

# THE BALTIMORE Barrister

SUMMER 2025

VOL 15 | NO 3



**2025-2026**

Young Lawyers' Division  
Chair, Derek Van De Walle

Bar Association of Baltimore City  
President, Evelyn Lombardo Cusson

Baltimore Bar Foundation  
President, Kerri Smith



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY

# The McCammon Group

is pleased to welcome our newest Neutral



## Hon. Christopher Panos (Ret.)

*Retired Associate Judge, Circuit Court for Baltimore City*

The Honorable Christopher Panos has joined The McCammon Group after eleven years of dedicated service as an Associate Judge on the 8th Judicial Circuit Court for Baltimore City. He previously served as an Associate Judge for the District Court of Baltimore City and as a Special Master for the Family Division of the Circuit Court for Baltimore. Prior to his tenure on the bench, Judge Panos enjoyed a successful career in civil litigation including family law, bodily injury, and commercial matters. He is a Life Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the Baltimore City Bar Foundation. Judge Panos' memberships include the International Association of LGBTQ+ Judges, Maryland State Bar Association, and Bar Association of Baltimore City. Judge Panos co-chaired the BABC Bench-Bar Committee and chaired the BABC Family Law Committee. Additional memberships have included the MSBA Standing Committee on Professionalism and the MSBA Family and Juvenile Law Section Council. Judge Panos now brings this exemplary record of excellence and experience to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation and arbitration needs of lawyers and litigants in Maryland and beyond.

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## The Baltimore Barrister

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## 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

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Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse,  
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# Bar Association Membership Is Self-Care

*Evelyn Lombardo Cusson, Esq., President, Bar Association of Baltimore City*



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 lead-

ership 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](mailto:evelyncusson.babc@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Finally, please mark your calendar for Cabaret & Cabernet on October 23, 2025, our annual fundraiser to support free 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.

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

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# Great Lawyers Serve the Public Too

## Young Lawyers' Division Update

*Derek Van De Walle, Esq., Chair, Young Lawyers' Division, Bar Association of Baltimore City*



The gap between those who need legal help and those who receive it is growing. Housing instability, access to public benefits, job security, and immigration proceedings are just a few of the areas where legal representation is the difference between securing rights and losing them. Bearing in mind that pro bono service is also a professional responsibility, the bar has an obligation to bridge that gap.

And yet, each year, far too many citizens in Baltimore City and the State are left to navigate legal problems without any assistance at all. But you can change that.

In a time when trust in institutions is low and disparities in justice persist, we have a responsibility to prove that legal protections apply to all. There are more than 26,000 licensed attorneys in the State of Maryland. Even accounting for those unable to participate, if every attorney took one pro bono case, the collective impact would be difficult to ignore. Thousands of Marylanders would gain access to legal help that could change, or even save, their lives.

For many, the moment a person is paired with a lawyer is the moment they begin to feel seen and heard. The value goes beyond that. By representing a tenant facing eviction, you're preventing homelessness and ensuring stable living conditions for a vulnerable family. By representing a consumer, you're helping people regain control of their financial lives. Drafting a will can preserve wealth in an underserved community. By volunteering at an immigration clinic, you're offering refugees hope and a path forward in uncertain times.

The Young Lawyers' Division of the Bar Association of Baltimore City is proud to carry forward this spirit of service by continuing to invest in programming that makes a difference. We volunteer at Senior Law Day to provide free wills and advance medical directives to older adults to give peace of mind to people who might not otherwise have access to these critical documents. We partner with local high schools to educate students about the legal profession and encourage them to see themselves as future leaders in justice. We host an annual holiday party for children living in shelters, providing gifts, games, and a sense of normalcy and care during a difficult time. Finally, we contribute through service beyond the legal sphere, including community cleanups and tree plantings to support a cleaner, healthier Baltimore City.

But we need more lawyers – especially young lawyers – to step up. Whether you work in private practice, government, or in-house, there are opportunities to engage in pro bono and community service. Time, not experience, is the key requirement. If you're not sure where to start, the People's Law Library maintains a list of pro bono organizations across the State: <https://www.peoples-law.org/pro-bono-legal-representation-1>.

I encourage all attorneys, whether you are just starting your career or have been practicing for decades, to consider how you might give back this bar year. If you can take one case, do it. If you can volunteer one afternoon, show up. If you can mentor a student or young attorney, reach out. On behalf of the Young Lawyers' Division, thank you to those already doing the work, and welcome to those ready to begin.



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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).



