

CITY BAR REPORT

Ethics Hotline Volunteer

Hon. Joan Bossmann Gordon (Ret): 443-681-0526

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Evelyn Lombardo Cusson, BABC President



BABC President, Evelvn Lombardo Cusson

I lost my mother recently. As I reflect on her memory and how I miss her, I am bolstered in my bereavement by the values she instilled in me and by how fiercely she loved me. I am so fortunate. I am

from one another,

to shape public life,

and to build the

fortunate to have been born to parents who believed in me and who encouraged me to take my schoolwork seriously. I am fortunate that my parents encouraged me to go to law school and that I had the opportunities that I did.

A common refrain from my mom was, "use your gifts." I anticipate her mantra was derived from Luke 12:48, "for of those to whom much is given much is expected." I understood my mother to mean that we all have special gifts, and we

reputation of the bar itself. Bar association

membership has long been regarded

as a mark of professional standing. Yet,

everyone likes the idea of belonging, but far

fewer embrace the work of engagement. It's

like buying a book and leaving it unopened

on the shelf - the knowledge and stories

only reveal themselves once you engage

with the pages. Likewise, the benefits of

When it comes to bar associations,

membership alone is not enough.

must recognize and cultivate our gifts to improve ourselves and our communities. By using our gifts, we show appreciation and may also be in a position to help others.

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

As lawyers, we have many gifts. We can persuade. We can follow intricate rules. We can digest complex cases or treatises or documents. We may be good teachers or mentors. We may be at our best in the courtroom or quietly working away in our offices. Although our strengths are varied, all lawyers are uniquely situated to effect positive change in the community.

This month, in honor of my mother, I would like to ask you to consider how you might use your gifts for the betterment of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. In case you need inspiration, here are a few suggestions (which mom was also often quick to give):

• For extroverted litigators, consider attending a social event or networking

session, and engage a colleague or two who may be less comfortable in that setting.

- If you have encountered something new in your practice or are grappling with a legal issue that others may also be dealing with, consider planning a CLE or panel discussion to enhance the competencies of our members.
- Perhaps you have become an expert on a topic or there is some trend in the law that fascinates you. Write an article for the Barrister, the bar association's online news journal. Derek Van De Walle and Viola Woolums have increased the publication schedule of the Barrister to every other month and would be grateful for your contributions.
- For seasoned practitioners, consider taking a newer lawyer under your wing. The bar association and Young Lawyers' Division have launched a formal mentoring program or simply

strike up a friendship with another lawyer who might benefit from your wisdom of years.

- If you can donate your time, you might volunteer at the Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters, or at Law Day for Seniors, or you might take a case with Senior Legal Services to assist an older adult prepare estate planning documents or avoid tax sale.
- If you have treasure to share, you might consider sponsoring an event or donating to Senior Legal Services or to the Baltimore Bar Foundation, which provides financial support for lawrelated programs in Baltimore City.

The Bar Association of Baltimore City offers many avenues for us as lawyers to use our gifts. Let's endeavor to use our gifts, what makes us unique and what we have to share, for the improvement of our profession and the community.

Don't Let Your Practice Get in the Way of Your Profession



YLD Chair, Derek Van De Walle

a bar association reveal themselves best From earliest days of our when engaging with other members and profession, lawyers taking an active role. Dues may make you gathered have a member, but only involvement makes you together in part of the bar. The Bar Association of Baltimore City associations. They were places to learn

has been doing just that since 1880. It stands for generations as more than just a professional network. It is a place where lawyers shape the future of our profession and our city, make lifelong friends, and discover that Old Bay can be as effective a social mortar as any CLE.

But the BABC is hardly alone. There are practice-area bar associations, specialty bar associations, statewide and national groups, law clubs, and not to mention countless civic and community boards hungry for engaged professionals. Each one offers its own unique mix of opportunities—for service, for leadership,

for advocacy, and, ves, even for fun.

