



CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

Ethics Hotline Volunteer
George Mahaffey: 410-783-4000
Christopher D. Wright: 410-696-7861

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/.

We are One. One City. One Profession. One Bar.



By Hon. Teresa Epps Cummings, President, Bar Association of Baltimore City (Excerpts from Annual Meeting Speech)

As we are coming off the heels of the June 2024 Annual Meeting and as we embark upon the new bar year, there are a number of people that I must thank. First, I must thank Immediate Past President, James Motsay for his leadership of the BABC for the 2023-2024 bar year. Mr. Motsay led with patience, compassion, and commitment. His love of the BABC was and is quite evident and I look forward to continuing to lean on him for guidance as I embark upon my bar year. I must also thank the Honorable Justice Shirley M. Watts, Supreme Court of Maryland, for introducing me at the Annual Meeting. Her thoughtful and personalized introduction was indicative of someone who always pays attention to the details, no matter how small. I am also sending a thank you shout-out to Renee Hutchins Laurent, Dean, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, for her rousing and inspirational speech wherein she reminded us that leaning into transition is a wonderful opportunity for growth. Regarding my path to leadership of the BABC, thank you to the Honorable Judge Michael W. Reed, Appellate Court of Maryland, for indoctrinating me into the BABC when I answered the call to co-chair the Pro Bono committee and thank you to the Honorable Associate Judge Darren Kadish, District Court of Maryland, who subsequently called upon me

to chair the Membership committee. Thank you to the past presidents who have been and continue to be just a phone call away. And, finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting.

The Bar Association of Baltimore City is an organization of legal professionals committed to providing quality legal education, advocacy, and services to its members; promoting professionalism, equality, and diversity among its members; fostering collegiality; advancing the public image of the profession and providing law-related services and education to the public; and exercising leadership on a local, state, and national level to advance these goals.

The paragraph above is the mission statement of the BABC and along those lines, my theme for the year is, “We are One. One City. One Profession. One Bar.” I want us to focus on unifying across practice areas, number of years in practice, race, age, sex, and anything else that tends to separate us. I want us to all commit to One. One hour per week. One day per month. One CLE per quarter. Commit to encouraging one new member to join. Commit to one committee. Whatever your one looks like, commit to it because I believe that once you actively commit to that one thing and see all the benefits that active participation in the bar provides, that one thing will turn into two, three and so on. The bar association was, is and always will be necessary and if the entire membership is active and we are all working toward a common goal, we can become an even stronger organization.

The BABC was founded in 1879 and,

obviously, many things have changed since 1879. I am planning for us to take a deep dive review of the history of the BABC. Are there programs, CLEs, advocacy measures, law-related services, and/or collegiality workshops from the past that we should resurrect? Because to quote the famous poet Maya Angelou, “You can’t really know where you are going until you know where you have been.” A review of the Bylaws is also in order, again understanding that with an evolving profession, city, and world, we need to be certain that the bylaws reflect that evolution. During the past bar year, we began the discussion and investigation into drafting a long-range plan. We will complete that plan this bar year making sure that it encompasses all the tenets contained in the mission statement.

I want us to be certain that our website, social media presence, technical applications used for virtual meetings, CLEs, social gatherings, and civic activities are meeting the needs of the membership. As a working wife and mom, I fully understand the dynamics of work-life balance so we need to be creative in planning activities that will allow us to continue to incorporate our families into our bar life. And, in terms of our giving back to the City, there are several opportunities for all of you to get involved in advancing the public image of the profession by providing law-related services and education to the public. To quote Governor Wes Moore from his 2024 Juneteenth Facebook post, “Acts of compassion, generosity and empathy build a stronger more unified community.” So, along those lines please join us:

(1) at the annual Crab feast, which

benefits the bar but also allows us to support a local business; (2) in the fall when the Bar Association of Baltimore City sponsors, in conjunction with the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, its Annual National Adoption Day Celebration. On National Adoption Day, come spend a Saturday morning putting smiles on the faces of the children who are finding their forever home; (3) volunteer for the YLD’s Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters and/or when the call goes out for donations, donate; (4) assist with Senior Law Day (sponsored by Senior Legal Services), which is a free event open to all Baltimore City seniors, and/or (5) solo practitioners endeavoring to grow your book of business, become a Lawyer Referral and Information Service panelist. Information about the programs listed and all other BABC programs can be found on the BABC website. Please lend your time and pour your talents into breathing new life into these standing programs because these programs allow us, as attorneys, to play a vital role in supporting this great City.

