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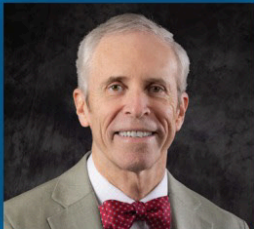
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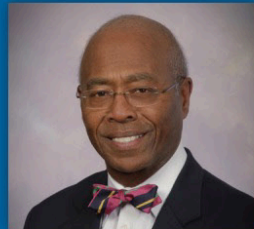
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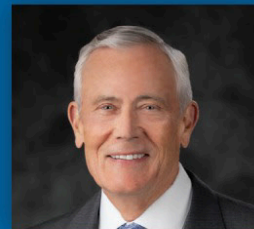
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So Long, Farewell!

Hon. Evelyn Lombardo Cusson, President, Bar Association of Baltimore City



You served nearly 200 older adults at Law Day for Seniors. You reinvigorated our mentorship program with the Young Lawyers' Division. All the while you worked seamlessly with our new Executive Director Natalie Foster.

At last year's annual meeting, Judge Battaglia remarked that bar association membership is self-care. Through the BABC, I've made wonderful friendships, had opportunities to learn outside of my specific practice, and found ways to be of service. I hope that you find acceptance here, build relationships, discover new areas for learning, and are of service in a way that gives meaning and purpose.

As I finish this chapter, I am fortunate to be continuing as the steward of our mentorship program which endeavors to pair new and more experienced lawyers with similar interests and practice areas and provides special emphasis on how to become a leader of the BABC. I hope you will consider participating as a mentor or mentee. You can express interest by checking the box when you renew your membership.

Finally, we are very fortunate to have Judge La Zette C. Ringgold-Kirksey as our new President. Judge Ringgold-Kirksey's strong work ethic, thoughtful temperament, and perseverance will serve our members well, along with the incredibly talented and hard-working Executive Council and Young Lawyers' Division led by Jacob Dorfman.

As always, I am grateful to you.

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun – and working with our amazing members and professional staff.

I would like to highlight some of the work of the Executive Council and Committees over the past twelve months. You organized and attended twenty-eight CLEs on topics spanning trial practice, mindfulness, depositions, appellate procedure, Artificial Intelligence, dog bite cases, developments in family law, co-parenting, neurodivergence, the Appointments Clause, and ethics. You engaged with the association and its members at eighteen networking events including many events featuring members of the District, Circuit, and Appellate Courts. You volunteered at the first ever estate planning clinic with Senior Legal Services and Johns Hopkins University.

Young Lawyers Division Bar Report - Reflecting on a Year of Service and Community

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



As the bar year comes to a close, I want to reflect on all the Young Lawyers' Division has accomplished and, more importantly, what those accomplishments say about the future of our local bar.

The YLD was everywhere it should be this year. We were at the University of Baltimore and University of Maryland law student activities fairs to meet and welcome students into the broader legal community, while increasing the visibility of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. We hosted our annual Mix & Mingle to bring new and familiar members together. We gathered for wine tasting, a cocktail-making class, Yappy Hour, Paint Night,

our Spring Social, and other events that brought members together in a more relaxed setting also continued the important work of helping young lawyers grow in the profession. Through our mentorship program, newer attorneys had the opportunity to connect with more experienced lawyers and judges. Through CLEs like Breakfast with the Bench and Tips on Tap, we created spaces for practical learning and candid advice.

Just as importantly, the YLD remained committed to serving the community. We collected food for Baltimore City students. We staffed a naturalization clinic. And, of course, we continued one of our longest and most meaningful traditions: the annual holiday party for children living in shelters. These efforts reflect the best of the YLD.

That gives me the most hope for the future. The next generation of Baltimore lawyers is talented, generous, creative and deeply committed to

this City and the legal profession. They understand that our work includes mentorship, collegiality, and service, and that building institutions for the future matters.

It has been a privilege to be part of this year with the YLD. I am grateful to everyone who planned an event, attended a program, mentored a young lawyer, donated to a service project, welcomed a law student, or simply showed up. Each act, large or small, helped strengthen our bar and our City.

The work of the YLD will continue, as it always has, because there will always be new lawyers to welcome, new leaders to encourage, and new ways to serve Baltimore City. I am confident that the future of the YLD is bright because of the community we continue to build together.

Thank you for making this year meaningful. I look forward to seeing what the YLD does next.

Looking Forward: Annual Memorial Service - September 23, 2026

Hon. Mark Scurti, Chair, Memorial Service Committee



As a young lawyer I remember sitting in the back of courtroom 400 while the names of deceased members of the bench and bar were read along with a memorial tribute to their legacy. Many served in foreign wars, one was an Olympian, another the founder of a pro bono program. All contributed in their own way to make our legal profession better and accessible. Many I never knew, but I awed at their accomplishments.