What makes the BABC stand out is its commitment to young lawyers. Through its Young Lawyers' Division, or YLD, the BABC offers new attorneys a readymade platform for service, leadership, and community. In addition to the many social functions where young lawyers can network, the YLD is deeply engaged in the life of the city, organizing pro bono clinics, mentoring programs, public education initiatives, and service projects that extend well beyond the walls of the courthouse into underserved Baltimore neighborhoods. For lawyers fresh out of law school, the YLD bridges the gap between graduation and practice, providing the tools and the relationships that sustain a career.

But membership itself is not the golden ticket. A line on your resume will not make introductions for you. Committees do not run themselves. And the mere possession of a lapel pin has yet to win anyone a case. What matters is involvement: showing up at the meeting, volunteering for the project, raising your hand when the chair asks for help. The lawyers who get the most out of these associations are those who give the most to them, and the return on investment is often greater than expected—new clients, new colleagues, new mentors, new friends.

Lawyers are, by nature, social creatures. We cannot exist in a vacuum. So, if you have joined a bar association (or are still debating it), remember: the first step is easy, but the real rewards belong to those who show up. For young lawyers especially, the secret of advancing is getting involved: our profession, our city, and our future will be shaped by those willing to take part.

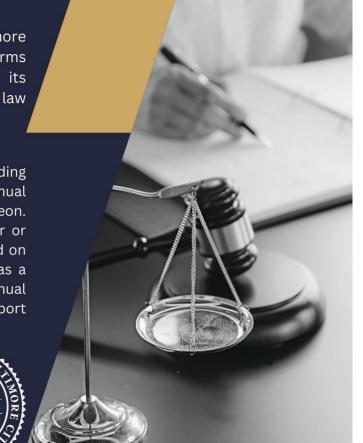
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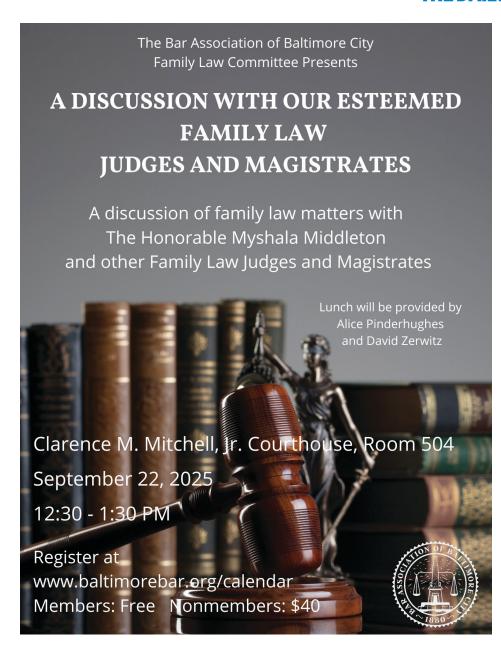
The Law Firm Sponsorship Program is designed to enable law firms in the Baltimore region to continue their support of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. Law firms are asked to make their commitment annually to the BABC and support its programs. This program has been intentionally designed to provide supporting law firms significant value in the form of benefits throughout the bar year.

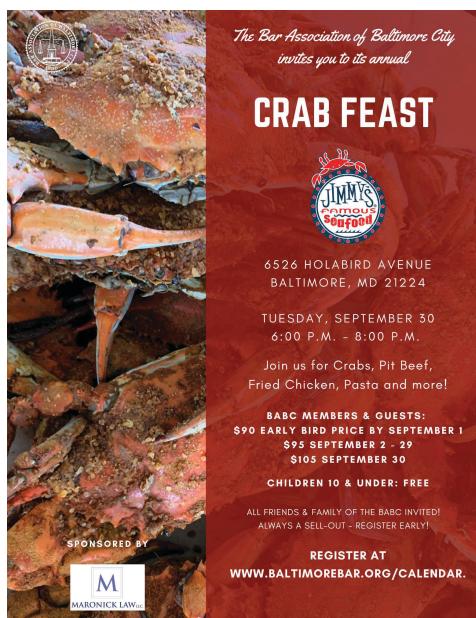
Sponsorship Levels Between \$1,000-\$10,000 offers a range of benefits, including tickets to the Crab Feast, Past Presidents' Luncheon, Annual Holiday Party, and Annual Meeting, as well as an invitation to BABC's Annual Managing Partners' Luncheon. Sponsors also receive complimentary BABC membership 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.

