



CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

Ethics Hotline Volunteer

George Mahaffey: 410-783-4000
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Courthouse Security



James Motsay

By James W. Motsay, President, Bar Association of Baltimore City

Your trial is set for 9:30 a.m. You arrive at the Courthouse about 9:10 a.m., go directly to the courtroom and have a seat. You are on time and ready to go. However, this scenario took place long before we had to go through security with metal detectors in all the courthouses. Without going through the long history of metal detectors in Baltimore City and the other jurisdictions, suffice it to say that metal detectors are everywhere, and are a big part of our life.

Now, if you have a 9:30 a.m. trial, you need to arrive well before 9:00 a.m. to make sure that you are able to pass through the metal detectors. Entry now involves removing your belt, emptying the contents of your pockets, having everything scanned, raising your hands up, gathering your belongings, moving to another table, then putting everything back on your person, and then running to catch the next elevator so that you are on time. Most of us nowadays know that we need to arrive well in advance of the start of our court time, whether it be in the district or circuit court. The security personnel overall do a good job getting you through the metal detectors in a relatively quick but efficient process.

Recently there has been a lot more discussion about security overall in the courthouse, and especially as it

relates to our judges. I agree that we need to reevaluate the situation and see what can be improved. The most recent incident of Judge Wilkerson in Frederick County being killed in front of his home causes pause for I am sure many of the judiciary, as it should.

I know that there are some courthouses that keep the public neatly away from the judges and the judges do not have to walk the same hallways as the public. It is best that we have those private hallways for our judges. Take for instance, the District Court in Baltimore City, Civil Division, where the Judges are escorted by Bailiffs, from the time they enter the building, until they enter their chambers. This is not an ideal situation. I understand that in the new District Court building, open access and judges required to walk amongst the public is being remedied.

Maryland is not the only state this having these issues. Most recently north of us in Pennsylvania, Adams County, the judges called for better security for themselves in what is already a secure screening process.

I am a great believer that courthouse security does not just stop with the judges. The issues of security also extend to the clerk's, courthouse staff, private attorneys, public defenders, state's attorneys, pro bono attorneys, etc. We also should consider protecting the members of the public entering the courthouse.

I advocate for full security at our courthouses. By this I mean the following:

1. All persons entering the courthouse

must go through metal detectors. Yes, this includes judges, prosecutors, and public defenders. I am sure that some judges would disagree with having to go through the metal detectors because they have private entrances to the building. If we are going to take security in the courthouse seriously, we need to have everyone checked. I recently had an opportunity to fly out of BWI. I noticed just ahead of me there were pilots and flight attendants. Every one of them had to show their identification and go through the scanning process and all went through the metal detector. This is a good example and rationale for everyone to be screened.

2. Jurors go through the metal detectors when they arrive, and then wait until they are called to a courtroom for trial. If they are in the Mitchell Courthouse and have to report to the Cummings Courthouse, they must leave one courthouse and reenter the other in order to arrive at the designated place. While they are walking outside, in the semblance of a long line, anything could happen out on the street. I think if you are going to take security seriously, the jurors must go back through security when they go from one building to another, just as everyone else does. I know this sounds like an inconvenience, but an inconvenience is well worth avoiding someone being injured or killed. This is not to say that all jurors have that kind of mindset, but you never know.

3. I believe that an additional protection

for judges should be that their home addresses be removed from the public domain. Anyone can search for a judge's home address online, and mdlandrec.com.

4. We need to have some clear and uniform processes so that no matter what courthouse you are entering, you know what to expect.

5. I know in some courthouses it can be commonplace for litigants or parties or people involved in criminal cases to get into shouting matches and sometimes even fistfights. Thinking about that uniform process, this must be addressed by additional security in the courthouse.

6. It would be good for the public to know how many incidents arise at a courthouse in a given calendar year. There should be a report given on items such as how many guns and knives were seized, how many fights, and/or altercations, took place in the courthouse. A report of this nature allows everyone to know what takes place in the courthouse in terms of security, and especially that they can feel safe in the courthouse.

These are but a few points that I raise at this time. I am happy that Judge Carrion has appointed a committee to review the security procedures and to make recommendations. Having the stakeholders at the table can produce better results. I suggest that the committee meet at least quarterly, and an annual report is given to the Bar Association so that we can include it in our publications for members of the bar and for distribution to the public.

Howdy, Partner!



Rachel Samakow

By Rachel Samakow, Chair, Young Lawyers' Division, Bar Association of Baltimore City

I recently had a conversation about the YLD with a partner at a "big law" law firm, and through that chat I realized that my colleague wasn't aware of several benefits to a BABC membership that not only impact an individual, but the firm as a whole. So, to my law firm friends, I'd like to highlight some of these benefits that as a firm you may not have known about.

In a post-covid world, firm culture

and training for a new attorney now looks different. With more offices working remotely, there are less opportunities for "knock and ask" learning moments and casual knowledge sharing. YLD events provide that informal learning environment, and more. Young attorneys discussing cases and memos with contemporaries, exploring legal opinions with more experienced attorneys, or debating courtroom strategies with the opposition, these are the kinds of conversations you'll see happening around the room at a YLD event. As a young attorney, networking at one of our events is invaluable for honing your lawyering skills, resulting in making you more valuable to your firm.

Want a great firm hack? Let a YLD event be your next outing and attend the program as a group! This is the most often overlooked benefit of a BABC membership, the opportunity for bonding with attorneys from your firm. You get to enjoy a well-curated program without worrying about any of the logistics. The best part is that there is a variety; from virtual cooking classes (coming up in February), CLEs, panel discussions, community service events, to family friendly programs, there are options for your office to choose from.

