

THE BALTIMORE Barrister

SPRING 2025

VOL 15 | NO 2



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY



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The Baltimore Barrister

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The Bar Association of Baltimore City Family Law Committee Presents

Pending Before the Supreme Court of Maryland, *Houser v. Houser* and a Child's Right to Child Support

Discussion of a case where both parents argued that the trial court overstepped its authority by ordering child support despite their agreement to waive support.

Date: May 16, 2025
Location: 100 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 Room 504
Time: 12:30pm -1:30pm
free for members and \$40 for nonmembers

Register:
www.baltimorebar.org/calendar



The Bar Association of Baltimore City Supports the Rule of Law

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



Silence is not always golden and while this statement may have been delayed, make no mistake that the Bar Association of Baltimore City (BABC) fully supports the rule of law and hereby adopts the American Bar Association's statement which was issued on March 26, 2025.

"The American democratic system is not always based upon simple majority rule. There are certain principles that are so important to the nation that the majority has agreed not to interfere in these areas. For instance, the Bill of Rights was passed because concepts such as freedom of religion, speech, equal treatment, and due process of law were deemed so important that, barring a Constitutional Amendment, not even a majority should be allowed to change them. Rule of law is a principle under which all persons, institutions, and entities are accountable to laws that are: Publicly promulgated; Equally enforced; Independently adjudicated; and consistent with international human rights principles." <https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/overview-rule-law>

The BABC stands together with and in support of the American Bar Association to defend the rule of law and rejects efforts to undermine the courts and the legal profession.

In particular, as outlined by the ABA:

The BABC endorses the sentiments expressed by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in his 2024 Year End Report on the Federal Judiciary, "[w]ithin the past year we have also seen the need for state and federal bar associations to come to the defense of a federal district judge whose decisions in a high-profile case prompted an elected official to call for her impeachment. Attempts to intimidate judges for their rulings in cases are inappropriate and should be vigorously opposed."

The BABC supports the right of people to advance their interests in courts of law when they have been wronged. We reject the notion that the U.S. government can punish lawyers and law firms who represent certain clients or punish judges who rule certain ways. We cannot accept government actions that seek to twist the scales of justice in this manner.

The BABC rejects efforts to undermine the courts and the profession. We will not stay silent in the face of efforts to remake the legal profession into something that rewards those who agree with the government and punishes those who do not. Words and actions matter. And the intimidating words and actions we have heard and seen must end. They are designed to cow our country's judges, our country's courts and our legal profession.

There are clear choices facing our profession. We can choose to remain silent and allow these acts to continue

or we can stand for the rule of law and the values we hold dear. We call upon the entire profession, including lawyers in private practice from Main Street to Wall Street, as well as those in corporations and who serve in elected positions, to speak out against intimidation.

If lawyers do not speak, who will speak for our judges? Who will protect our bedrock of justice? If we do not speak now, when will we speak? Now is the time. That is why we stand together with the ABA in support of the rule of law. And while you may not agree with the totality of the ABA's statement, as you start each day, remember the oath which you took before beginning to practice law. We all took an oath to demean ourselves fairly and honorably, bear true allegiance to Maryland and the United States, and to support their respective constitutions and laws. This oath ensures that Maryland attorneys are committed to upholding the legal system, inclusive of the rule of law, and that commitment needs to remain unwavering.



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.

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Spring has Sprung!

Young Lawyers' Division Update

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



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. The YLD provided an opportunity to enjoy some of these low maintenance little buddies on April 29th at B. Willow, where thanks to the generosity of our sponsor, Vallit Advisors, we made our own terrariums! This was our first ever event with B. Willow, and we were so excited, we "wet our plants" or should I say, "we knew this experience would be unbe-leaf-able." It was!

If you were 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 wa-

tering, 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?"

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What Animals Can You Keep in Charm City?

Derek M. Van De Walle,¹ Esq., Baltimore City Department of Law



Despite expectations, egg prices continue to rise. In response, more people are exploring the idea of raising chickens in their backyard as an alternative source of eggs. But before investing in coops, feed, or hatchlings, you have to first ask: is it even legal to keep chickens where you live?

That was the very question on my mind one morning when I woke up in my Hampden row-house to the unmistakable sound of clucking chickens. The short answer is yes—you can raise chickens in Baltimore City, subject to conditions. But what other animals can you keep within the Baltimore City limits?

Here's a full list of animals you're allowed to keep – and those cannot – in Baltimore City:

Prohibited Animals

Generally, a person may not keep any exotic or hybrid animal.² An “exotic” animal is any wild species not native to Maryland, or any animal designated as exotic by the Baltimore City Health Commissioner through rules or regulations. Exotic animals include any hybrid animal that is part exotic.³ No person may possess or sell any wild, exotic, or hybrid animal that is prohibited by federal, State, or City law.⁴ Although licensed animal shows, zoological parks, and scientific laboratories that are licensed by the City and regulated by the State are excluded,⁵ a person is prohibited from keeping the following:⁶

