



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

Always Respect (and provide assistance to) Your Elders!



The Hon. Teresa Epps Cummings, President of the Bar Association of Baltimore City

They are often referred to as seniors, senior citizens, the elderly or older adults. Regardless of what name you may use to refer to those who are aged 60 and older, we must always remember that they are the bedrock of any community. And considering their importance, on Saturday, April 12, 2025, Senior Legal Services, a program of the Bar Association of Baltimore City and the Baltimore Bar Foundation, spent the day giving back to those upon whose shoulders we all stand. At this annual event, Senior Legal Services (SLS) presented, “Law Day for Seniors”, where staff, volunteers and others in the City’s legal community provided information and support catered to the needs and demands of older adults. Law Day for Seniors is a free event open to all of Baltimore City’s older adults. It is a full-day of educational programs and workshops providing information on

consumer protection, housing, estates and trusts, tax sale prevention and the ever-popular Q&A sessions. Seniors get to peruse many vendor booths that provide information and takeaways geared specifically towards them. The event also includes breakfast and lunch for the approximately 200-300 seniors who usually attend.

In 1991, the Baltimore City Office of Aging wanted to expand services provided to seniors in Baltimore. Under the guidance and tutelage of then Executive Director, Kathy Sanzone, the BABC submitted a proposal and was awarded the contract. Founded in 1992, Senior Legal Services (the original name was “Legal Services to the Elderly”) is a joint program of the BABC and Baltimore Bar Foundation, which was created to provide free legal advice, services and representation to Baltimore City residents aged sixty (60) and older. SLS’s mission is to provide quality legal services to an underserved population at risk of losing resources and to empower them to age in place and thrive in their community. SLS provides vital pro bono legal services to low-income older adults 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. A typical day includes advising seniors, drafting critical legal documents, representing clients in court, and conducting outreach presentations. SLS conducts client intake and consultations via telephone and in person at their office located in the Cummings Courthouse. SLS also meets with clients at Baltimore senior centers, senior apartment buildings, and in some cases, at clients’ homes when travel is not possible due to disabilities.

The first Senior Law Day was held on May 9, 1992, at Courthouse East. Keynote speakers at the inaugural event included Kurt L. Schmoke, Mayor of Baltimore, J. Joseph Curran Jr., Attorney General of Maryland, and Stuart O. Simms, State’s Attorney for Baltimore City. As the event grew, it moved to the Wabash District Courthouse in 2000, to New Psalmist Baptist Church in 2018, and now is hosted at the Middle Branch Fitness & Wellness Center in partnership with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks, Senior Division.

As a small but dedicated team, SLS

relies heavily on support from the legal community. Attorneys and law firms can assist by:

- Sponsoring the annual Cabaret & Cabernet fundraiser
- Volunteering to accept pro bono cases referred by SLS
- Serving on SLS committees
- Participating in outreach efforts, including Law Day for Seniors

Robust volunteer and financial support are critical to meeting the increasing need for services. SLS is supported by:

- Grant funding from entities such as Maryland Legal Services Corp. and the Baltimore City Department of Health
- Donations from individuals, community organizations and corporate sponsors such as Exelon Corporation

Continued support is critical to ensure that Baltimore’s seniors have access to the legal services they need to maintain their independence and security. For more information regarding donating or becoming a volunteer, please visit www.baltimoresejiorlegalservices.org. Additionally, Nicholas G. Pycha, Esq., Director and his staff can be reached at 410-396-1322.

Spring has Sprung!



Rachel Samakow, Chair of the Young Lawyers' Division

The birds are singing, flowers are blooming, pollen is everywhere. This means two things: 1. The time has come for me to restock my Costco sized bottles of allergy meds, and 2. There are new plants for me to kill off... I mean try to keep alive.

Despite my best efforts, I have a brown thumb. This is one step above a black thumb, and I achieved that status by managing to keep a low maintenance plant alive during Covid. Sadly, said plant did not survive when we moved last year.

So, if you’re like me and you love plants, but they don’t seem to love you back, I have some good news. One of the easiest plants to keep alive are succulents, and the YLD would like to provide you with an opportunity to enjoy some of these low maintenance little buddies. Come join us on April 29th at B. Willow, where thanks to the generosity of our sponsor, Vallit Advisors, we will be making our own terrariums! This is our first ever event with B. Willow, and we’re so excited, we “wet our plants” or should I say, “we know this experience will be unbe-leaf-able”. Space is limited, so secure your spot fast!

If you’re unable to join us, but still would like to ‘spruce’ up your office with a new ‘frond,’ here are a couple of office friendly plants you may want to check

out:

The Snake Plant (*Sansevieria*) is perfect for low-light environments and is incredibly low-maintenance. They require minimal watering, making them ideal for busy office settings. Not only do they purify the air by absorbing toxins, but their tall, upright leaves add a touch of elegance to your desk or office corner.

The Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum Comosum*) is known for its air-purifying properties, and is another easy-to-care-for option. It thrives in indirect light and is adaptable to a range of conditions. Spider plants also produce small “pups” or offshoots that can be propagated, so you can give one to your (office buddy!) (co-counsel?)