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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:

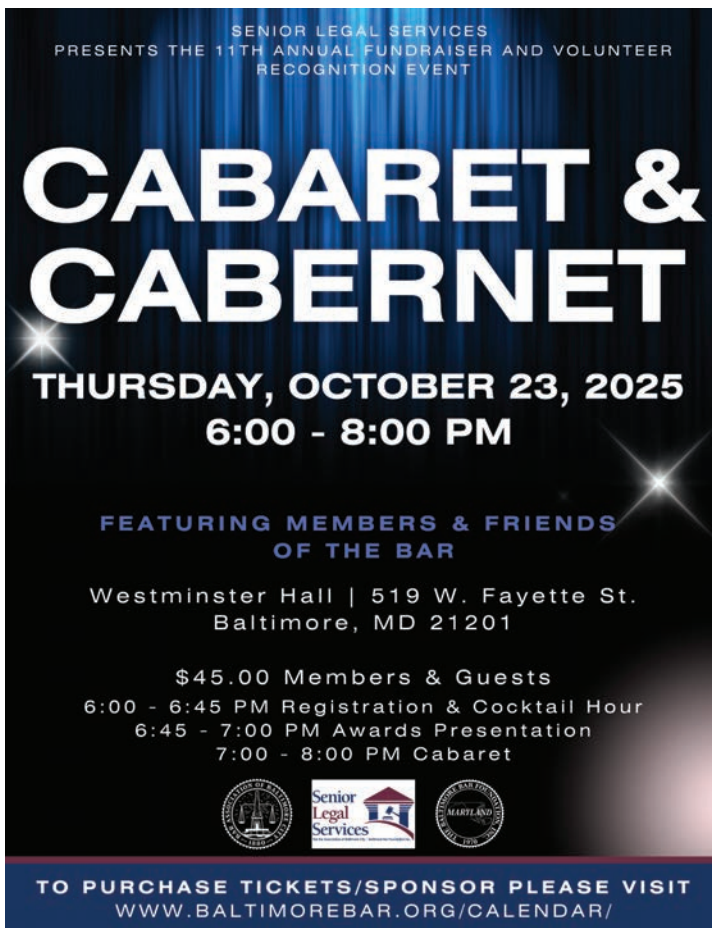
- Meet one-on-one at least once or twice during the year,
- Attend one CLE event together,
- Participate in at least one social event,
- And explore paths to leadership within the Bar Association.

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.



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

**CABARET & CABERNET**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 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

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## New Position - Executive Director | Bar Association of Baltimore City (BABC) Courthouse East, Room 627, 111 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

### ABOUT US

The Bar Association of Baltimore City (BABC) is the oldest bar association in the State of Maryland. The mission of the BABC is to provide quality continuing legal education, advocacy, and services to its members; promote professionalism, equality, and diversity among its members; foster collegiality; and advance the public image of the profession and provide law-related services and education to the public. The membership of the BABC is comprised of judges, attorneys, law students, para-professionals and business affiliates.

### DESCRIPTION

The Executive Director reports to the governing Executive Council and is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the BABC and its charitable arm, the Baltimore Bar Foundation (BBF). In addition, the Executive Director oversees and supervises the operations of Senior Legal Services (SLS), a joint program of the BABC and BBF which provides free legal services to Baltimore City residents aged sixty (60) and older. Duties include, but are not limited to, managing the day-to-day operations of the BABC and BBF, supervising staff, overseeing SLS leadership, planning and marketing events using web-based and social media platforms, applying for and reviewing grant applications, implementing the BABC's strategic plan, contributing to strategic vision and growth, and assisting in the retention and growth of membership. This is a full-time position with flexible hours.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Key responsibilities include:

- Event planning and marketing, including organizing and attending regularly occurring events and seminars

- Budget development and implementation
- Accounting and bookkeeping oversight
- Supporting the Executive Council
- Positive interaction and collaboration with BABC staff and members, the public, government officials, courthouse personnel, attorneys and judges, vendors and other bar associations
- Supervision of a staff of three
- Regular communication with officers, committee chairs and members
- Pursuing membership growth opportunities and membership benefits
- Identifying and developing alternate sources of revenue such as grants and sponsorships
- Drafting, editing, and disseminating newsletters and other written materials
- Frequent evenings and occasional weekend attendance required

### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated experience in one or more of the following areas: marketing, event planning, fiscal planning and budgeting, fund raising and publication of newsletters
- Superb organizational skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to multi-task on a daily basis and meet frequent deadlines
- Managerial/supervisory experience
- Working knowledge of accounting and bookkeeping
- Self-starter with the ability to work both independently and with a team

- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite, Google Workspace, association management software, email marketing platforms, website content management, basic graphic design (Canva or similar graphic design platform), social media platforms, QuickBooks or other accounting software

### SALARY

- Salary range \$85,000 to \$95,000 based on experience and ability
- Discretionary bonuses available based on availability and performance

### BENEFITS

- Flexible hours
- Parking
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Long term/short term disability insurance
- Simple IRA plan with up to 3 percent match
- In-person position with some flexibility for remote work

### START DATE

August 2025

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Submit a cover letter and resume, including references to: [babcwantsyou@baltimorebar.org](mailto:babcwantsyou@baltimorebar.org)



*No phone calls please; only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.*



## The Bar Association of Baltimore City Committee Reports 2025

### Standing Committees

#### ADR

The ADR Committee created two Lunch & Learn events. The first, held at sponsor Whiteford, Taylor & Preston on February 3, 2025, was a 90-minute program entitled *Is Court-Ordered Mediation Working For You?* The program was moderated by ADR Committee Co-Chairs Jeff Trueman and Doug Furlong, and was attended by about 40 litigators and mediators, as well as Hon. John Nugent, Hon. Erik Atas and Baltimore City Circuit Court ADR Director Brian Finnell. The participants discussed a range of topics, including the way court-roster mediators are assigned, what to expect from a court-ordered mediation, what litigators expect from the process for themselves and their clients, and issues relating to how roster mediators are being compensated. The program was free for BABC members, and lunch was graciously provided by Whiteford, Taylor & Preston. Special thanks to Charlie Simmons, Esq. for hosting and helping to coordinate the event!

The second program, a team effort with the BABC Litigation Committee chaired by Laura Simmons, Esq., was held at sponsor Silverman Thompson on April 16, 2025, and was a 90 minute program entitled: *Don't You Hate It When...? Mediation Pet Peeves And How to Work Through Them to Get to "Yes!"* The program was moderated by ADR Committee Co-Chairs Jeff Trueman and Doug Furlong, and was attended by about 35 litigators and mediators. The panelists were Kelly Hughes Iverson, Esq., Laura Simmons, Esq. and Nicholas Szokoly, Esq., who provided a variety of insights and strategies, from both the plaintiff's and defendant's perspectives, to work through common mediation issues to still get to "Yes." The program was free for BABC members, and lunch was graciously provided by Silverman Thompson. Special thanks to Laura Simmons for hosting and helping to coordinate the event!

#### Communications & News Journal

The Communications and News Journal Committee published four issues of *The Barrister*. Each issue featured our ongoing "Member Spotlight" and "Blast from the Past" series to celebrate our members and the

history of the Bar. We also continued to include timely and substantive legal articles, keeping our readership informed and engaged with developments in the law and the legal community.

#### Continuing Legal Education

The CLE Committee collaboratively worked with the Bench-Bar Committee for the inaugural "It's a Charm City" Bench-Bar Conference, held

on May 30, 2025. The CLE Committee continues to monitor the debate about mandatory CLE in Maryland, which has been tabled until next year.

#### Events

The Events Committee kicked off the year with the annual Crab Feast on October 9, 2024, at Jimmy's Famous Seafood. On November 9, members traveled to Washington, D.C. to be admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Past Presidents' Luncheon was held on November 26 at The Grand.

Holiday festivities were in full swing on December 3, 2024, when the Annual Holiday Party was held at B&O American Brasserie. The celebration featured a silent auction that raised funds to support the Young Lawyers' Division's Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters.

Members had the opportunity to engage with members of the bench at the Meet the Judges event, held on April 16, 2025.

As the weather warmed, members gathered on June 11, 2025, for Baseball Night at Camden Yards to cheer on the Orioles as they faced off against the Detroit Tigers. The bar year concluded on a high note with the Annual Meeting of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, held on June 24, 2025, at the Maryland Club. This event was hosted in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of the Young Lawyers' Division and the Baltimore Bar Foundation.

#### Judicial Selections

The Judicial Selections Committee interviews judicial candidates seeking appointment to open positions on the trial courts in Baltimore City and for appellate court seats designated for Baltimore City. The Committee provides its evaluations and recommendations for consideration to the Tri-

al Courts Judicial Nominating Commission for Commission District 14. Our committee consisted of 15 members, including two co-chairs. This year, we held 11 interviews and provided 11 recommendations for one vacancy on the District Court for Baltimore City.