- Wild or exotic cats;
- Wild dogs, including wolves;
- Bears;
- Bats;
- Squirrels;
- All fur-bearing mammals of the Mustelidae family, which includes weasels, badgers, otters, polecats, martens, grisons, stoats, and wolverines, but excluding ferrets (as discussed below);
- Venomous insects, excluding honey bees (as discussed below);
- Spiders;
- Scorpions;
- Centipedes;
- Large rodents (Rodentia), including porcupines, beavers, and gophers;
- Even-toed ungulates (Artiodactyla), including deer, moose, elk, camels, giraffes, hippopotami, bison, llamas, alpacas, goats, sheep, but excluding domesticated Miniature, Dwarf, and Pygmy goats (as discussed below);
- Odd-toed ungulates (Perissodactyla), including rhinoceri, tapirs, and horses, with some exclusions;
- Marsupials, including possums, koalas, wombats, and kangaroos;
- Members of the Procyonidae family, including raccoons and kinkajous;
- Carnivorous mammals of the family Viverridae, including civets, mongooses, and bearcats;

- Primates;
- Bovinae (cattle);
- Pigs, boars, and swine, excluding domesticated Vietnamese Pot-bellied pigs (as discussed below);
- Rabbits of the family Leporidae other than a domesticated rabbit that has been bred and supervised in a properly maintained rabbitry;
- Crocodylia, including crocodiles, alligators, and gharials;
- Venomous reptiles, even if the venom producing glands or structures have been removed;
- Snakes capable of growing to more than 5 feet when fully grown;
- Lizards capable of growing to more than 4 feet when fully grown;
- Green iguanas less than 30 inches long or more than 6 feet long when fully grown; and
- Fowl, including roosters, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, emus, ostriches, but excluding domesticated hens and pigeons (as discussed below),

Permitted Animals

So what animals can you keep in Baltimore City? It's a given that you can keep a domesticated dog or cat in Baltimore City. A “domesticated” animal is one that (1) has been bred and raised and is accustomed to live in or about the habitation of humans; and (2) is dependent on humans for food or shelter.⁷ An owner of a domesticated dog or cat is required to obtain a license for the animal.⁸

Surprisingly, a wide range of animals may be kept within Baltimore City's 92.01 square miles. However, to lawfully keep any of the animals listed below, you must first obtain a permit from the Office of Animal Control and meet specific conditions set by the City.⁹ Animals that may be kept with a permit and in compliance with applicable regulations include:

- **Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs:** A Vietnamese pot-bellied pig may be kept if it is domesticated, older than 6 months, is altered, weighs less than 150 lbs., and have had their tusks filed (but not removed), they may be kept;¹⁰
- **Pigeons:** A person may keep up to 125 pigeons. The pigeons must be housed in a coop or loft that complies with all applicable zoning and building permit requirements. Additionally, the structure must provide at least one square foot of floor space for each pigeon over one month old. The pigeons must be kept inside the loft or coop “except for the purpose of supervised exercise[.]” and exercised is limited to a maximum of 3 hours per day;¹¹
- **Miniature, Dwarf, or Pygmy Goats:** These breeds of goats may be kept in Baltimore City under specific conditions. All goats must be dehorned, and male goats must be neutered. The number and sex of goats allowed depends on the size of the property:
 - ◊ On lots smaller than 20,000 square feet, you may keep no more than two female or neutered male goats, along with their offspring up to six months of age.
 - ◊ For every additional 5,000 square feet beyond 20,000, you may keep one additional goat, up to a maximum of six goats over six months old.

◇ Each goat must have access to at least 150 square feet of permeable space.¹²

• **Ferrets:** Ferrets may be kept after obtaining the required permit;¹³

• **Snakes:** Snakes that are capable of growing to a length of not more than 5 feet long may be kept. No venomous snakes may be kept;¹⁴

• **Lizards and Iguanas:** Lizards that are capable of growing to a length of not more than 5 feet long may be kept, and iguanas between 30 inches and 6 feet long when fully grown may be kept.¹⁵ No venomous lizards may be kept;

• **Chickens:** In addition to obtaining a permit from the Office of Animal Control, anyone keeping chickens (hens only) must register with the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Domestic Poultry and Exotic Bird Registration Division. All applicable zoning and building permits must also be secured before constructing or using a chicken coop or loft.

◇ Coops or lofts must be located at least 15 feet from any residence and must provide a minimum of two (2) square feet of space per hen.

◇ On lots smaller than 2,000 square feet, up to four (4) chickens over one month old may be kept. For every additional 1,000 square feet of lot area, one (1) additional chicken may be kept, up to a maximum of ten (10) chickens.¹⁶

◇ Community gardens and urban agricultural enterprises may submit an application to keep more than 10 chickens if they have a lot larger than 5,000 sq. ft. One additional chicken over the age of 1 month may be kept every additional 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area, not to exceed 50 chickens.¹⁷

• **Honey bees:** Keeping honey bees is allowed in Baltimore City, but the activity must be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. On lots up to 2,500 square feet, you may keep up to two colonies and one nucleus colony. For every additional 2,500 square feet of lot area, you may keep one additional colony and one additional nucleus colony;¹⁸

• **Rabbits:** On lots smaller than 1,000 square feet, you may keep up to twelve (12) rabbits, with no more than one (1) breeding pair. On lots larger than 1,000 square feet, up to two (2) breeding pairs are permitted, but the total number of rabbits may not exceed twenty-four (24);¹⁹

• **Horses:** Only domesticated horses (*Equus caballus*) used in the Arabber or carriage trades or used by federal, State, or local law enforcement units may be kept. Horses are subject to numerous regulations.²⁰

Conclusion

Although raising chickens and other animals in Baltimore City is legal, it's not as simple as setting up a coop or pen. The time and costs of navigating the zoning regulations and obtaining permits can add up quickly, and that's assuming you have the necessary lot size. But, for those with enough room and a willingness to follow the laws and regulations, it is possible to bring a touch of the countryside to city life.

