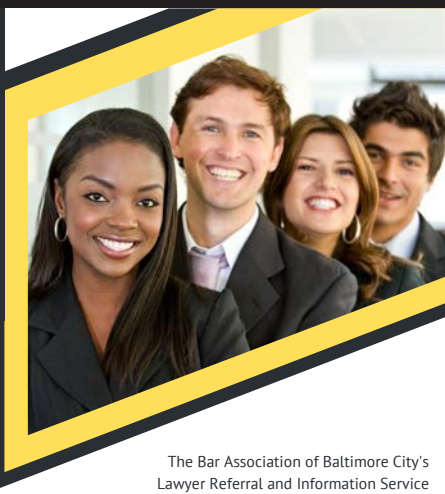
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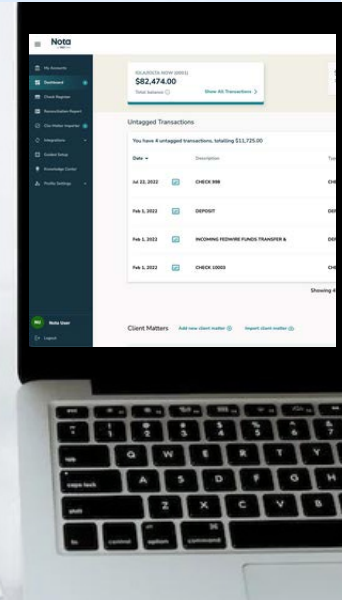
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