



CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City



**BABC Vice President,
Damien Banks**

There's so much to be thankful for at BABC this November! First, as Vice President of the Bar Association for Baltimore City, I'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the wonderful events BABC and the Baltimore Bar Foundation had the privilege of hosting. Senior Legal Services recently held their stunning 11th annual fundraiser and volunteer recognition event, *Cabaret & Cabernet*. It was a truly memorable evening, catching up with familiar faces, welcoming new friends, and enjoying the gifts of music and performance. For those who sponsored this remarkable event alongside The Banks Firm, LLC, your support made a meaningful impact, helping to fund essential SLS programs.

BABC also co-sponsored *Mix & Mingle: Baltimore City* on November 7th with the Maryland State Bar Association. It was a great evening connecting all the legal professionals in and around Baltimore City. The Baltimore Bar Foundation hosts a wide range of events throughout the year, from arts and cultural programs, to golf outings,

culinary experiences, and more. There's truly something for everyone so if you haven't already, be sure to show your support by attending one of our many engaging events.

Next, congratulations are in order! I am delighted to share that on October 27, 2025, Governor Moore appointed our very own President, Evelyn L. Cusson, to the judiciary. Judge Cusson, who most recently served with distinction as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the District of Maryland, has long exemplified the highest standards of professionalism, dedication, and community focus that elevate our Bar. We are grateful to see her continue her service to the Baltimore Community as she takes her place on the Baltimore County Circuit Court bench. We look forward to seeing the positive impact she will undoubtedly make and celebrate this well-deserved recognition of her exceptional career. Judge Cusson's Investiture Ceremony will take place on Friday, January 9, 2026.

I would also like to congratulate Natalie Foster on her new role as Executive Director for BABC. Natalie brings with her years of experience as a nonprofit leader, with a proven track record in guiding teams, driving funding initiatives, and fostering strong partnerships. We are thankful that Natalie has chosen to dedicate her talents, expertise, and passion to advancing

the mission of BABC and strengthening the Baltimore legal community. Her leadership promises to bring innovative ideas, collaborative energy, and continued growth to the organization.

While we are excited for this new chapter, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank our former Executive Director, Karen Fast. Karen dedicated over four and a half years to the Bar Association of Baltimore City. On a personal note, Karen worked closely with me during my first year as president of the Baltimore Bar Foundation and was invaluable in making that year a success. We worked side by side on the Annual Golf Outing, making 2021's outing the most successful ever held. Beyond that, Karen stepped into the role of Executive Director during a tumultuous time and played a vital part in guiding BABC through COVID shutdowns. She managed fundraising and advanced new member initiatives, executed holiday parties, strategized fundraising, and organized countless efforts that strengthened and united our community. Over the past four years, Karen truly served as the backbone of BABC, and she will be dearly missed. Although I am pleased to congratulate Karen on her retirement, I remain profoundly thankful for all she has done for this organization and the lasting impact of her work.

Finally, Tuesday, November 25,

Ethics Hotline

Wayne Willoughby: 443-394-8800

Craig Brodsky: 410-783-4014

MESSAGE FROM THE BABC

2025, marks the highly anticipated Bar Association of Baltimore City's *Past Presidents' Luncheon*. This distinguished event will be hosted at the Lord Baltimore Hotel. It offers the wonderful opportunity to not only celebrate the legacies of past presidents but also to honor current BABC members who have made outstanding contributions to the Bar Association and the broader Baltimore community through dedicated committee work or exemplary public service. We are thankful for the dedication and leadership of those being honored at this event, and whose service continues to shape and strengthen our Bar. If you haven't already, be sure to mark your calendars and join us for what promises to be an unforgettable and meaningful afternoon.

As we head into this holiday season, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank everyone at BABC who contributes to making this association the exceptional organization it is. The collective efforts of our members, leaders, volunteers, and partners advance the mission of the Bar Association every day, strengthening not only our profession but the community we serve. We are grateful for everyone's dedication and look forward to our continued collaboration as we finish this year strongly.

Help Us Bring the Holidays to Baltimore's Children in Shelters



Young Lawyers' Division Chair,
Derek Van De Walle

Each December, the Young Lawyers' Division hosts its most meaningful events of the year—the Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters. This year's celebration will take place on Tuesday, December 9, at the Maryland Science Center, and we need your help to make it happen.

For many of the children who attend, this event is their holiday. The party provides food, fun, laughter, and joy to children who are living in Baltimore City shelters. For one evening, the Maryland Science Center welcomes the children with warmth and excitement: games, crafts, food, music, and gifts. The Oriole Bird makes an appearance, and yes, even

Santa himself arrives to greet each child.

This annual event is a reminder that while we may be lawyers by profession, our true calling is to serve—to use our collective resources to make a tangible difference in the lives of Baltimore's most vulnerable residents.

A Season of Need and Opportunity

The number of children living in shelters in Baltimore City has been rising each year. The YLD partners with shelters across the City to bring as many children as possible to the event, and demand continues to grow. But unlike many other programs, this one is funded entirely by charitable donations. We don't have grants or corporate budgets behind it. Instead, we have the kindness and generosity of lawyers, firms, and friends who believe that every child deserves a little holiday

joy.

That means every dollar raised goes directly to making this event possible: food for the party, bus transportation to and from the shelters, gifts for each child, and the appearance of Santa himself.