¹Adjunct Professor, the University of Baltimore School of Law; Assistant City Solicitor, Baltimore City Law Department. The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.

²Baltimore City Health Code ("City Health Code"), § 10-601(a).

³City Health Code, § 10-101(r).

⁴Baltimore City Health Department Regulations, Regulations for Wild, Exotic, and Hybrid Animals ("City Health Regs."), II.A.1.

⁵City Health Code, § 10-601(c).

⁶City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, II.A.

⁷City Health Code, § 10-101(k), (p), (q).

⁸City Health Code, § 10-201.

⁹City Health Code, § 10-601(b).

¹⁰City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.A.

¹¹City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.B.

¹²City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.D.

¹³City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.D.

¹⁴City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.E.

¹⁵City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.F; Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.G.

¹⁶City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.H.

¹⁷City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.H.2.c.

¹⁸City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.I.

¹⁹City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 3, III.J.

²⁰See City Health Code, § 10-901, et seq.; City Health Regs., 01, Ch. 6.

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY, CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY, AND BALTIMORE COURTHOUSE AND LAW MUSEUM FOUNDATION

2025 TERM OF COURT CEREMONY AND STATED MEETING

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

4:30 p.m.

Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse
Ceremonial Courtroom 400
Baltimore, Maryland

Program

Presentation of Colors
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office

Greetings

The Honorable Audrey J.S. Carrion
Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court

Remarks

The Honorable Teresa Epps Cummings
President, Bar Association of Baltimore City

Remarks

Alicia Gipe, Esq.
President, Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum

Introduction of New Attorneys

Introduction of Circuit Court Law Clerks

Meet the Judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City Reception
Kaplan Court on the 2nd Floor

Tour of the Museum of Baltimore Legal History
4:00 pm
Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Courthouse, room 243

Admission is free. Advanced registration required.

Register: www.baltimorebar.org/calendar

For more information contact Karen Fast at kfast@baltimorebar.org.

“Futuristic Law: Artificial Intelligence Innovations in Legal Practice” Program Recap

Lauren Lake (with Sean Cooley, Raelyn Schuh, and Kiernan Waters)

On February 20, 2025, the Maryland State Bar Association Young Lawyers’ Section, the Bar Association of Baltimore City Young Lawyers’ Division, and the Bar Association of Baltimore City Technology Committee hosted an informative event focused on the intersection of artificial intelligence (“AI”) and legal practice. The evening started with a presentation demonstrating how AI can assist legal practitioners and law students, featuring Westlaw’s Co-Counsel, and here are a few takeaways:

- You should think of AI, like Co-Counsel, as a first-year associate. Check and verify its work.
- AI has many functions, including analyzing and reviewing documents, drafting (like a demand letter), generating a timeline, summarizing documents (like a long deposition) or a case law with IRAC, drafting deposition questions, creating a table of authorities or table of legal authorities, and a lot more!
- Co-Counsel has guardrails for additional reliability over other generative AI, is trained for the law, and is private and secure. For example, to reduce hallucinations, Co-Counsel gives responses only from the documents its reviewing and provides citations.

During the panel discussion that followed, AI experts the Honorable Paul W. Grimm (Retired Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland), City Solicitor Ebony Thompson (City of Baltimore), Alexandra Moylan (Shareholder at Baker Donelson), and Matthew Kohel (Partner at Saul Ewing) shared their insights. Here are some highlights:

- You should think of AI like Wikipedia because it is quick and helpful, but it should not be your only resource.
- Panelists have used AI in a variety of ways, including to help transition to a new job, such as from private practice to the government; to iterate and brainstorm ideas they would not have otherwise

thought about more quickly than on their own; to synthesize information; to draft thank you notes, outlines, notes, etc.; and to research prospective clients and cutting-edge issues.

- To check AI, you should ask AI to show or provide authority for its work. Alternatively, you could try asking AI the same question two or three times to see whether you get the same answer.
 - There are many ethical considerations when it comes to AI, including ensuring your fees are fair (if you can get something done faster and more efficiently, you should do so and charge your client for the more efficient work); you demonstrate appropriate candor with the court and your clients when using AI (consider including AI in your engagement letters and talking with clients up front about if/when you will use AI); you maintain your competency; you properly supervise AI and other legal professionals using AI, and more.
 - AI is not a substitute for your own thinking, but rather should be a stimulant.
 - Your output is only as good as your prompt and the data you are using, so practice and consider taking a training course on using AI tools.
 - Do not fall prey to automation bias, meaning that if something AI says or does seems wrong to you, you should check AI’s work.
 - You should explore how to use AI ethically, practically, and efficiently. The MSBA will have a publication coming soon as a resource.
- If you have not yet tried AI, try it and see how it can make your life easier. But remember to trust, but always verify, AI.