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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 Committee Reports 2025

### LRIS

LRIS added two new attorneys to the panel, and revised the rules governing LRIS membership. The revisions are pending approval from the

BABC Executive Board. Once the new rules are adopted, the process for interviewing new panel members will continue.

### Legislation

This has been a great year for the Legislative Committee. The committee collaborated to review the legislation submitted to the Maryland Legislature for the 2025 legislative session, looking for legislation that was particularly relevant to the Bar Association of Baltimore City and to the legal profession. We ultimately chose to submit written testimony in favor of SB 621, addressing the important issue of courtroom security in

the state. Our Legislative Committee Chair, Jacob H. Dorfman, moderated a panel at our First Annual Bench Bar Conference to update the BABC community on the legislative session. Senator Dalya Attar and Delegate Elizabeth Embry participated in the panel, and we learned a lot about the legislative successes and challenges from this year's legislative session.

### Long-Range Planning

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, the Long-Range Planning Committee met at the offices of The Yost Legal Group to develop a five-year Strategic Plan. Led by Dr. Mark DeSimone, the committee updated the BABC Mission Statement and Core Values. The Statement, Values and Plan were

adopted by the BABC Executive Council this past Spring. We rolled out the plan at the BABC Orientation and our committees will be implementing the strategies starting this current year.

### Membership

Membership in the Bar Association of Baltimore City offers a range of professional and social benefits, including educational programs, a quarterly journal, referral services, an anonymous ethics hotline, pro bono opportunities, and events like the Crab Feast and Past Presidents' Luncheon. The Membership Committee has worked to grow both general and Sustaining Membership, the latter of which comes with perks such as recognition in BABC publications, a lapel pin, exclusive events, and a printed

journal. Recent Sustaining Member events have included cooking classes at Schola featuring Greek, Italian, and Asian cuisines, and winter care packages. The Committee also revived the joint Bar Association happy hour that brings together ten local and specialty bars to welcome members and build community. This year's gathering will take place on September 4, 2025, at the Maryland Club – space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

### Personnel

This year the personnel committee worked diligently and efficiently to revamp the BABC employee handbook. This was in a continued effort to be in further compliance of contemporary legal and ethical standards. Additionally,

the committee was effective in engaging in meaningful discussions of salary review for SLS staff. We appreciate the staff's hard work. We are looking forward to another great incoming year.

### Pro Bono & Access to Legal Services

On June 16, 2025, the Pro Bono Committee hosted a joint program with the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) entitled, "Representing Consumers in District Court: Identifying Defenses & Negotiating Settlements." The program was conducted via zoom and involved

PBRC employees discussing the work performed by volunteers at the Affidavit Judgement Docket in District Court. Approximately 28 individuals attended the event.

### Professional Ethics

Committee volunteers assisted numerous members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City with ethical questions arising in the course of their practice. The Committee also reached out to the Maryland State Bar Association with an offer to co-sponsor a workshop to assist volunteers of similar ethics hotlines across the State of Maryland in fielding calls and providing helpful guidance. Grateful that the MSBA

shares our interest in creating such a program, we look forward to co-hosting a forum that may be of immense benefit to all hotline volunteers in the very near future. The Committee also hosted a webinar to guide attorneys on their obligations to safeguard client funds, to maintain appropriate records of IOLTA accounts, and related issues.

## The Bar Association of Baltimore City Committee Reports 2025

### Technology

On February 20, 2025, in partnership with the Maryland State Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section and the Bar Association of Baltimore City Young Lawyers' Division, 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. Then, during the panel discussion that followed, AI experts Judge Paul W. Grimm, City Solicitor Ebony Thompson, Alexandra Moylan, and Mathew Kohel shared their insights working with AI in their legal practice. Specifically, the panelists discussed their use of AI 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. In addition, the panelists discussed many ethical considerations when it comes to AI, including making sure 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. Overall, attendees were excited to try using or expand their use of AI, but were reminded that you should always trust, but verify AI.

### Substantive Committees

#### Estates & Trusts

The Estates & Trust Committee of the BABC is a probate administration-focused committee. In 2025, we continued our quarterly meeting format that has been our practice for the past 10+ years. Those meetings focused on continuing education in hopes of increasing our membership.

The annual State of the Orphans' Court and Register of Wills, providing our members with insight from the court, was held once again this year. Our final meeting was a summary of relevant legislation.

In order to educate and grow our members, the committee held a five-week "Estate Administration – 101 Boot Camp," directed to students, new and young lawyers, paralegals, and anyone interested in changing fields. Committee members volunteered their time to teach administration from day one to closure. Sponsored by First National Bank, each weekly Monday session offered lunch and an in-depth study of probate.