Pothos (*Epipremnum Aureum*) is one of the most resilient houseplants, making

it ideal for offices. Its trailing vines can be hung in baskets or placed on shelves, creating a lush green space. Pothos does well in low light and can survive with minimal attention, requiring only occasional watering.

And finally, the plant that has my name written all over it, the ZZ Plant (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*). Perfect for offices with low natural light, it’s drought-tolerant and can go weeks without water, making it an excellent choice for those who often forget to tend to their plants. Its glossy, dark green leaves also bring some color against those builder’s beige walls.

Could any of these be your new ‘best bud?’ Hope to see you on the 29th!

BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER TODAY!

Exclusive Events, Hard Copies of the Barrister, Recognition in Publications



Go To
www.baltimorebar.org





BALTIMORE BAR FOUNDATION, INC.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING & AUCTION

APRIL 28, 2025 | WOODHOLME COUNTRY CLUB
300 WOODHOLME AVENUE
PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

\$195 PER PLAYER

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



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Hole in One
Beat the Pro
Cannon Shot
Golf Cart Sponsor
Longest Drive
Putting Green Sponsor

Law Firm Sponsorship \$1750
Platinum Sponsorship \$1750
Diamond Sponsorship \$1000
Gold Sponsorship \$500
Silver Sponsorship \$250

Includes: Golf package, signage on a tee, an ad in the program, recognition in bar publications & more!

Need more information on sponsorship?
Contact Karen Fast at kfast@baltimorebar.org

REGISTER: WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/

Thank you to Our
Corporate Sponsors

Platinum

The Bar Associations Insurance Agency, Inc.
The Daily Record
The McCammon Group, Ltd.

Gold

CRC Salomon Court Reporting
Excelsia Injury Care
Planet Depos

Silver

Bar Prep Hero
Byte Right Support, Inc.
Ellin & Tucker
Forensic Economics and Finance/Economics Consulting
Mid-Atlantic Spinal Rehab & Chiropractic
Vallit Advisors, LLC

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY EVENTS COMMITTEE
PRESENTS

BASEBALL Night



TICKETS ONLY \$55 | **TUESDAY, MAY 13**

ORIOLES VS TWINS

CAMDEN YARDS
GATES OPEN AT 6 P.M.

CAMDEN FRANKS & PULLED PORK

POPCORN BAR & NACHO BAR

FROZEN TREATS, SOFT DRINKS AND MORE!

REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 15
LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

REGISTER AT: WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/

BABC SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Robert D. Anbinder
Hon. Nicole K. Barmore
Monica Basche
Sarah P. Belardi
Hon. Robert M. Bell
Jonathan M. Binstock
Richard C. Bittner
Hon. Charles M. Blomquist
Hon. Pamila J. Brown
Robert J. Bowie
Hon. Catherine Chen
Hon. Teresa Epps Cummings
Evelyn Cusson
Gerardine M. Delambo
Hon. Timothy J. Doory
Sara El-Shall
Ashley Ensor
Robert L. Ferguson, Jr-
Aaron D. Fray
Monique Y. Gillum
Sally Gold
Hon. Joan Bossman Gordon
Katherine Howard
Hon. Darren L. Kadish
Irwin R. Kramer
Paul Kramer
Richard D. Lebovitz
Cynthia L. Leppert

Hon. Lynn Stewart Mays
Theodore A. Melanson
Hon. Myshala E. Middleton
J. Burke Miller
Hon. John P. Miller
James W. Motsay
Jonas Todd Needleman
Gary C. Norman
Alice G. Pinderhughes
Divya Potdar
Samuel R. Pulver
Hon. Michael Reed
Valda G. Ricks
Hon. La Zette C. Ringgold-Kirksey
Rachel Samakow
Hunter Scott
Linda Shields
Kerri Smith
Hon. Kathleen M. Sweeney
George G. Tankard
Elva E. Tillman
Jeffrey Trueman
Derek Van De Walle
Hon. Anthony F. Vittoria
John Warshawsky
Hon. Barbara Baer Waxman
Sen. Christopher West
Rita M. Wisthoff-Ito
Mark Anthony Jr. Yost
Tom Yost

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
PRESENTS

"It's a Charm City" *Bench-Bar Conference*

BALTIMORE
CHARM CITY
USA

The Bench Bar Conference is a one-day program that offers presentations by conference faculty, comprised of highly regarded members of the bench and bar.

Plenary & Breakout Sessions include:

- AI & Technology
- MDEC: Common Issues & Lessons Learned
- The New Voir Dire Program
- Hot Topics in Family Law
- YLD: How to Avoid a Grievance
- Legislative Update
- Pathway to Becoming a Judge
- And MORE!!

Speakers include: Hon. Audrey Carrion; Hon. Jonathan Biran; Hon. Douglas Nazarian; Hon. Myshala Middleton; Hon. Alan Lazerow; Hon. Nicole Barmore; Hon. Dana Middleton; Hon. Hope Tipton; Hon. Catherine Chen and many more.

May 30, 2025 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Ruth's Chris Steak House



711 Eastern Avenue, Pier 5 Hotel

Registration Now Open

Earlybird (until May 1): Member \$70, Non-member \$80
May 1: Member \$80, Non-member \$90
Onsite: Member \$90, Non-member \$100

Price Includes Breakfast, Lunch and Reception.

Register at www.baltimorebar.org/calendar