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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED FROM JANUARY 24, 2025 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2025

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YLD Sip & Slice

February 18, 2025

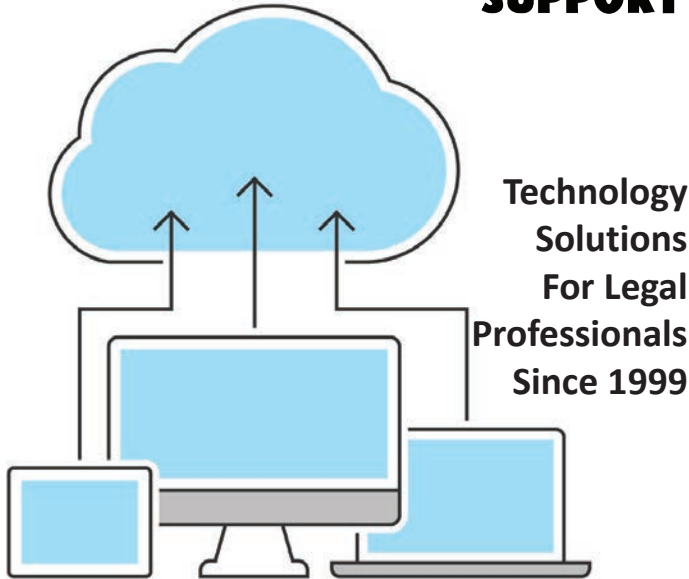
The YLD held their first Sip & Slice! It was a fantastic night filled with handcrafted cocktails, mouthwatering pizza, and great conversation. We loved seeing new faces and reconnecting with familiar ones—cheers to building connections and making lasting memories. The YLD has an event almost every month. We hope to see you at the next one!



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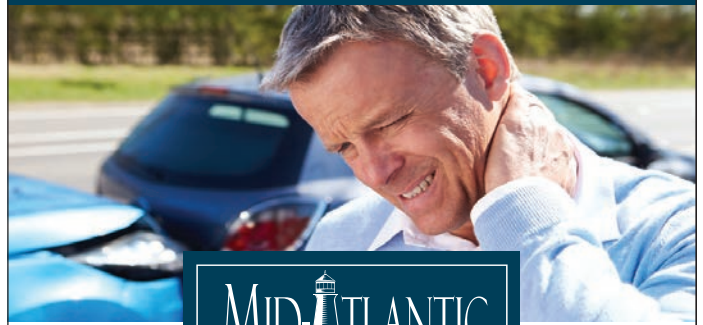
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JUNE 1, 2025**

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AUTO RENEW!



Sustaining Members Cooking Class

January 27, 2025

The Sustaining Members had a deliciously fun evening learning how to make eggrolls and dumplings at an exclusive outing! Special thanks to the Bar Association Insurance Agency and Diva Law for sponsoring the event. Want in on the next outing? Become a Sustaining Member when you renew your membership.





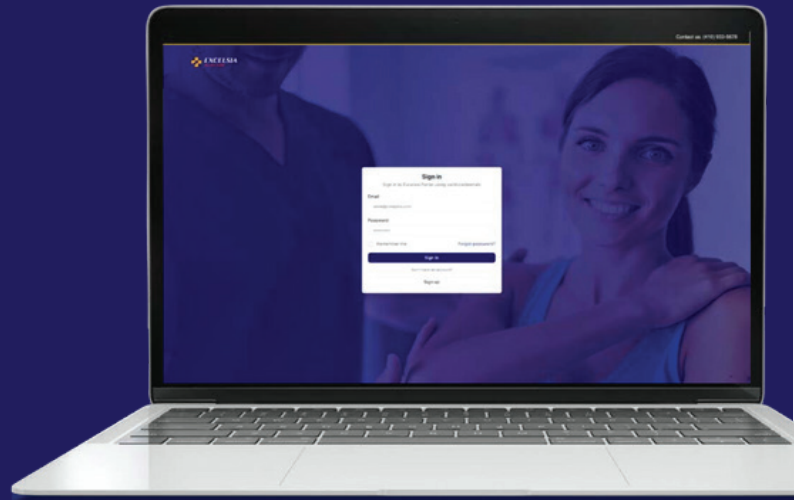
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CLE Futuristic Law

February 20, 2025

On February 20, legal professionals, technologists, and scholars gathered for Futuristic Law, an engaging event that explored how artificial intelligence is reshaping the legal field. Attendees examined cutting-edge tools, real-world applications, and the ethical considerations of AI in legal practice. The event sparked insightful conversations on the future of law, highlighting innovations that are driving greater efficiency, accuracy, and access to justice.



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- ✓ The Law Firm Sponsorship Program is designed to enable law firms in the Baltimore region to continue their support of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. Law firms are asked to make their commitment annually to the BABC and support its programs. This program has been intentionally designed to provide supporting law firms significant value in the form of benefits throughout the bar year.
- ✓ Sponsorship Levels Between \$1,000-\$10,000 offers a range of benefits, including tickets to the Crab Feast, Past Presidents' Luncheon, Annual Holiday Party, and Annual Meeting, as well as an invitation to BABC's Annual Managing Partners' Luncheon. Sponsors also receive complimentary BABC membership for a new young lawyer or newly admitted attorney. Additional perks include the firm's logo or name featured on the Bar Association's website with a link to the firm's website, and recognition as a sponsor at the Crab Feast, Past Presidents' Luncheon, Annual Holiday Party, and Annual Meeting. Sponsors are also acknowledged in BABC's newsletters, The City Bar Report and The Barrister.