Building your professional network seems obvious on the surface, but in reality, it is much deeper than that. The YLD is a very inclusive

and diverse group that is constantly expanding. Young attorneys are given an opportunity to participate more meaningfully through determining how we as lawyers can best help the city of Baltimore, and then put those programs into action. Other opportunities include learning about your practice area during a CLE, or sitting on a panel, which is something generally reserved for more seasoned attorneys. Allowing younger attorneys to hold these roles ultimately brings more notoriety to your practice.

I could go on about all the benefits, but here's a great way to find out more. Attend a YLD event, come meet our members, and learn about all of our great programs for yourself!

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/.

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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.

The Bar Association of Baltimore City
Welcomes New Members
who have joined from January 1, 2024
through January 31, 2024.

Jenna Buxton
Michael Jacko
Eden Lewis
Tyler Morrison
Samuel P. Morse
Jenna M. Newman
Isabel J. Restall
Tess E. Russell
Samuel Snyder



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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
YOUNG LAWYERS' DIVISION PRESENTS



ONLINE

COOKING CLASS

DATE NIGHT EDITION

FREE ATTENDANCE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024

6:00 PM






- VIRTUAL COOKING CLASS LED BY LAWYER-TURNED-CHEF **REBECCA SAMAKOW** OF FORKABLE FOODS
- INCLUDES ENTREE, DESSERT, AND SUGGESTION FOR WINE PAIRING
- BYO INGREDIENTS (SHOPPING LIST SENT OUT AFTER REGISTRATION)

REGISTRATION LINK WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE PRESENTS



The Who, What, When, and How of Parent Coordination




Tuesday, February 27, 2024

12:30 - 1:30 pm


Zoom Program

Hear from Amy Mazer, LCSW-C, and Erika Slater, Esq., on the fundamentals of Parent Coordination. This informative presentation will be useful for lawyers and members of the Bench alike. Learn about the qualifications, timing, costs, pros and cons of Parent Coordination from both a mental health provider and lawyer's perspective.

GUEST SPEAKERS



Amy Mazer, LCSW-C




Erika Slater, Esq.


MEMBERS: FREE, NON-MEMBERS: \$40

REGISTER AT www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
YOUNG LAWYERS' DIVISION PRESENTS



Volunteering to Advance the Creative Economy in Maryland: The Basics of Drafting Artist Contracts



FREE TO BOTH MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS

In this interactive training, lawyers will learn how to represent artists who require legal assistance to advocate for their rights as they attempt to make a living from their creative work. This training will focus on contract law and the wide-range of collaboration agreements that artists engage in as they create work.

Attendees will work together to redline an example contract and then engage in a Q&A with experienced art law attorneys. Attendees are expected to accept 1 pro bono case from Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (MDVLA) within 1 year of the event.

SPONSORS



Thursday, February 29, 2024

5:30 - 6:30 pm
Baltimore Unity Hall
1505 Eutaw Place,
Baltimore, MD 21217

- An intro to Maryland Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts accompanied by a training focused on contracts for artists.

6:30 - 7:30 pm
The Titled Row
305 McMechen Street,
Baltimore, MD 21217

- Join us for a networking happy hour following the training with drinks and food provided by the Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company. The restaurant is located across the street from the training venue.


Guest Speakers




Adam Holofcener,
Executive Director,
Maryland Volunteer
Lawyers for the Arts




Christia Ravenell,
Staff Attorney,
Maryland Volunteer
Lawyers for the Arts



Sarah Scalet,
Senior Program Manager,
Maryland Volunteer
Lawyers for the Arts

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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
YOUNG LAWYERS' DIVISION PRESENTS



DIFFICULT CLIENTS: HOW TO SPOT THEM, HOW TO MANAGE THEM, AND HOW TO PART WITH THEM




This presentation navigates the complexities of client relationships. Participants will explore strategies for effective communication, conflict resolution and maintaining professional boundaries.

Additionally, attendees will gain insights into handling challenging situations ethically and professionally, ensuring a harmonious attorney-client dynamic. You are sure to elevate your practice with these valuable client management skills.

GUEST SPEAKER



Joyvan Malbon-Griffin, Esq.
Regional Director and Claims Attorney,
Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company

 Thursday, March 28, 2024
12:00 - 1:00 PM
ZOOM PROGRAM

MEMBERS: FREE, NON-MEMBERS: \$40

REGISTER FOR LINK: WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/

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Fill out the application online and upload your Insurance Policy.

2

Once your application is processed, you will be interviewed by a member of the LRIS Committee.

3

Once approved, you will be referred to clients matching the panel(s) chosen by you.

The BABC LRIS is an ABA Approved Lawyer Referral Service

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The Baltimore Bar Foundation Presents

Spaghetti Opera Night

Featuring



Claire Iverson
Soprano



Guzal Isametdinova
Piano



Daniel E. Sampson
Tenor

March 20 & 21, 2024
Chiapparelli's Restaurant
237 S. High Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

6:00 p.m. - Cocktails & Mingle
7:00 p.m. - Dinner & Performance
\$89 per person (Cash bar for cocktails)

To register, go to:
www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/

For more information, contact:
info@baltimorebar.org



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- FEBRUARY 15**
Baltimore Docket play
- FEBRUARY 21**
YLD Virtual Cooking Class
- FEBRUARY 27**
CLE - The Who, What, When and How of Parent Coordination
- FEBRUARY 29**
YLD - Volunteering to Advance the Creative Economy in Maryland:
The Basics of Drafting Artist Contracts
- MARCH 7**
CLE - Navigating the Consequences of Reproductive Rights Post-*Dobbs*
- MARCH 28**
CLE - Difficult Clients: How to Spot Them, How to Manage Them and How to Part with Them
- APRIL 6**
YLD Family Friendly Skate Date

