



CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

Ethics Hotline Volunteer
Hon. Joan Bossmann Gordon (Ret): 443-681-0526
John T. Prisbe: 410-244-7798

Bar Association Membership Is Self-Care



President,
Evelyn Lombardo Cusson

The new bar year is an opportunity to consider the benefits of bar membership and how participating in the bar association is not only rewarding professionally, but also life enhancing.

I hope many of you enjoyed our annual meeting, honoring our outgoing bar leaders from the Bar Association of Baltimore City, the Baltimore Bar Foundation, and the Young Lawyers' Division, and setting the stage for our new leaders across the association. We were also fortunate to recognize another milestone, our honorees who have served

the bar association for 50 years, truly an achievement.

We were joined at the annual meeting by a dear guest, the Honorable Lynne A. Battaglia, who began by remarking that bar association membership is self-care. Until Judge Battaglia said it, I had never considered it in quite that way, but I wholeheartedly agree. The bar association provides a helpful context to form friendships, understand different perspectives and experiences, enhance education and skills, and be of service to others. Practicing law can be isolating. Participating in the bar association is a support to me. I hope that it will continue to be for you.

As we look ahead to the myriad social, educational, and service programs our committees have in store, you might consider engaging with the bar association as a way to put your oxygen

mask on first.

We begin in September with the Annual Joint Bar Welcome Back Happy Hour on Thursday, September 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Register through the BABC Calendar of Events to reserve your spot. The event is co-hosted by the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland, the Federal Bar Association Maryland Chapter, the Maryland Association for Justice, Maryland Defense Counsel, the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, the Monumental City Bar Association, the South Asian Bar Association, and the Maryland State Bar Association Young Lawyers.

We are also launching a formal mentoring program by application only. We will pair experienced attorneys with newer lawyers and have developed a guided program through bar association

experiences, culminating in a special event on paths to leadership in the bar association. I hope that new lawyers will apply for this special opportunity, and that our experienced colleagues will answer the call to share their insights. Please email evelyncusson.babc@gmail.com if you are interested.

Finally, please mark your calendar for Cabaret & Cabernet on November 5, 2025, our annual fundraiser to support Senior Legal Services. The event features musical performances by our multi-talented members, and the funds raised help Senior Legal Services provide legal assistance to older adults in Baltimore City.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and let's take care of ourselves by engaging with the bar association this year.

No One Makes It Alone



Chair, Young Lawyers' Division,
Derek Van De Walle

Success doesn't happen alone, especially in the legal profession. Somebody makes a connection Or somebody warns you. Or saves you from stepping in something you can't wipe off. And that's what mentorship is about.

In our profession, we often talk about "mentorship." The word itself is ancient (literally), coming from the Greek tale of Mentor, the man who looked after Odysseus's son, Telemachus, while Odysseus spent ten years at war and another ten years trying to get home.

Although the Greeks did not anticipate it, practicing law is its own kind of odyssey. There are trials, twists, detours, and days that feel like you've gone to hell and come back with a filing deadline. But you don't have to make the journey alone.

Today, mentorship displays itself in many forms. It's not limited to an awkward coffee meeting or a formal check-in. Sometimes it's a quick call. A scribbled note on a motion. A quiet word in the hallway after court. At its base, a mentor is someone who looks out for you. At its best, mentorship is a conversation between someone who has endured, and someone who has not yet had the pleasure of enduring.

A mentor can help you figure out which battles are worth fighting, and which ones just make you jaded. A good mentor tells you when to speak up and when to sit still. They've argued the wrong motion, trusted the wrong client, and said the wrong thing in front of the right judge (or the right thing in front of the wrong judge). They've stepped in every puddle, taken every wrong turn, and, yet, somehow lived to talk about it. And if you're smart enough to listen, they just might tell you how they did it.

But mentorship isn't a one-way street.

It's a symbiotic relationship that the mentor can gain something from too. There's something about helping someone else that knocks the dust off your principles and makes you remember what justice was supposed to look like before you started billing in six-minute increments. In the end, both sides walk away better equipped to face whatever the job throws at them next.

That's why the BABC proudly announces the launch of its revitalized Mentorship Program, which pairs seasoned attorneys with the next generation of legal professionals. The Program fosters a culture of continuous learning and development to encourage young lawyers to tap into the vast reservoir of knowledge and experience within the Baltimore City legal community.

Joining this program gives young lawyers the chance to get real guidance in both the practical and personal aspects of legal practice. From honing substantive legal skills to navigating the politics of

the workplace, a good mentor hands you a map. An atlas that is hand-drawn and informed by years of hard-earned experience.