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But we were in the room 30
years later when his law firm
merged with a competing
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Happy Hour with University of Baltimore Alumni

March 6, 2025

A heartfelt thank you to everyone from the University of Baltimore School of Law and the Bar Association of Baltimore City who joined us in March for a fantastic happy hour filled with great conversation, networking, and fun!

Special thanks to our generous sponsor, AmeriWell, and to Karla Ross for helping make the event possible.

We're excited for more opportunities to connect, collaborate, and build community in the future!



Baltimore Bar Foundation Spaghetti Opera

March 19 & 20, 2025

Thank You for Making Spaghetti Opera Night a Success!

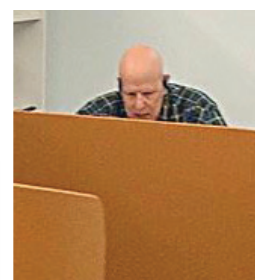
Spaghetti Opera Night occurred again on March 19 & 20, 2025! The evenings were filled with unforgettable music, captivating performances, and delicious Italian cuisine. Thank you to all the sponsors and attendees for coming and supporting the Baltimore Bar Foundation. Our outstanding performers, Claire Iverson, Guzaf Isametdinova, and Daniel E. Sampson brought the event to life. A special thank you to Kelly Hughes Iverson for her tireless fundraising. This would not be as successful without Kelly. Until next time – bravissimo!



BABC Executive Council Phone-a-thon Membership Drive

April 1, 2025

The BABC Executive Council got together on April 1st to call members that had not renewed last year. Everyone made many calls and even Brunello, BABC mascot, got in the action! Thank you to Sam Pulver and the Yost Law Firm for providing the space. If you know someone who has not renewed their membership – now is a great time – they get June free!



Life Insurance for Bar Members

Help make sure the life you're working hard to build can still move forward, no matter what happens.



The Investiture of the Hon. Kimberly McBride

April 3, 2025

BABC President, Hon. Teresa Epps Cummings, presents new Judge Kimberly McBride with a traditional crystal gavel at her investiture on April 3. We also heard from BABC Members, Hon. Pamela Brown and Valda Ricks. Congratulations Judge McBride!



The Bar Association of Baltimore City **145TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Reception
5:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

June 24, 2025

The Maryland Club
1 E. Eager Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Guest of Honor, The Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia,
Supreme Court of Maryland

Please join us for a reception and celebration honoring:
BABC President, Administrative Law Judge Teresa Epps Cummings
Incoming BABC President, Evelyn Lombardo Cusson
Baltimore Bar Foundation President,
Maryland Public Defender Natasha Dartigue
Incoming Baltimore Bar Foundation President, Kerri Smith
Young Lawyers' Division Chair, Rachel Samakow
Incoming Young Lawyers' Division Chair, Derek Van De Walle
BABC and BBF Award Winners
Bar Foundation Fellows
50 Year Honorees

Members: \$65, Non-Members: \$75

RSVP HERE www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/



Law Day for Seniors

April 12, 2025

The 32nd Annual Law Day for Seniors brought together expert legal guidance, valuable resources, and a shared commitment to supporting older adults as they navigated important legal matters. Thank you to BABC President, the Honorable Teresea Cummings, and to President-Elect Evelyn Lombardo Cusson for their generous support. The Senior Legal Services staff led by Director Nicholas Pycha, put on another valuable event for the community.



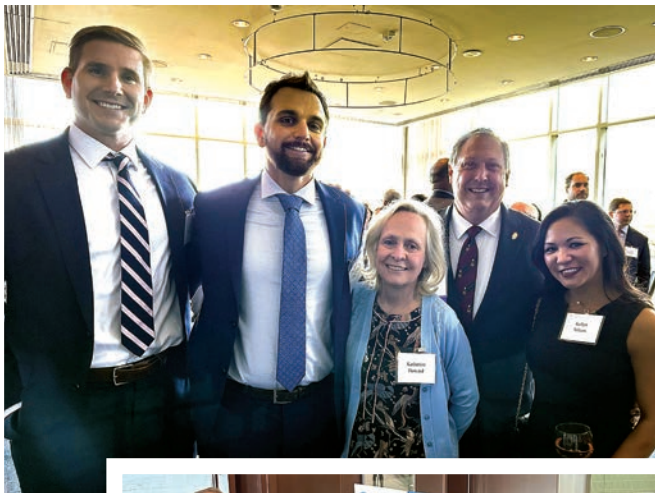


Meet the Judges

April 16, 2025

This year's Meet the Judges proved to be the event you did not want to miss! The incredible turnout and strong support from our judges, attorneys, and sheriffs made the evening truly memorable. A special thank you to our generous sponsor, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company, and Kiernan Waters whose support helped make the event both successful and comfortable. We couldn't have done it without you!







Hon. Michele D. Hotten (Ret.) Joins The McCammon Group

The Honorable Michele D. Hotten has joined The McCammon Group, a leading provider of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) services in the mid-Atlantic.