We are here to serve you, but it is a partnership. And the more that each of us deposits into the BABC, the more that we will receive in return. I would be remiss if I did not also thank an essential component of any bar year—the committee chairs and co-chairs. Thank you in advance to all of you who have agreed to serve (their names and committees are all listed on the website) because with your help, I know that we are going to have a significantly meaningful bar year. And remember: We are One. One City. One Profession. One Bar.

Hello fellow attorneys, colleagues, friends.



Rachel Samakow
Chair (Young Lawyers' Division)

I am absolutely honored to be continuing in my role as YLD Chair, and I can think of no better way to enjoy my last year as a YLD member than with an extended term on this board. I want to take a moment to congratulate the YLD on an incredible bar year. From the programs they created this year, the events they put on, the excitement they generated for our members, they did an incredible job and I’m so proud to be part of this team.

I’ve been a member of the BABC since 2013, having joined a few months

after starting my legal career with Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Company.

I remember at the time trying to get my bearings as a young lawyer. I was a new lawyer, in the world of workers compensation, which for those of you who don’t practice in that area, your first couple months are spent between learning a completely different language of acronyms and medical jargon, and the other half of the time on web MD learning what the medical terms mean. I remember my Jewish grandmother making a comment along the lines of, “see, you see Rachy, you could have been a doctor.”

The BABC was the first place as a young lawyer I was made to instantly

feel like I belonged. I remember being introduced to people around the room, and various members of the YLD making a point to get to know me, learn about what I was interested in, and help me find my place in the YLD. I was truly amazed by what these young lawyers were accomplishing. They spoke on panels, they created programs, they cultivated the relationships with sponsors; they were involved. They created and took advantage of opportunities for young lawyers to be an impactful part of the legal community.

This is my hope for the YLD this year, to continue providing a platform for young lawyers to be active and thoughtful members of our legal community.

And that’s my plan. I took on the role of YLD chair three weeks after giving birth to my son Alex. He was so excited for me he was speechless. Granted, he lacks the capacity for speech, but still. And while admittedly I was very nervous about what the balance of handling a newborn, returning to work, and being YLD Chair was going to look like, I realized I didn’t need to be. I realize I have very limited space here, so I’ll wrap up. To the current YLD board, the incoming YLD board, the BABC staff, and my own personal BABC mentors, thank you. I didn’t need to be nervous about taking on the Chair position because of you. So, I’d like to say thank you again, and it is an absolute privilege to work with you.

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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 June 1, 2024, through
June 30, 2024.

Reema L. Akbari
Oana A. Brooks
Richard E. Byrne
Emmanuel A. Cadet
Elemia Crrankfield
Valerie Desroches
Connor W. Engle
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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY

GROUP ADMISSION TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Price

\$350 / Person

Registration

Registration fee for guests is \$125.

Fees Include

✓ Supreme Court Admission Fee

✓ Breakfast at the Supreme Court

✓ Swearing-In

✓ Oral Arguments

✓ Group Photo

✓ Supreme Court Lecture

✓ Group Lunch

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Registration is limited to 12 applicants.

Completed applications are due no later than October 4, 2024.

To obtain an application package, contact the BABC office at info@baltimorebar.org, or call 410-539-5936.

Register on www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/

*To qualify for admission to the Supreme Court, you must have been admitted to the practice of law for three years prior to the date of application.

THE BALTIMORE BAR FOUNDATION

RYAN DIETRICH

PRESIDENT
BALTIMORE BAR FOUNDATION

Ryan’s 50 Mile Run to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Foundation

In 2020, the Baltimore Bar Foundation turned 50 years old. Unfortunately, 2020 was not a good year for celebrations. So, as a belated celebration of that milestone (and as a fundraiser), on Sunday June 16, 2024, Foundation President Ryan Dietrich ran 50 miles throughout Baltimore City in a single day.