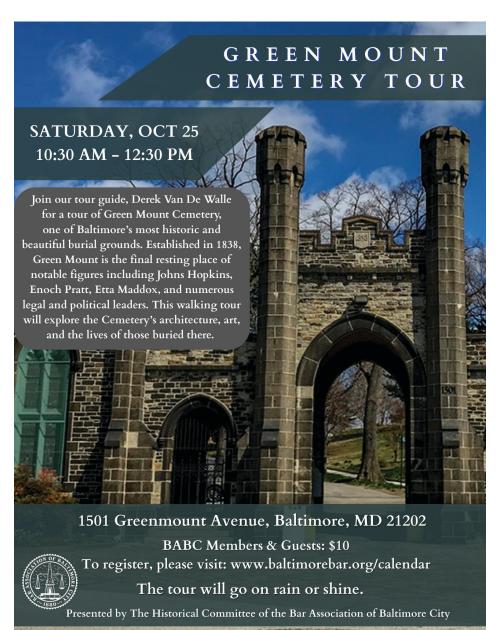
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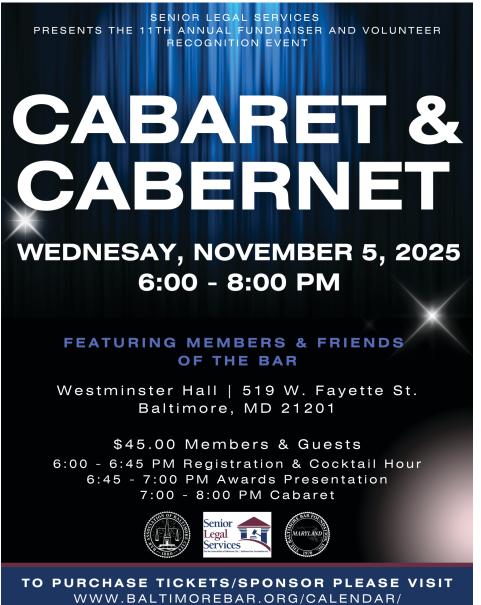
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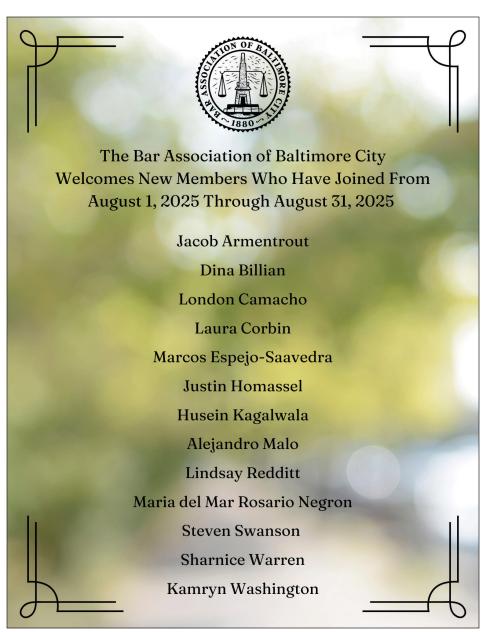














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The generous support of Sustaining Members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City greatly assists this bar association in fulfilling its mission and achieving further growth and success. The unwavering dedication of these members ensures the BABC 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.

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Weekly Bar Review •

Memorial Service Committee Participation **5**

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Lawyer Referral Service 5 Annual Meeting Past Presidents' Luncheon

Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters City

usive Sustaining Member Events & ar Welco Orioles Picnic Perch Exclusive Sustaining Bar Report

Joint Bar Welcome Back Happy Hour

Black History Month Event **Women's History Month Event**

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.