### Family Law

The Family Law Committee has been very busy this year.

During the month of August, 2024, there was a planning meeting. In September 2024, there was an in-person meeting and an open discussion with the Honorable Myshala E. Middleton. During this meeting, Judge Middleton wanted to hear members' comments regarding what is working and what is not working with the Court prior to her taking her role as the Judge in Charge of Family Law.

In October 2024, there was a joint meeting of Health and Wellness, Diversity, Criminal Law, and Family Law Committees on "Understanding Neurodiversity in the Courtroom." On November 13, 2024, the Honorable Martin H. Schreiber II, the Honorable Michael A. DiPietro, and the Honorable Hope Tipton provided a presentation on "Update on the Law Altering Grounds for Divorce Effective as of October 1, 2023." In December,

2024, there was a presentation from the Clerk of the Court, the Honorable Xavier Conaway.

In January, 2025 there was a meeting with the Judges and Magistrates in Family Law to address issues and answer questions of the members. In April, 2025, Michelle Barr made a presentation on "OurFamilyWizard."

In May 2025, David Diggs graciously hosted an in-person meeting and made a presentation on the topic of "Pending Before the Supreme Court of Maryland, Houser v. Houser and a Child's Right to Child Support?" In addition to this presentation, David also provided an update on the changes in the Child Support Guidelines and recent cases. There was also a tribute for our beloved member Sally Gold. Magistrate Carrie Polley and Renee Ades provided tributes to Sally that were read during the meeting. Additionally, several judges in a tribute to Sally wore hats and fasteners.

### Special Committees

#### Government/Public Interest

This year our committee successfully held the 18th Annual Government & Public Interest Lawyers' Reception. This reception honors attorneys that work diligently in the public interest field throughout their career. After many meetings, the committee finalized a wonderful location and selected this year's recipient. The reception was held on May 6, 2025,

at the Community Law Center and featured City Solicitor Ebony Thompson as the keynote speaker. This year's recipient was Kendrick McLeod, Esq. The Committee had another wonderful attendance with excellent food and celebration.

### Health & Wellness

We hosted a CLE with the Family Law Committee, Criminal Law Committee, and Diversity Committee on Neurodiversity in the Courtroom. We had strong participation and it was well-received event.



## The Bar Association of Baltimore City Committee Reports 2025

### Historical

This year, the Historical Committee continued its mission to commemorate, explore, and educate on Baltimore's legal history. On September 23, 2024, we held our annual Memorial Service and Reception, honoring members of our Bar who passed in 2023. On October 26, we visited Green Mount Cemetery for a guided tour highlighting the lives and legacies of notable Baltimoreans buried there.

On October 31, as part of our *Thursdays at the Museum* series, we welcomed Professor Mark Graber of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, who presented on his book *Punish Treason, Reward Loyalty: The Forgotten Goals of Constitutional Reform After the Civil War*.

We began the new year with a behind-the-scenes tour of Baltimore's historic City Hall on January 24, 2025. On February 5, we celebrated Black History Month by welcoming Dr. Ida Jones, who spoke on the remarkable life of Victorine Adams, the first African-American woman elected to the Baltimore City Council. We closed our program year on April 30 with our annual Constitutional Law Seminar, featuring Judge Dan Friedman in a discussion on Article 19 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

Throughout the year, we also continued offering tours of the Museum of Baltimore Legal History, introducing visitors – especially jurors – to Baltimore's legal past.

### Solo/Small Office Practitioner

The Solo and Small Firm Practitioner Committee focused this year on presenting opportunities for Solo and Small Firm Practitioners to connect with each other and access information helpful to their practices. Consistent with that focus, we were pleased to present a casual lunchtime gathering and Meet & Greet for Solo and Small Firm Practitioners on December 5, 2025. Our guest speaker was Maryland Bar Counsel Tom DeGonia, who shared with us his thoughts regarding issues of special interest to Solo and Small Firm Practitioners. The discussion was candid and insightful and included remarks by Mr. DeGonia, a round-table discussion and a question & answer session. Participants had the opportunity to interact in a group or private setting with Mr. DeGonia – and connect with other Solo and Small Firm Practitioners in an environment

conducive to the exchange of thoughts and the forging or strengthening of relationships. We were able to keep the event cost-free to attendees – and provide lunch – thanks to our sponsor, Officense, which offers virtual and physical office space particularly suitable for lawyers at 300 E. Lombard Street. Solo and Small Firm Practitioners who might occasionally need office or conference space, or mail, receptionist, document handling or other services, had the opportunity to view and experience the Officense resources. We are grateful to Mr. DeGonia for joining us and sharing his thoughts, Officense for sponsoring our gathering, and our participants for attending and contributing to the exchange of ideas.