Mentorship only works if you show up for it. To invest in your future, you'll need to apply, and you'll be expected to show up to a few BABC events during the year. The program wraps up with a Leadership Seminar where folks look back, look ahead, and hopefully look inward.

If you're a young lawyer hungry to learn, now's the time to raise your hand. And if you're an experienced attorney with a few lessons worth passing on, now's the time to give someone else a leg up.

Sign up and be part of something that lasts longer than a single case. The future of this profession won't build itself, and if you believe wisdom should be shared, and not hoarded, the BABC Mentorship Program is for you. The law keeps changing. It's easier to find your way with someone who's already taken the road and made it back.

SAVE^{THE}DATE

BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY

HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER | 3RD | 2025

5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

THE INN AT HENDERSON'S WHARF

1000 FELL STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21231

SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES
PRESENTS THE 11TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION EVENT

CABARET & CABERNET

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 PM

FEATURING MEMBERS & FRIENDS
OF THE BAR

Westminster Hall | 519 W. Fayette St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

\$45.00 Members & Guests
6:00 - 6:45 PM Registration & Cocktail Hour
6:45 - 7:00 PM Awards Presentation
7:00 - 8:00 PM Cabaret



TO PURCHASE TICKETS/SPONSOR PLEASE VISIT
WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/

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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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL

JOINT BAR WELCOME BACK HAPPY HOUR

Thursday, September 4, 2025

5:00 - 7:00 pm

The Maryland Club

1 East Eager Street, Baltimore

Sponsored by

MINNESOTA LAWYERS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

Planet Depos

Rodd Santomauro synergy.

Register at mdforjustice.com/Bars

ALLIANCE OF BLACK WOMEN ATTORNEYS

BALTIMORE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

CIRCUIT COURT OF BALTIMORE CITY

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION Maryland Chapter

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MARYLAND DEFENSE COUNSEL, INC. Promoting justice. Preserving solutions.

MHBA MARYLAND HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

MSA SECTION YOUNG LAWYERS

SABA-DC SOUTH ASIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

The Bar Association of Baltimore City

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Service before the Circuit Court for Baltimore City for Members of the Bench and Bar Who Passed Away in 2024.

September 17, 2025

4:00 p.m. Ceremony, Reception to Follow

IN MEMORIAM

Peter G. Angelos

Salvatore Annello, III

William Beale

David Cohen

Irvin Fishbein

Timothy Fizer

James Gabler

Herbert S. Garten

Larry H. Gesner

John Jones

Mark Kozlowski

Robert Nead

Norris Ramsey

Stanley Rohd


Alvin Sellman

Bernard Sevel

Glenn Weinberg

Fred Wolf, III

John Wood




Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse,

Courtroom 400

100 N. Calvert St.

Baltimore, MD 21202

REGISTER AT: BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR



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

Michelle Compton

Jaime Cortina

Joseph Henderson

D’Andrea Lancelin

Debbie Levi

Amee Vora

Olivia L. Wolz

Sign up to be a SUSTAINING MEMBER upon your renewal.

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





*The Bar Association of Baltimore City
invites you to its annual*

CRAB FEAST



6526 HOLABIRD AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MD 21224

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Join us for Crabs, Pit Beef,
Fried Chicken, Pasta and more!

BABC MEMBERS & GUESTS:
\$90 EARLY BIRD PRICE BY SEPTEMBER 1
\$95 SEPTEMBER 2 – 29
\$105 SEPTEMBER 30

CHILDREN 10 & UNDER: FREE

ALL FRIENDS & FAMILY OF THE BABC INVITED!
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Shawe & Rosenthal, LLP





The Bar Association of Baltimore City and Young Lawyers' Division



BABC MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 2025–2026

We are excited to announce the return of the Bar Association of Baltimore City's Mentorship Program for the 2025–2026 bar year! If you're an experienced lawyer ready to share your knowledge, or a newer attorney looking for support as you navigate the profession, the BABC Mentorship Program is a chance to connect, learn, and grow within Baltimore's legal community. Participants will be thoughtfully paired and encouraged to:

- Meet one-on-one at least once or twice during the year,
- Attend one CLE event together,
- Participate in at least one social event,
- And explore paths to leadership within the Bar Association.

The program will culminate in a Bar Leadership Summit, where mentors and mentees will come together to reflect on their experience and discuss how to stay engaged in the profession and in bar leadership.

Space is limited, and the deadline to apply is August 31. Don't miss your chance to take part in this rewarding experience—apply today at:
<https://www.baltimorebar.org/young-lawyers-division/babc-yld-mentorship-program/>

APPLY NOW!

We look forward to another year of mentorship, collaboration, and growth.