Hon. Michele D. Hotten

The Honorable Michele D. Hotten recently retired after nine years of distinguished service as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Maryland. She previously served as a Judge on the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland and as an Associate Judge on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Before her service on the bench, Justice Hotten enjoyed a successful law practice and served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Prince George's County, the Examiner in Chancery for Prince George's County, and was the Deputy People's Zoning Counsel for Prince George's County. A Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation, Justice Hotten is a Past President of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Prince George's County Bar Association, and Alan Goldstein Inns of Court. In 2023, she received the Women's Bar Association of Maryland's Rita C. Davidson Award and J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's President's Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions. Justice Hotten now brings this exceptional record of leadership and accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants in Maryland, DC, and beyond.

The McCammon Group has provided ADR services including mediation, arbitration, special master, ombuds, and judge pro tempore. It consists of eighty-six Neutrals including retired judges and practicing attorneys located throughout Virginia, DC, and Maryland. Importantly, throughout this time The McCammon Group has achieved a settlement rate of approximately 85% in its mediation work. The McCammon Group is committed to the proposition that ADR processes provide individuals, as well as public and private entities, with many substantial benefits including effective and prompt resolution of disputes, self-determination, cost savings, timeliness, flexibility, and confidentiality.

For more information, please visit www.McCammonGroup.com



Paul Bekman

Paul Bekman, Past President of the BABC and BABC Young Lawyers Section received two prestigious awards from the *Daily Record*: Lifetime Leadership in Law and the ICON award. These awards honored him for his success in Law and Leadership while practicing law.

Blast From the Past: Court House Columns

Derek M. Van De Walle, Esq., Chair of the Historical Committee



A photograph taken on December 16, 1897, captures one of the monolithic marble columns destined for the Calvert Street façade of what is now the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. The entrance is framed by eight Ionic columns – each carved from a single block of marble, weighing 38 tons and standing 36 feet tall. These columns hold the record for the tallest monolithic marble columns in the country, and stand a full seven feet higher than those of the U.S. Capitol, making the Calvert Street façade one of the most impressive architectural features in American civic design.

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- Hot Topics in Family Law
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- Legislative Update
- Pathway to Becoming a Judge
- And MORE!!

Speakers include: Hon. Audrey Carrion; Senator Dayla Attar, Maryland State Delegate, Elizabeth M. Embry, Tom DeGonia, Hon. Jonathan Biran; Hon. Douglas Nazarian; Hon. Myshala Middleton; Hon. Alan Lazerow; Hon. Nicole Barmore; Hon. Dana Middleton; Hon. Hope Tipton; Hon. Catherine Chen; Hon. Pamela White 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

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





BABBC BENCH BAR CONFERENCE EVENT SCHEDULE

"It's a Charm City"

8:45 - 9:00
AM

WELCOME

BABBC President, The Honorable Teresa Epps Cummings

9:00 - 9:50
AM

OPENING SESSION: WHAT THE BENCH AND BAR NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AI

Gary Norman, Justice Jonathan Biran, Ariana Aboulafia, Maitreya Shah

10:00 - 10:50
AM

DIVING INTO NEW MARYLAND RULES

Ryan Dietrich,
Judge Douglas Nazarian,
Court of Special Appeals

HOT TOPICS IN FAMILY LAW

Alice Pinderhughes,
Judge Myshala E.
Middleton

VIEW FROM THE BENCH FOR LAWYERS NEWER TO THE COURTROOM

Glenn Gordon, Judge
Alan Lazerow, Judge
Nicole Barmore

11:00 - 11:50
AM

A GLIMPSE INTO THE NEW VOIR DIRE

Chief Judge
Audrey Carrion,
Michael Hudack

UNPACKING LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2025

Jacob Dorfman
Senator Dayla Attar,
Elizabeth M. Embry,
Maryland State Delegate

BEST PRACTICES FOR CLIENT SATISFACTION: MANAGING RISK FOR GRIEVANCES

Kiernan Waters,
Al Frederick,
Tom DeGonia

12:00 - 1:30
PM

LUNCH AND LEARN: MDEC: SHARED LESSONS AND A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Hon. Lawrence Fletcher-Hill, Amy Petkovsek, Esq.

1:30 - 2:00
PM

Exhibitors Showcase

2:00 - 2:50
PM

SUPPORTING OUR TEAMS: MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR BENCH, BAR AND STAFF

Hon.
Charles H. Dorsey, III

HOT TOPICS IN WILLS, ESTATES AND TRUSTS

Hon. Pamela White

PATHS TO THE BENCH

Kiernan Waters,
Judge Dana Middleton,
Judge Hope Tipton,
Judge Catherine Chen

3:00 - 4:00
PM

CLOSING REMARKS, SPONSOR DRAWINGS, RECEPTION

BABBC President-Elect, Evelyn Lombardo Cusson



Meet Quinton Herbert: Winner of the Paul A. Dorf Memorial ADR Award



Quinton Herbert was the 2024 recipient of the Paul A. Dorf Memorial ADR Award. Quinton serves as the Director and Chief Human Capital Officer for the Department of Human Resources (“DHR”) for the City of Baltimore.

Can you tell us about your professional background and your journey in the legal profession?

My journey in the legal profession began with a deep curiosity about the intersection of law, society, and criminal justice. I earned my law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law where I developed a solid foundation in legal practice through participation in several clinical programs. Throughout my studies, I was particularly drawn to criminal law, which led me to serve as an Assistant Public Defender in Baltimore County in the early years of my career. That experience not only sharpened my legal skills but also taught me the importance of clear communication, attention to detail, and use of negotiation skills as a major component in client advocacy.