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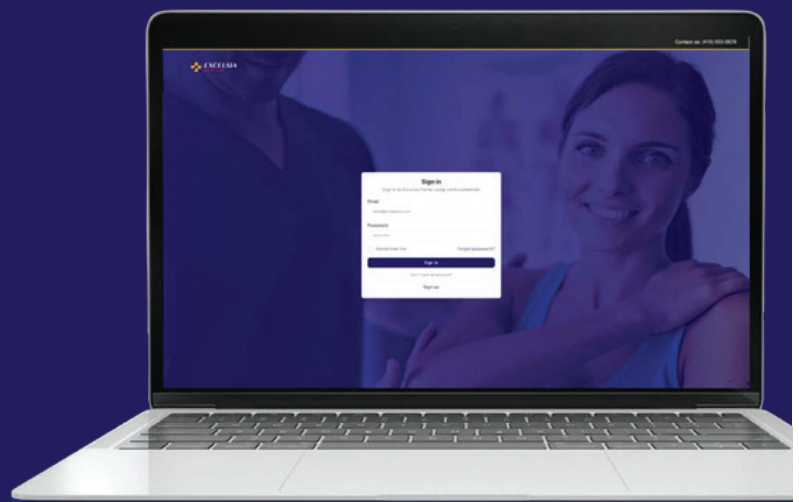
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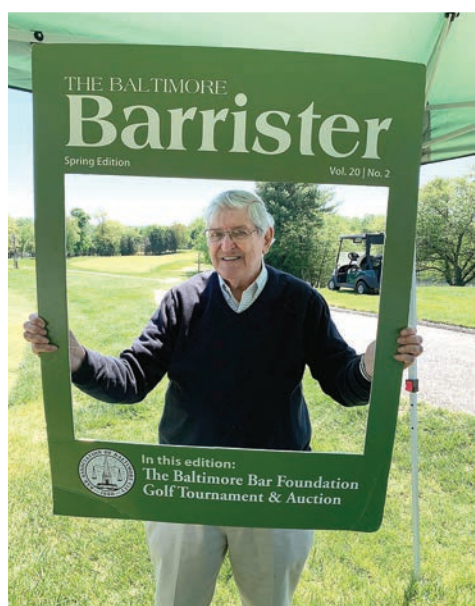




## Annual Golf Outing

April 28, 2025

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Baltimore Bar Foundation Annual Golf Outing at Woodholme Country Club! Damien Banks and Aaron Fray, Chairs of the BBF Golf Committee, thank you for another year of fundraising for the Foundation. A special shoutout to Brady Fischel & Daily, LLC for taking home the 2025 Tournament Trophy! Congratulations on a well-earned victory! We are already looking forward to next year's outing!





## Make Your Own Terrarium with the YLD

April 29, 2025

Our “Make Your Own Terrarium” brought out creativity, good vibes, and green thumbs! We had a blast building tiny garden worlds together and hope the terrariums are bringing a little extra life to your space. Big shoutout to B. Willow for hosting us and to Vallit Advisors for sponsoring this hands-on evening!

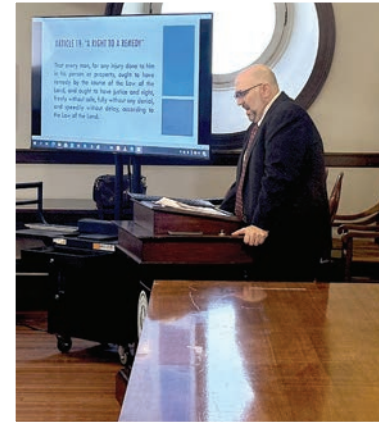


## Constitutional Law Seminar

April 30, 2025

The Historical Committee hosted its annual Constitutional Law Seminar on April 30th, drawing an outstanding turnout of engaged attendees.

Judge Dan Friedman delivered an insightful presentation on Article 19 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights and its role in shaping our understanding of constitutional remedies. Special thanks to Derek Van De Walle for his leadership and dedication in organizing the seminar.





## Investiture of The Honorable Piper McKeithen

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Teresa Epps Cummings had the honor to present a crystal gavel to new Judge Piper McKeithen! Congratulations Judge McKeithen, the citizens of Baltimore City are lucky to have you on the bench!