Attending ceremonies that honor attorneys and judges who have passed away is an important tradition within our profession. These gatherings provide a structured moment for reflection on the lives and contributions of individuals who

devoted their careers to the administration of justice, the development of the law, and the service of their communities.

Participation reinforces continuity within the legal system. Law is an institution built not only on statutes and precedent, but on the accumulated work and wisdom of those who have served before. By attending, lawyers and judges acknowledge that their own roles are part of a broader legacy, one that extends beyond any single case or career.

These ceremonies also strengthen professional bonds. In remembering colleagues, community members share stories, express respect, and reaffirm values that define their work. This shared experience maintains collegiality in a profession that is often adversarial.

Attendance is a gesture of respect to the families of the deceased. It recognizes sacrifices made behind professional accomplishments and offers comfort through remembrance. Such ceremonies serve not only as tributes to individual lives, but as affirmations of dignity and humanity at the heart of the legal profession.

Historical Committee Update



The Historical Committee has remained actively engaged in promoting legal history and civic education through a series of lectures, tours, and programs over the past year. In the fall, the Committee hosted a lecture featuring Frank Gorman, discussing his book *Confronting Bad History*, which examines enduring myths surrounding John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln assassination, which culminated in a trial right here in Baltimore City in the 1990s. The lecture sparked thoughtful discussion about historical memory, mythmaking, and the lawyer's role in confronting inaccuracies in popular history.

That program was preceded by a tour of Green Mount Cemetery, where participants explored the final resting places of prominent Baltimoreans in a historic cemetery.

In January, the Committee organized a historic tour of Baltimore City Hall. Participants had the opportunity to visit the Mayor's ceremonial office,

observe the Board of Estimates chamber, and view the gallery of mayoral portraits, including recent additions featuring the City's four most recent mayors. The tour offered insight into the institutional history of municipal governance and the physical spaces where Baltimore's legal and political decisions are made.

In recognition of Black History Month, the Committee, in partnership with the Monumental City Bar Association, hosted a program focused on Laurel Cemetery, an African American burial ground in Baltimore. The program highlighted the Cemetery's historical significance and the legal, cultural, and preservation issues surrounding African American burial grounds in Baltimore

In March, the Committee hosted a program featuring author Laura Silberman and her book "Wild Women of Maryland" to spotlight the stories of remarkable women for Women's History Month.

To close out the year, the Committee held its annual Constitutional Law Seminar. The program featured Aaron Zelinsky, who focused on the history of the Appointments Clause and how current events and cases continue to shape it.

Moreover, the Museum of Baltimore Legal History has had a remarkable period of growth and engagement. During 2025 alone, the Museum welcomed approximately 400 guests,

including several tours for the Court's grand juries in March, July, and November to introduce jurors to the history of Baltimore's courts and legal institutions.

In addition, the Museum and its volunteers provided private tours of the Mitchell Courthouse to a number of outside groups, including students, senior groups, members of the Maryland Attorney General's Office, and members of the public interested in Baltimore's legal history and architecture. For example:

- In March, we hosted a group of senior citizens from Baltimore County.
- In August, we provided a private tour to the Higher Education Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General.
- In October, the courthouse participated in Open Doors Baltimore, welcoming members of the public as part of the citywide program showcasing historic buildings.
- In December, we partnered with Baltimore Heritage to offer a tour for history and architectural enthusiasts.

These tours continue to generate tremendous interest, and the Historical Committee is committed to continuing them in the coming years.

- Derek Van De Walle, Esq., Historical Committee Chair

Events Committee Update



Young Lawyers' Division's Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters.

Meet the Judges was held on April 15, 2026, at The Renaissance and featured a great turnout from the Bench and Bar.

Baseball Night was held on April 28, 2026, as members watched the Orioles take on the Astros at Camden Yards.

The Annual Meeting of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, held in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of the Young Lawyers' Division and the Baltimore Bar Foundation, was held on June 4, 2026, at the Maryland Club.

The annual Crab Feast was held on September 30, 2025, at Jimmy's Famous Seafood.

A Group Admission to the Supreme Court of the United States occurred on October 8, 2025.

The Past Presidents' Luncheon was held on November 25, 2025, at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

The Annual Holiday Party was held on December 3, 2025, at The Inn at Henderson's Wharf and included a silent auction which benefited the



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| Hon. Robert M. Bell | Jonas Todd Needleman |
| Jonathan M. Binstock | Alice G. Pinderhughes |
| Richard C. Bittner | Divya Yost Potdar |
| Robert J. Bowie | Samuel R. Pulver |
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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 Natalie Foster at nfoster@baltimorebar.org.

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The Bar Association of Baltimore City Welcomes New Members who have joined from May 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Eric Alburn | Courtney Johnson |
| Mustafa Alibraheem | Cylia Lowe |
| Nija Bastfield | Morgan Lynch |
| Michelle Battle | Sofia Mulinazzi |
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Deposition Practice CLE

May 6, 2026

Deposition Practice featured three of BABC's most polished litigators - Scarlett Corso, George Ritchie and Samuel Pulver. Attendees gained valuable insight and practical guidance on best practices for confidently participating in pre-trial depositions.

