



# CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

### Ethics Hotline Volunteer

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## This is Not a Goodbye Message!



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

As they say, all good things must come to an end and while this is my last monthly bar report, I am not saying goodbye but instead I am saying see you later after the summer break! As my bar year comes to an end, I want to take a moment to thank all members of the BABC's executive board and council, the Young Lawyers' Division, committee chairs and co-chairs, Senior Legal Services staff, the executive director and staff, and last but certainly not least, all members of the BABC (including our very special Sustaining Members), because without all of you, there is no BABC. Additionally, I would like to thank the BABC's past presidents who mentored me throughout my bar year. Thank you for answering my calls, responding to my emails and for providing me with your guidance and support as I navigated my way through a bar year full of many highs and some

lows. Being president of any organization requires a level of commitment and level-headedness that one cannot appreciate until you are actually in the role. And, while the 2024-2025 bar year had its share of ups and downs, all decisions were made with a focus on the best interest of the BABC. As we are living in somewhat tumultuous times, I want us to take a moment to reflect on everything that was good about the 2024-2025 bar year because the BABC accomplished a lot! During this bar year, the BABC sponsored over 20 CLEs including the multi-day Estates & Trusts Boot Camp and the inaugural Bench Bar Conference. We also reinstated the Term of Court Ceremony. Members of the BABC leadership team spent an entire Saturday working on a 5-year strategic plan which resulted in the adoption of a new mission statement. A complete review of the bylaws was undertaken, and the proposed amendments will be presented shortly. The BABC published twelve City Bar Reports which are available on the website for your review. And speaking of the website, updates were made throughout the year, and we worked to increase

the BABC's social media presence by providing recaps and photographs from our events and programs. The BABC adopted the American Bar Association's statement regarding the Rule of Law and remains committed to the ideals expressed therein. We instituted monthly finance committee meetings, overhauled the process for drafting the budget and had to make some tough decisions regarding the BABC's future financial goals and obligations. The BABC proudly and enthusiastically hosted our Annual Crab Feast, the Past Presidents' Luncheon, Supreme Court Admissions Trip, National Adoption Day, the YLD's Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters, the BABC Holiday Party, Senior Legal Services' Law Day for Seniors, and most recently the Government and Public Interest Award Reception which featured Baltimore City Solicitor Ebony Thompson as the keynote speaker. As stated in the mission statement, the Bar Association of Baltimore City is an organization of legal professionals committed to:

- providing continuing legal education

- and services to its members;
- advocating for its members;
- promoting professionalism, equality, and diversity;
- fostering collegiality;
- advancing the public image of the profession;
- providing law-related services and education to the public; and
- exercising leadership on a local, state, and national level.

Throughout the 2024-2025 bar year, my goal was to be of service to the members while also advocating for the legal profession as a whole with a focus on exhibiting professionalism and fostering collegiality amongst our members and supporters. The organization did an excellent job of advancing the public image of the profession by engaging in several civic-minded opportunities which allowed us to have a direct impact on the Baltimore City community. In closing, thank you all for your commitment to the BABC and I look forward to the continued success of our bar association under the leadership of incoming president, Evelyn Cusson. We remain One. One city. One profession. One bar.

## A Love Letter to the YLD



Rachel Samakow, Chair of the Young Lawyers' Division

I have had the extraordinary privilege of serving in an extended nearly two-year term as YLD Chair. In that time, I have had the pleasure to work with not one, but two phenomenal BABC presidents, the incredible bar staff that helps bring our programs to life, and two passionate YLD executive boards. What many of our membership might not be aware of, I was initially asked to step into the role earlier than expected - three weeks after giving birth to my son, Alex. While I did not hesitate to say yes, I was admittedly terrified as a brand-new mom. How was I going to find a semblance of work life balance prior to chairing two separate bar association sections, several months earlier? I can say with certainty that any success I have had in this role is entirely

due to the YLD executive team. So, as my last official article for the Barrister, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the YLD board. As I reflect on the past year of activities, growth, and connection within the BABC, I am filled with immense gratitude for the tireless work of a truly exceptional group - our dedicated young lawyers who went above and beyond to plan, organize, and execute a dynamic range of programs, panels, and events. From CLE sessions to thought-provoking panel discussions, networking socials to community service initiatives, their creativity, professionalism, and commitment have brought our mission to life in inspiring ways. These efforts have not only enriched the professional lives of our members but have also fostered a deeper sense of unity and purpose within our legal community. Their ability to anticipate the needs of our members and craft meaningful programs addressing timely legal issues has been nothing short of impressive. Whether hosting workshops on emerging