As I progressed in my career, I moved on to practice labor and employment law where I took on more responsibility, including leading labor negotiations for the City of Baltimore for all non-public safety unions for the Office of the Labor Commissioner. Over time, I became particularly interested in mediation, where I could help parties reach agreements through dialogue and creative problem-solving. As my practice grew, I also became an advocate for educating both clients and fellow attorneys on the benefits of ADR as a more efficient and harmonious alternative to traditional litigation. It was during my tenure with the Office of the Labor Commissioner that I was selected as an American Arbitration Association A. Leon Higginbotham Fellow. Over the years, I have built a reputation for my analytical ability, negotiation skills, and the ability to achieve win-win results for all parties to a dispute.

Along the way, I’ve also taken part in professional development activities, bar associations, and other continuing education, which has allowed me to stay at the forefront of evolving legal trends in ADR and ensure that I employ the best methods in resolving conflicts. I am a past president of the Maryland Labor and Employment Relations Association (“MdLERA”), a local labor relations organization, where I championed the principles of fair negotiation and cooperative problem solving. I also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Labor and Employment Relations Association (“LERA”), a national organization promoting the collaboration of Management, Labor, and Neutrals working together to improve the outcomes of mediation and arbitration processes. I was able to leverage my position to build strong relationships among stakeholders to create more harmonious work environments among constituent organizations while working to build a workplace culture that can serve as a benchmark for other organizations to aspire to.

In short, my journey has been driven by a passion ADR, a commitment to helping clients and colleagues alike navigate complex legal issues, and an ongoing desire to grow both professionally and personally within the ADR practice area.

What drew you to specialize in/focus on ADR, and why do you believe it’s an important aspect of the legal system?

What initially drew me to specialize in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was a recognition of the limitations of traditional litigation. While the courtroom can be an effective venue for resolving certain types of disputes, I quickly saw that many legal issues could be better

addressed through collaboration and communication rather than adversarial proceedings. I was particularly interested in how mediation and arbitration offered parties the chance to resolve their differences in a way that was not only more efficient but often more cost-effective and less emotionally taxing.

I also realized that ADR provided an opportunity to focus on the bigger picture – helping clients achieve sustainable, mutually beneficial outcomes rather than just “winning” in a traditional sense. The ability to help people find common ground and preserve relationships, especially in commercial or employment disputes, really resonated with me. It’s a way of practicing law that allows for creative solutions that may not always be available in the rigid structure of litigation.

In my current role, mediation of workplace or traditional labor disputes allows parties to take control of the resolution process. It empowers them to craft solutions that better meet their needs, rather than relying solely on a judge, jury, or hearing examiner’s decision. ADR allows parties to reimagine what winning looks like and negotiate outcomes that fit that new paradigm.

How do you foster collaboration and understanding between parties in conflict?

Fostering collaboration and understanding between parties in conflict is at the core of what I do as an ADR professional, and it starts with creating a safe, neutral space where each party feels heard and respected. One of the first things I do is establish ground rules for communication – emphasizing active listening, respect, and a focus on problem-solving rather than assigning blame. This sets the tone for a more productive and collaborative conversation.

I also make sure to clearly define each party’s interests and needs, rather than just focusing on their positions. Often, the real solution lies not in what each side thinks they want, but in understanding the underlying concerns that drive their position. By helping each party express their true needs and feelings, I can facilitate a deeper understanding of the issues at hand and help them see common ground that may have been overlooked.

Throughout the process, I emphasize the importance of empathy. I encourage each party to consider the other’s perspective, not just their own. When people feel that their concerns are genuinely understood, they are more likely to be open to compromise and find creative, win-win solutions. I also work to keep the tone of the discussion positive and forward-looking, focusing on what can be done to resolve the issue, rather than rehashing past grievances.

Finally, I always maintain transparency and neutrality. By remaining impartial and ensuring that both sides feel equally supported in the process, I help build trust, which is essential for collaboration. It’s this balanced approach – creating a collaborative environment, focusing on underlying interests, and fostering mutual understanding – that often leads to lasting and effective resolutions.

What advice would you give to lawyers interested in pursuing a career in ADR?

For lawyers interested in pursuing a career in ADR, my first piece of advice would be to really immerse yourself in learning about the different methods of dispute resolution, such as mediation, arbitration, and collaborative law. Each process has its own unique approach and benefits, so understanding the nuances of each will give you a well-rounded skill set. You can start by taking courses, attending workshops, and even seeking out certifications in ADR to build both your knowledge and credibility in the field.

Another key aspect is to develop strong communication and negotiation skills. ADR is all about facilitating dialogue, understanding diverse perspectives, and helping parties work together toward a resolution. The ability to listen actively, communicate clearly, and remain impartial is crucial. In many ways, ADR requires a different mindset than traditional litigation – it's more about problem-solving and creativity than simply arguing points of law.

I also recommend gaining hands-on experience as early as possible, even if it's on a smaller scale. Whether that means volunteering as a mediator in a community program, taking on ADR cases in your practice, or shadowing experienced ADR professionals, practical experience will be invaluable. It will give you insight into how these processes work in real-world scenarios and help you refine your techniques.