During the course of the 50 miles (and nearly 12 hours), Ryan stopped at 50 points of legal significance. These stops included every courthouse in the city, both law schools, Carroll Park, Fort McHenry, the former site of the Baltimore branch of the Second Bank of the United States (see *McCulloch v. Maryland*), Fell’s Point (see *Barron v. Baltimore*), Green Mount Cemetery, Thurgood Marshall’s boyhood home, and many more. And at each stop, Ryan posted on the BABC Facebook page a short history of each location explaining its role in the development of the law. You can read a compilation of those posts on the Foundation’s website at: <https://www.baltimorebar.org/baltimore-bar-foundation/ryans-50-mile-run/>. Please enjoy the history lesson – we guarantee you’ll learn something new!

Ryan’s run raised over \$3,000 (and counting). That money will serve the Foundation’s efforts to fund grants to organizations that provide legal services to those in need in Baltimore, as well as support the Foundation’s scholarship, which is given annually to a Baltimore City public high school student who has expressed an intent to pursue a career in law. There is, of course, still time to give – you can do so at <https://baltimorebar.intouchondemand.com/donation/donate>

Ryan would like to thank everyone who contributed, especially the law firm sponsors (Diva Law, LLC; The Law Firm of J.W. Stafford; and Blibaum & Associates, P.A.) and Derek Van De Walle (who provided his historical expertise). But most of all, Ryan would like to thank Karen Fast, Executive Director of the Foundation (and the BABC), who provided much needed support throughout the (very long) day.

READ MORE ABOUT RYAN’S RUN AT

<https://www.baltimorebar.org/baltimore-bar-foundation/ryans-50-mile-run/>

Stop 3: Carroll Park (1500 Washington Boulevard) (Mile 9.77)

Stop 4: B&O Station (901 W Pratt Street) (Mile 10.82)

Stop 37: Memorial Stadium (900 East 33rd Street) (Mile 36.09)
Pictured with BABC President, The Hon. Teresa Epps Cummings

Stop 48: Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse (100 N Calvert Street) (Mile 50.5)

NEED CLIENTS?

JOIN LRIS

The Bar Association of Baltimore City Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) is experiencing a **record number** of referrals and is in need of additional attorneys to meet the demand.

Joining LRIS provides an excellent opportunity for not only solo and small firm practitioners, but newly admitted attorneys to grow their clientele and practice.

IT’S AS EASY AS 1..2..3

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Fill out the application online and upload your Insurance Policy.
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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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-MAIL LRIS@BALTIMOREBAR.ORG

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY

Executive Photos

FOR THE BABC MEMBERS ONLY DIRECTORY

The photographs will be taken at the courthouse and there will be no cost for you unless you choose to purchase the headshots. The BABC will receive the photos and load them onto your portal and directory.

If you already have a professional headshot, please send it to Sarah Zhang. Contact information below.

JRussell has over 90 years of combined professional portrait photography experience and is the nation’s leading executive portrait studio.

JRussell will be reaching out to coordinate appointments. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the BABC.

Contact BABC: 410-539-5936 x101 or szhang@baltimorebar.org

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Visit TheDailyRecord.com/Calendar or click ‘calendar’ under ‘resources.’ Fill out the form and submit. Your event listing will appear on TheDailyRecord.com and in our print edition.



On June 20th, the Bar Association of Baltimore City, Baltimore Bar Foundation & Young Lawyers' Division had their 144th Annual Meeting.

James W. Motsay passed the BABC Presidency to the Hon. Teresa Cummings, Ryan Dietrich passed the BBF Presidency to Natasha M. Dartigue, and Rachel Samakow is stepping up again as YLD Chair. The keynote speaker was Renée M. Hutchins, the Dean of University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. The Bar Association of Baltimore City celebrated its 50 year members and new Foundation Fellows, and presented Kamil Ismail with the Fellows Award this year.