## Law Day 2025

May 1, 2025

As we celebrated Law Day 2025, we brought students, community members, and legal professionals together to explore the power of law and the importance of civic engagement.





## YLD Spring Social

May 15, 2025

On May 15, the Young Lawyers' Division held their Spring Social and Awards Ceremony at Copper Shark! It was a fantastic evening filled with cocktails, great food, and even better company. We were proud to honor this year's YLD Award Recipients:

Rachel Samakow for Sustained Leadership, Samuel R. Pulver for Public Service, and Maria Bermudez Wharton as a Rising Star. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

A big thank you to Planet Depos for sponsoring this celebration.





## Pending Before the Supreme Court

May 16, 2025

The Family Law Committee presented a thought-provoking discussion on *Houser v. Houser* to explore the complex legal questions surrounding a child's right to support, even when both parents agree to waive it. Thank you to the judges who cleared their busy schedules to attend and lend their perspectives – your presence added tremendous depth to the conversation. A heartfelt appreciation goes to Alice Pinderhughes and David Diggs for their outstanding efforts in organizing this event.

We also honored the enduring legacy of Sally Gold with a touching tribute that reminded us all of her lasting impact on family law and justice in our community.



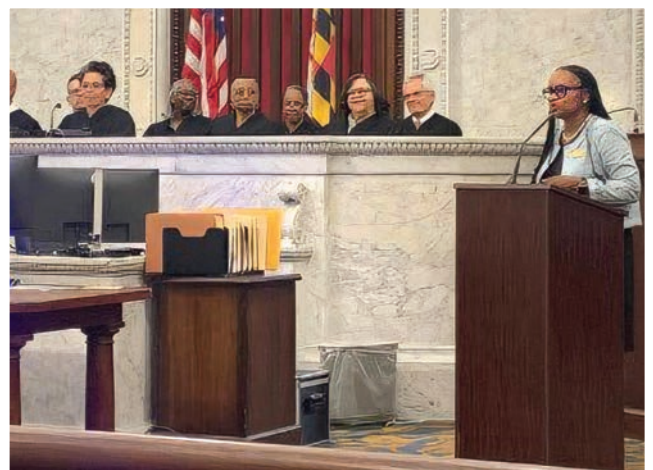


## Term of Court

May 20, 2025

The BABC had the honor of co-hosting the 2025 Term of Court Ceremony and Stated Meeting with the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation.

We celebrated the introduction of new attorneys and Circuit Court law clerks, marking an exciting beginning for many legal careers. Prior to the ceremony, attendees enjoyed a tour of the Museum of Baltimore Legal History and the event ended with a reception in Kaplan Court. Thank you to all the judges, attorneys, and guests who attended.





## Bench Bar Conference

May 30, 2025

On May 30th, the Bar Association of Baltimore City hosted our inaugural “It’s a Charm City” Bench Bar Conference! Members of the bench and bar met for a full day of thought-provoking sessions, valuable networking, and meaningful dialogue.

Thank you to the judges and speakers who took time out of their busy schedules to share their insights and expertise. Their contributions made this conference truly exceptional. We also want to express our sincere appreciation to our amazing table sponsors – Veritext Solutions, Planet Depos, ASAP Home Detention, and Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company – for their generous support. A special shout out to Committee Chairs, Judge Dana Middleton and Amy Petkovsek for pulling this event together.





## MSBA Legal Summit

June 3, 2025

It was tons of fun having BABC Members stop by and visit the BABC booth at the MSBA Legal Summit. We love having our members take an active part in working the booth!