areas of law or curating panels that spark critical dialogue, they helped create platforms where ideas flourished and knowledge was shared freely. Our social events, whether mixers, dinners, or celebrations were infused with energy and purpose thanks to their thoughtful planning and enthusiasm. These gatherings were more than just a good time; they served as opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and form lasting bonds, all in a welcoming and inclusive environment. I also want to commend the dedication to civic responsibility and public service. The leadership in organizing community outreach programs to support the public good has reaffirmed the BABC's core values and made a tangible impact on the city we proudly serve. It is through this example that we continue to inspire the next generation of legal professionals. Behind each successful event was countless hours of planning, coordination, and teamwork, often in addition to their own demanding legal practices. Contributions were not taken for granted,

and the willingness to step up with passion and professionalism speaks volumes about character and commitment to the betterment of our legal community. Efforts have made this year one of engagement, education, and camaraderie. The BABC has not only maintained but elevated the standard of excellence that defines our organization. I could not be more grateful to have worked with each leader, to have had more time in this role to get to know everyone both professionally and personally, to have learned and been inspired, and to have the privilege of calling each one friends. Thank you for your support from my first day as Chair. My family thanks you too. I have no doubt the YLD will continue to build on this momentum and continue to shape a vibrant, supportive, and impactful legal community, especially with an incredible leader like Derek Van De Walle coming in as 2025-2026 YLD Chair. Thank you all for everything you do - for your service, your leadership, and most of all, your unwavering dedication to the BABC.

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# BABC MEMBERSHIP

**Lawyer Referral Service**

Annual Meeting

**Past Presidents' Luncheon**

Orioles Picnic Perch

**Exclusive Sustaining Member Events**

**Joint Bar Welcome Back Happy Hour**

Black History Month Event

**Women's History Month Event**

**Supreme Court Group Admission**

**Crab Feast**

Holiday Party for Children

Living in Shelters

City Bar Report

**Continuing Legal Education**

Meet The Judges

**Bench Bar Conference**

There will be a modest increase in membership dues. This adjustment is necessary to ensure we can continue to maintain the high quality of programming and services that you expect and deserve. We appreciate your continued support and commitment to BABC.



The Bar Association OF Baltimore City Welcomes New  
Members Who Have Joined From  
May 1, 2025 Through May 31, 2025

Jay A. Abarbanel  
Allison Brunetto  
Adam Farra  
Adam Yehia Fetian  
Philip Green  
Eleni Nicos Hadjipanteli  
Abigail Harman  
Amanda Margaret Huff  
Iris F. Jones  
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Eric Sabatino  
Adam Thomas Sundquist  
Patricia N. Tuon  
Kimberly Ann Van Bavel  
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Silas Zechman





# *Bench-Bar Conference*

## *"It's a Charm City"*

On May 30th, the Bar Association of Baltimore City proudly hosted our inaugural Bench-Bar Conference at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse – and what a day it was! We were thrilled to welcome members of the bench and bar for a full day of thought-provoking sessions, valuable networking, and meaningful dialogue. A heartfelt thank you to all who attended – especially the judges and speakers who took time out of their busy schedules to share their insights and expertise. Your presence and contributions made this conference truly exceptional.



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, October 8, 2025**

Registration is limited to 12 applicants.

Completed applications are due no later than August 30, 2025.

To obtain an application package, contact the BABC office at [info@baltimorebar.org](mailto:info@baltimorebar.org), or call 410-539-5936.

Register on [www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/](http://www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/)

Reserve your spot now with KF, payment due 7/1/2025.

\*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.

SAVE THE DATE

**SEPTEMBER 4TH**

Welcome Back Happy Hour!

Thursday, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
The Maryland Club  
1 E. Eager St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**SEPTEMBER 17TH**

BABC Memorial Service

Wednesday, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse, Courtroom 400  
100 N. Calvert St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**SEPTEMBER 30TH**

BABC Annual Crab Feast


Tuesday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Jimmy's Famous Seafood  
6526 Holabird Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21224

More Details to Come!

Register at:  
[www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/](http://www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/)



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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).