Two Ways to Give

There are two primary ways to contribute:

1. Monetary Donations:

These are the most flexible and impactful. Funds go directly toward covering the event's costs and providing gifts, meals, and transportation for the children.

2. Silent Auction Contributions:

In the lead-up to the party, the YLD will hold its annual Silent Auction at the BABC Holiday Party on December 3. Items such as gift baskets, restaurant

certificates, sports memorabilia, experiences, or themed packages are all welcome. All proceeds from this auction directly support the Children's Holiday Party fund.

If you, your firm, or your business would like to make a monetary donation, or donate an item for the auction, please reach out to me at vandewalle.derek.m@gmail.com. Every contribution helps us bring more joy to more children.

Why It Matters

Each year, volunteers leave the Science Center reminded of why this event means so much. Please consider giving generously this year. Sponsor Santa. Sponsor gifts. Sponsor a holiday meal. Sponsor joy. Your generosity makes the season brighter for children who might otherwise go without. Together, we can make sure every child experiences the magic of the holidays.

RAISE THE BAR BY ATTENDING BAR EVENTS

Find and register for events at
www.baltimorebar.org/ecalendar





Join the Historical Committee for a curated tour of City Hall. Step inside one of Baltimore's most beautiful civic landmarks to explore its history, architecture, and the people who have led the City from within its marble halls.

Location:

City Hall
100 N. Holliday St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Date and Time:

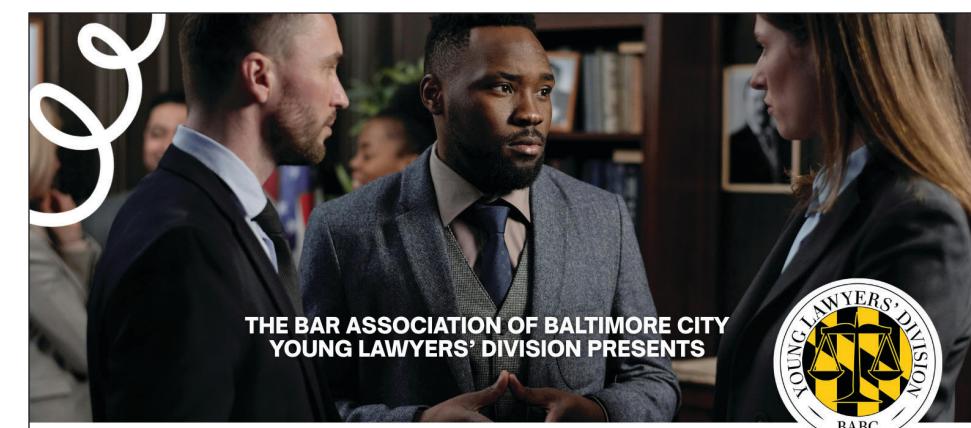
Friday,
January 23, 2025
2:00pm



ONLY 25 SPOTS AVAILABLE!

RSVP NOW!

www.baltimorebar.org/ecalendar



VIRTUAL LUNCH AND LEARN:

A DAY IN THE LIFE AS A LOBBYIST

Curious about what lobbyists actually do and how lawyers fit into that world? Join us for a lunch and learn featuring Sarah Feeney Price, Vice President of Government Affairs with the Maryland Retailers Alliance, who will share an insider's look at the role of lobbyists during the legislative session, how they shape policy, and the skills lawyers can bring to the table.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025
12:30 - 1:30 PM
via zoom

Guest Speaker: Sarah Feeney Price

Vice President of Communications and Government Affairs with the Maryland Retailers Alliance

Free for Members, Non-Members: \$40
REGISTER HERE: WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY FAMILY LAW COMMITTEE PRESENTS

MEET THE CLERK OF THE COURT

XAVIER CONAWAY

MODERATOR: ALICE PINDERHUGHES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

12:30 - 1:30 PM

VIA ZOOM

REGISTER HERE:
WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/

 The official seal of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, featuring a balance scale and the text "BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY 1881".

Presented by Baltimore City Bar Association Young Lawyers Division

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY
FOR FAMILIES IN SHELTERS

Entertainment, dinner, gifts, and a special appearance from Santa!

MARYLAND SCIENCE CENTER
DECEMBER 9TH, 5:00 TO 8:00 PM

For more information, please contact Derek Van De Walle at vandewalle.derek.m@gmail.com

 A colorful illustration of Santa Claus sitting on a large red ball, surrounded by children in Santa hats and a reindeer, set against a background of snowflakes and stars.

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- Monica Basche
- Sarah P. Belardi
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- Hon. Barbara Baer Waxman
- Sen. Christopher West
- Rita M. Wisthoff-Ito
- 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 Natalie Foster at nfoster@baltimorebar.org.

Thank You to Our Law Firm Sponsors



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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED FROM
OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2025

Gloria Brown

Rivkah Bunes

Jessica Cahn

Sindi Connell

Katherine Davis

Jennifer Haber

Lydia Lana

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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE

Holiday PARTY

THE INN AT HENDERSON'S WHARF
1000 FELL STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21231

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 3,
2025 | 5:30 - 8:00PM

Featuring a silent auction to raise money
for the YLD Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters.

YLD Members: \$70, BABC Members: \$80, Non-Members: \$90
2 drink tickets included, with passed hors d'oeuvres and light fare.

REGISTER HERE: www.baltimorebar.org/ecalendar



VERITEXT
LEGAL SOLUTIONS

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Sharon Rabinovitz | srabinovitz@veritext.com | 443-836-6887