



# CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

### Ethics Hotline Volunteer

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“A theme of passion, enthusiasm and existentialism are prevalent for the month of March at the Bar Association of Baltimore City. In celebration of Women’s History Month, we’re turning back to clock with an article from Kelly Hugh Iverson’s time as President of the bar association.”

## Cemeteries, Existentialism, and the Legacy of the BABC



Kelly Iverson

The sun shone bright in a clear azure sky on what felt like the first true day of Spring. The warmth of the sun’s rays teased a promise of fair weather to come, as yellow jonquils and purple crocus dotted the landscape. The earliest flowering trees, reliable harbingers of spring each year, seemed to have burst into bloom almost overnight. On this marvelous early Spring day, a band of lawyers gathered for the Bar Association’s tour of Baltimore’s famous Green Mount Cemetery, with a focus on influential women of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Our delightful tour guide, Wayne Schaumberg, regaled us with tales of lives gone by – their triumphs, their tragedies, and for many, their fierce determination to leave this world a better place than they found it. Among those buried there are names we know well in Baltimore today: Garrett, Patterson, Hopkins, Bonaparte, and Poe (not Edgar Allen; he lies in Westminster by the University of Maryland School of Law), to name only a few. They

were leaders in law, government, science, education, medicine, charity and philanthropy, and the arts. We are fortunate to know about them and to remember them.

The wealthy and famous Baltimoreans of the 19th and early 20th centuries – each fascinating in their own right – were able to create legacies that loomed large for future generations. Some linger more in infamy than in fame: the unmarked grave of John Wilkes Booth, for example, is visited by many who leave pennies on the grave and in the crevices of the Booth family monument. Each penny is placed such that Lincoln’s head is facing up, as a symbol of ultimate triumph.

But looking around the very crowded cemetery, it soon was apparent that the wealthy and famous Baltimoreans we’d come to learn about were but a tiny fraction of the more than 67,000 souls resting under the sloping green hills of Green Mount Cemetery. Each individual grave marks a unique life story, each with its own legacy. Subsequent generations may not have the same degree of collective knowledge about those who were less wealthy and less famous, but most assuredly, each individual had an

impact, of some degree and for better or worse, on other lives of the day. For some who are not as well-known, later generations may never have the opportunity to appreciate their impact. These legacies are no less meaningful merely by virtue of being untold.

In the cemetery surrounded by memorials to more than 67,000 lives, it is probably no coincidence that my thoughts turned more existential as my year as Bar President draws nearer to its close. We are here to try to do some good, to connect with those around us, to get up again when we stumble, and to endeavor that our impact on the lives of others will be more often ‘for better’ and less often ‘for worse.’ I have been privileged and honored over the course of this year to be entrusted with the stewardship of this vibrant and energetic organization and to work with dedicated and talented colleagues. The Bar Association of Baltimore City is, in my humble opinion, outstanding among bar associations for its diversity, camaraderie, professionalism, educational opportunities, and welcoming nature. In an era when many bar associations are losing members, the Bar Association of Baltimore City remains steady and continues to add

members, as the professional and personal benefits of membership in this dynamic organization become ever more apparent. (Shameless promotional sidebar: There is an opportunity to join at any point throughout the year, and any reader who has not yet joined should do so now). The Association exists for its members, supporting and helping lawyers and judges to do our jobs better in ways large and small. Much of the Association’s work is well known and well publicized. Other work is accomplished out of the public eye, but it is no less meaningful by virtue of being untold. If the Association provides a platform for even one experienced attorney to mentor a new attorney, or provides a network for referral of cases that matches just one client with the right lawyer, or provides substantive education that even one lawyer uses to better serve a client, or provides an opportunity for social interaction between opposing counsel (and I submit it continues to do all these things and more, many times over), then the Association will have had a lasting and significant impact on our community and on our clients. This is the living legacy of the Bar Association of Baltimore City.

## Giving Back to the Community Beyond Pro Bono



Rachel Samakow

Of all the things I love about the YLD, chief among them is the ability to volunteer. Like many other lawyers, I don’t have the opportunity to do pro bono work, so I appreciate that the YLD allows me to give back to the community in another way.

Over the years, some of my favorite volunteer experiences have included coaching a mock trial team, speaking to students on Law Day, park clean ups, and of course, being part of the children’s holiday party—the arts and crafts table being a particular highlight.

What I’ve realized over the years is all these volunteer experiences come down to one thing: passion. That passion exits in not only participation,

but also in planning and execution of these events.

The YLD board is made up of some of the most passionate lawyers one could come across. With interests as diverse as the board itself, I’m constantly in awe of what my colleagues share as ideas for new programs, new panels, and new ways to provide special experiences for our members. However, what I find most impressive about our board is how

enthusiastically other board members will volunteer to help each other’s passion projects come to life. From our last meeting alone, at least three new events are being put into action, including the Filbert Street Garden Clean Up Project.

Come join us at our next event, or better yet, share what you’re passionate about with a board member, it may just be our next program.

## Ethics Hotline

The Ethics Hotline is a member benefit of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. It is staffed by

volunteers who informally answer questions related to the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct. The

advice given reflects the best judgment of those volunteers and no attorney/client relationship is created. Go

to this site for more information, [www.baltimorebar.org/for-attorneys/resources/ethics-hotline/](http://www.baltimorebar.org/for-attorneys/resources/ethics-hotline/).


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The generous support of Sustaining Members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City greatly assists this bar association in fulfilling its mission and achieving further growth and success. The unwavering dedication of these members ensures the BABC will continue its long and distinguished tradition of service to our legal community and the public. If you are interested in becoming a Sustaining Member, please contact Karen Fast at [kfast@baltimorebar.org](mailto:kfast@baltimorebar.org).

The Bar Association of Baltimore City  
Welcomes New Members  
who have joined from February 1, 2024  
through February 29, 2024.

Danielle D. Basdekis  
Emily Boyce  
Anita G. DiCarlo  
Howard Feldman  
Alexander J. Greenspan  
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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY



# MDEC Training

Attention all lawyers  
in Baltimore City!



**On April 9, 2024**

The Maryland Judiciary is hosting a Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) **training session** in Baltimore City.

MDEC’s expansion increases efficiencies and productivity and allows attorneys more time to focus on other critical tasks for their clients.

**MDEC Goals Include:**

- A streamlined electronic process
- Consistency in the user experience
- Greater efficiency in and between courts

**12:00 - 2:00 PM**

**HYBRID**

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

**Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse,  
Room 504**

REGISTER FOR LINK  
[www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/](http://www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/)

Please become familiar with the requirements, protocols, and procedures for using MDEC as set forth in Title 20 (Electronic Filing and Case Management) of the Maryland Rules.



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