



# CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

## Ethics Hotline Volunteer

George Mahaffey: 410-783-4000

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Rachel Samakow  
Chair (Young  
Lawyers' Division)

With Mothers' Day just around the corner, and being my first one as a mommy, it seemed like a good time to reflect a bit on being a lawyering mom.

2023 brought some new roles into my life. As I celebrated ten years of being in the legal profession, I stepped into the position of YLD chair a couple short months after becoming a mom to my smiley guy, Alex. And like many new parents before us, my husband Hirsh and I started to realize our lives now had a completely different rhythm.

In many ways, being a lawyer prepared me for motherhood. For example, having a fully prepared and well-thought-out plan in place that disintegrates without warning applies to the quick-paced nature of litigation as easily as it applies to carrying what you believe to be a fully stocked diaper

bag. In both settings, sometimes it's the one thing you didn't know you were missing that becomes crucial. There's probably a joke in here about clients and babies being similarly demanding, but arguably what has prepared me most is the on-the-job training of rolling with the punches.

I have had some comedic experiences as a new mom that are unique to being a lawyer (or a law-ma as my friend adorably put it). When Alex was still my 'stowaway second chair,' he had a lot of say in how we argued our cases. If he didn't like the direction the argument was going, he would kick me, and I'd have to ask for the Court's indulgence while I regrouped.

For those that saw me on a weekly basis in hearings while pregnant, you may remember the personal air conditioner I had to wear - where I would get asked almost daily why I was wearing Beats headphones at trial table. Occasionally the batteries would die and our amazing security team

would let me camp out in a frosty vacant courtroom.

But of all the things I had on my law-ma bingo card, the one I didn't see coming was having to pump during a jury trial. There I was, in all my biped cow glory, in a small lockable conference room—leaning up against the door just in case the locks didn't work as advertised—trying my best to go over my closing argument. Whenever someone asks me how it's going back at work since having a baby, that's the immediate image that comes to mind.

In response to Anne-Marie Slaughter's famous line, Madeline Albright once said "I do think that women can have it all, but not at the same time. Our life comes in segments, and we have to understand that we can have it all if we're not trying to do it all at once." I never fully understood this quote until now.

As someone who prides herself on multitasking and always finding a little bit of extra time to attend an event or

help with a project, I suddenly found myself in a position where I actually had to say no to taking on 'just one more thing.' If I'm being honest, finding balance is probably still a ways off, and some days are particularly challenging, especially when imposter syndrome rears its head. It's easy to feel like I'm not accomplishing everything I set out to at the start of the day, and I'm still learning that some choices are easier than others—like setting my work down earlier in the evening to have extra cuddles with Alex. Other choices in the future may include taking the BABC's littlest member to an event with me, but I know I wouldn't have some of those choices without the incredible YLD team who have made the transition to Chair while mommying much more graceful than it could have been. And while he's not talking just yet, I know Alex is grateful too.

So, to all the law-mas and legal ladies who take on all the amazing mother and mother-figure roles out there, Happy Mothers' Day!

## The Baltimore Bar Foundation's Spaghetti Opera Night Once Again Proves, a Great Night for All



By Ryan Dietrich,  
President,  
Baltimore Bar  
Foundation

Over the course of two nights in late March, a packed dining room in Chiapparelli's restaurant in Little Italy rang out with the sounds of opera at the Baltimore Bar Foundation's Spaghetti Opera event.

This longstanding, one-of-a-kind event is a perennial favorite. After enjoying a networking hour at one of Little Italy's oldest restaurants, guests each night are treated to an authentic Italian

dinner accompanied by live opera performances. This year not only featured performances from traditional Italian opera composers, such as Puccini and Verdi, but also added a mix of more modern composers such as Gershwin and Sondheim.

The Peabody-trained singers reflected not only the best of Baltimore, but of its legal community as well. The event featured soprano Claire Iverson, who is the daughter of Kelly Hughes Iverson, a partner at Goodell Devries. And sharing the spotlight was tenor Daniel Sampson, the son of Judge Gregory Sampson of the Baltimore City Circuit Court.

This highly successful event is all for a good cause. Proceeds from the event support the Baltimore Bar Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. Each year, the Foundation provides financial support for non-profit programs and organizations in Baltimore City that further the improvement of the administration of justice. The Foundation also provides a partial college scholarship each year to a deserving Baltimore City public high school student who has expressed a desire to pursue a career in law.