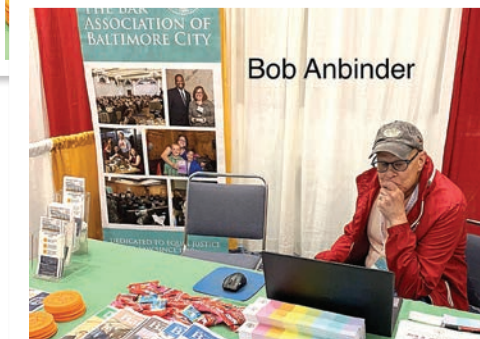
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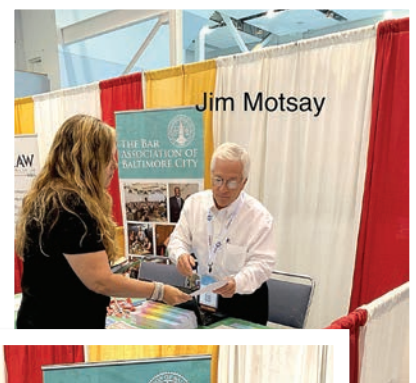
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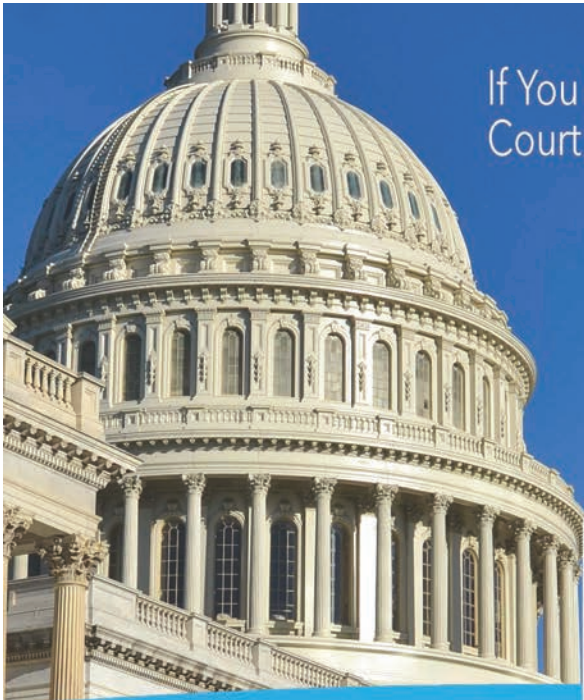


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## The BABC Orioles Picnic Perch

June 11, 2025

No matter where you looked, BABC members were enjoying themselves at the Orioles/Tigers game. Great weather, great food, great company, great night. And the Orioles crushed it!



## YLD Ice Cream Social

June 12, 2025

The Young Lawyers' Division hosted a sweet Ice Cream Social at Ben & Jerry's. Members gathered to enjoy a fun-filled evening of networking, laughter, and, of course, scoops of ice cream. The event welcomed summer associates and young attorneys for a relaxed and tasty opportunity to connect with peers in the legal community. A huge "thank you" to Planet Depos for sponsoring this event because truly, a day without ice cream is practically un-cone-stitutional!





## Annual Meeting

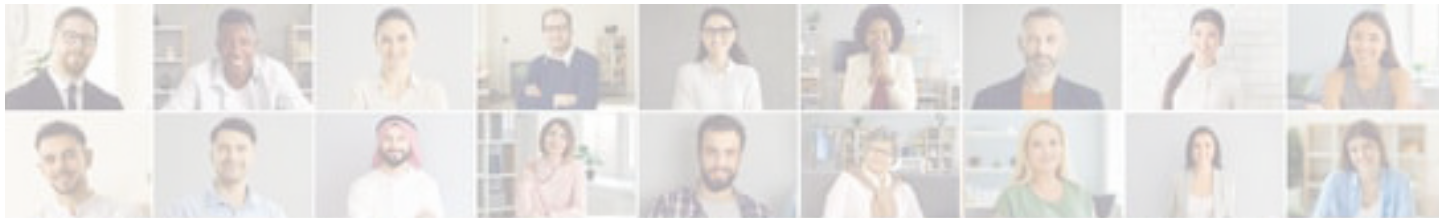
June 24, 2025

The BABC welcomed our new President for 2025–2026, Evelyn Lombardo Cusson, at the Annual Meeting held at The Maryland Club. We honored our now Immediate Past President of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, the Honorable Teresa Epps Cummings; our now Immediate Past President of the Baltimore Bar Foundation, Natasha Dartigue, and now Immediate Past Chair of the Young Lawyers' Division, Rachel Samakow. We also honored our 50-Year Honorees and newly inducted Foundation Fellows.

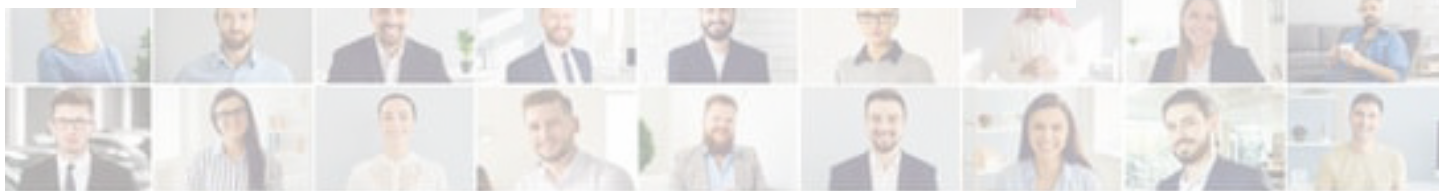








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