Building relationships within the ADR community is also essential. Networking with other professionals – whether through ADR organizations, seminars, or conferences – can open doors for mentorship opportunities and partnerships that are vital as you build your career. The ADR community is often very collaborative, and connecting with others can help you learn and grow in ways that go beyond formal education.

Lastly, stay patient and persistent. While ADR is growing in popularity, it still requires time and experience to become truly skilled in this area. The more you work with clients and hone your approach, the more successful you'll be in helping parties find effective solutions.

Are there any personal experiences or moments in your life that shaped your drive to excel in the legal profession?

There have been several pivotal moments in my life that have really shaped my drive to excel in the legal profession, particularly in the area

of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). One of the most significant was during my early years in law school when I volunteered in a pro bono mediation clinic. I was assigned to help mediate small claims disputes between community members, and I quickly realized how powerful the process of mediation could be in fostering understanding and resolving conflicts. It was incredibly rewarding to see how just a few hours of conversation and guidance could lead to an amicable resolution, saving the parties time, money, and emotional energy. That experience sparked my passion for ADR and solidified the critical importance of negotiation skills and active listening in conflict resolution.

Another formative experience for me came later when I was working on a complex civil case as litigation counsel for Baltimore City Public Schools. I was involved in a construction case where the potential for a long, expensive litigation seemed inevitable. However, through a combination of patience, active listening, and strategic thinking, we managed to guide the parties to a mutually acceptable resolution. Seeing firsthand how powerful ADR can be in resolving high-stakes disputes further deepened my belief in its value and solidified my commitment to mastering this field.

On a personal level, I've always been drawn to the idea of helping people and solving problems. I grew up in a family where open communication and finding common ground were emphasized, and I believe those values have played a huge role in my drive to pursue a legal career focused on collaboration and dispute resolution. My personal experiences, both in and outside of the legal field, have reinforced my passion for ADR and my desire to help individuals and organizations resolve conflicts in a way that benefits everyone involved.

Meet Robert Anbinder: Winner of the Charles H. Dorsey, Jr. Mentor Award



Robert "Bob" Anbinder was the 2024 recipient of the Charles H. Dorsey, Jr. Mentor Award. Bob serves as a Chief Solicitor in Baltimore City Law Department, and is the past-President of the BABC.

Can you share a particularly meaningful experience you've had mentoring someone?

Over the course of the years, I have had mentees who earned their law degree and passed the Bar, but were very nervous about getting a job and actually practicing law. I talked them through it and I am happy to say most of them decided to give law practice a try, found public sector jobs, and are happy that they did so. One attorney who did not go into practice still found a new job in an area of interest to him and is satisfied. So I consider them all a "win!"

What qualities do you think make an effective mentor?

Any mentor should rely on their strongest skills when mentoring. I approach the task with humor (hopefully), trying not to be too serious, because seriousness injects stress where it shouldn't be.

Listening is obviously key, so I ask a lot of questions and listen to the answers – both what the mentee says and doesn't say. I ask why they sought out a mentor and what they hope to accomplish. Are they trying to understand and overcome barriers at their current position, or to move forward somewhere else? Usually, they are just nervous about change, sometimes to the point where they aren't sure if they are coming or going! I pose scenarios where perhaps they might see themselves. Once I can ascertain their possible destination, I try to give them contact information for lawyers who I know would be delighted to help them get there. My goal is to leave a mentee with more hope, information and optimism than they had when we first met.

Even after the formal relationship ends, I let them know that I am always available to help. This turns mentorships into professional relationships and friendships. I should note that an effective mentor should also be able to meet somewhere regularly in person – you are fostering a trust relationship, and the best way to do that for me at least is to see them face to face. They

aren't a BABC sponsor, but Panera is a great place to meet and talk, with locations near everyone.

Have you had a mentor yourself? How did they influence your approach to mentorship?

When I started practicing at the Baltimore City Law Department in 1993, I had a hallway lined with mentors. Nothing formal, just open doors along a hallway full of people who would endure my endless questions and assuage my constant stress. Even today I am not hesitant about asking others for all kinds of advice. I mentor as a way of saying thanks to the millions who have molded me over the years.

How can organizations better support mentorship and professional development?

Law firms have changed: more attorneys are teleworking; in-office schedules are more erratic; it is hard for younger attorneys to find sources of help and advice. They don't have the hallway of mentors that I had.

All attorneys, especially, but not exclusively, younger attorneys, will have concerns and questions. There are no stupid questions and there needs to be a place to ask them. Law offices should provide a "judgment free zone" where concerns and questions can be raised without criticism or negative comment, and then addressed. Fortunately, the Bar Association of Baltimore City, Young Lawyers' Division helps provide what some law firms do not: a mentor-mentee program to provide an open forum. The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland has a Professional Skills Academy with training and mentoring. I give time to both.

If you could go back and give your younger self advice, what would it be?

A great question, the answer to which I will hedge, for no one wants to publicly reveal too much of themselves. Let's just say I would encourage "little" Bob to have more confidence in his day-to-day work and to remember that it **wasn't his fault** the client got into these situations and that it **isn't his fault** that he can't always work miracles to get the client out of trouble.

What does receiving this mentorship award mean to you personally?

I am touched, and appreciate that someone noticed my efforts. This is not a job you do for money, so the attention is a nice reward.



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