If you missed the Spaghetti Opera, you can still support the

Foundation (and have a great time) at our golf outing on Monday, May 20, at Woodholme Country Club in Pikesville. Guests will enjoy lunch, 18 holes of scramble-format golf on a well-maintained course, and then dinner and an auction afterwards. Not a golfer? You can still bid on great items from the auction. The auction is virtual, and will open on May 1st and close on May 20th at 7:30 pm. The URL will be published soon in the BABC Weekly newsletter. Ticket information is available on our website (<https://www.baltimorebar.org/baltimore-bar-foundation/>). We hope to see you at the golf outing or one of our other events!

## 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 April 1, 2024  
through April 30, 2024.

Zemini Astatkie  
Michael Dypski  
Elizabeth Fisher  
Kelly A. Hooper-McCamey  
Alexandra Oyston  
Nicholas Pycha  
Vicki Schultz  
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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY  
YOUNG LAWYERS' DIVISION PRESENTS



## LEADERSHIP AND HUMANITARIANISM THROUGH CRISIS

May 7, 2024  
12:00 - 1:00 pm  
Zoom Program

**MODERATOR: JACOB DORFMAN, SBWD LAW, YLD TREASURER**

Who is truly a leader? We all want to have a positive impact on the world around us, but how do you choose where to put your efforts? When your community is faced with a stressful time, where do you even start?

The Leadership and Humanitarianism Through Crisis Series seeks to provide training to our legal community on how to become a leader. We will hear from speakers and engage in meaningful conversations about what it means to be a leader, how others have stepped up during crisis in their communities, and in what ways we can adopt those practices and ideals into our own lives.



**MEIR RASKAS**  
GUEST SPEAKER

Meir Raskas is a Managing Director at Harbor Group International who, together with his family, relocated to the Jerusalem suburbs in 2019 from Baltimore.

Since the brutal attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023, Mr. Raskas has increased his community involvement to better address the crisis thrust upon Israel and the Jewish people. He passionately aides those in need, while providing meaningful updates from Israel back to his family and friends in America.

REGISTER HERE [WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/](http://WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/)

AN INVITATION TO FAMILY, FRIENDS & MEMBERS

## DEDICATION OF THE HONORABLE JAMES F. SCHNEIDER MUSEUM OF BALTIMORE LEGAL HISTORY

WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 15, 2024

CLARENCE M. MITCHELL, JR.  
COURTHOUSE  
ROOM 243  
(LEGAL HISTORY MUSEUM)

5:00 - 7:00 PM



Join us in dedicating the the Museum of Baltimore Legal History in honor of the Honorable James F. Schneider. Remarks will be given by Edward C. Papenfus, Jr. (former Director, Maryland State Archives)

We will also be recognizing the docents who volunteer their time to keep the Museum open. A reception with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will follow.

*This event is free and sponsored by the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation, Inc., the Historical Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, and the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar.*



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## AWARDS CEREMONY

Thursday, May 23, 2024  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Please join us as we present  
the YLD Public Service Award to Kiernan Waters,  
the YLD Rising Star Award to Jacob Dorfman, and  
the YLD Sustained Leadership Award to James Robinson.

The QG Clock Restoration Restaurant & Bar  
31 S. Calvert St, 6th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

*Refreshments will be provided.*

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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY PRESENTS

## Practicing in a Post-COVID World: A Bench-Bar Dialogue

Join the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and the Judges in Charge of each Baltimore City Circuit Court Division for a dialogue about what we have learned from our COVID experience as they discuss:

- 1 How the remote administration of justice has changed things long-term, and what can be done to maintain ethical and professional interactions with the bench and court personnel.
- 2 How to improve implementation of changes to court policies and their effective communication to members of the bar.
- 3 How the bench might do a better job of uniformly applying court policies so that attorneys know what to expect and may, in turn, anticipate and meet the court's expectations.

Thursday, May 16, 2024 Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse  
12:30 - 1:30 PM Room 504

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

Members: Free, Non-members: \$40

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### GUEST SPEAKERS

The Hon. Charles Blomquist  
Judge in Charge Juvenile

The Hon. Melissa K. Copeland  
Judge in Charge Criminal

The Hon. Michael A. DiPietro  
Judge in Charge Family

The Hon. John S. Nugent  
Judge in Charge Civil

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BALTIMORE BAR FOUNDATION, INC.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING  
& AUCTION

MAY 20, 2024

WOODHOLME COUNTRY CLUB  
300 WOODHOLME AVENUE  
PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

11:30 am Lunch  
1:00 pm Shotgun Start  
5:00 pm Dinner, Awards & Auction



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