A huge thanks to Gordon Feinblatt for sponsoring and for their hospitality!



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Sustaining Members Wine & Music Night

May 6, 2026

The BABC's own Sam Pulver swapped his litigation materials for his guitar and microphone at Marie Louise Bistro. He serenaded the Sustaining Members over a selection of international wines and charcuterie.

We even had a guest appearance from Hon. Anthony Vittoria accompanying Sam on bass guitar!

Special thanks to Divya Potdar for organizing a lovely evening, to our performers and to the Bar Associations Insurance Agency for sponsoring all Sustaining Members' events!



19th Annual Government & Public Interest Law Reception

May 7, 2026

Congratulations to Renita L. Collins, Esq., - this year's recipient of the Government & Public Interest & Law "Lawyer of the Year" award! Renita was recognized for her outstanding leadership, dedication to public service, and meaningful contributions to both the legal profession and the community.



Term of Court

May 12, 2026

BABC welcomed newly admitted attorneys during the Term of Court program. The event featured Baltimore City Sheriff's Office presentation of colors along with recognition of the Baltimore Courthouse and Law Museum Foundation's docents from the Foundation president, Diane C. Bristow. Multiple distinguished members of the bench and bar gave remarks and introduced new members followed by a State of the Court Report from Hon. Audrey J.S. Carrion, Administrative and Chief Circuit Court Judge.



YLD Spring Social

May 14, 2026

YLD members gathered at the Copper Shark to celebrate our Spring Social and the Award winners:

Derek Van De Walle - Sustained Leadership

Steven Kappen - Rising Star

Viola Woolums - Public Service

Our winners make BABC proud every day with their contributions to the legal community in Baltimore! Special thanks to Greg Waterworth and the nomination committee for diligently selecting the recipients! Thank you to our sponsor, Planet Depos!



Baltimore Bar Foundation Annual Golf Outing

May 26, 2026

The BBF's Annual Golf Outing hosted 64 players at the glamorous Eagle's Nest Country Club in Phoenix, Maryland. We were blessed with amazing 70° weather and overcast for the majority of the day all while raising money for a great cause.

Congratulations to Baxter Baker PA for winning the 1st Place Tournament Trophy, and a special thanks to Jason Wasserman, one of BBF's valued Trustees and Fellows for heading up the planning!



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Investiture of Hon. Otis W. Freeman

May 27, 2026

Hon. Otis W. Freeman was officially welcomed to the bench of Baltimore City's District Court by friends, family and professional peers.

He was greeted and embraced by members of many local bar associations; Monumental City, LGBTQ+, and of course the BABC.



Appellate Briefing 101

May 27, 2026

Jenny Hovermill, Esq., Assistant Attorney General with the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, presented the nuts and bolts of appellate brief writing, which provided an outline of basic components and ensured a clear presentation to an appellate court. She offered tips on ways to make a brief flow to help “do the work” for the reader. She brought sample edits and rewrites to give a concrete idea of how to review and tighten a brief to best communicate with the court.



AI in the Courtroom: Promise, Peril & Practical Guardrails

May 28, 2026

Guest speaker Jim Gentry, Esq., regaled BABC members about the benefits and potential consequences of using Artificial Intelligence in litigation if used indiscreetly. He explained that "AI will *not* replace lawyers, but lawyers who understand AI may replace the ones who don't."



146th Annual Meeting

June 4, 2026

President Hon. La Zette C. Ringgold-Kirksey took the podium for the first time to share her vision for her upcoming year as president.

2010-2011 President Hon. Lynn Stewart Mays swore in all new members of the Executive Council.

2025-2026 President Hon. Evelyn Lombardo Cusson thanked members for their service to BABC and BBF, reflecting on her term.

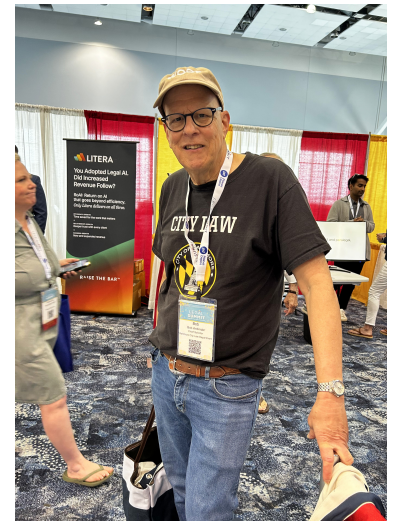
Congratulations to the BBF Fellows Award winner, Derek Van De Walle and to Louise and Robert Gonzales for becoming 50 Year Honorees!



MSBA Legal Summit

June 10-12, 2026

Members from BABC attended the Maryland State Bar Association Legal Summit 2026, which brought together attorneys, judges, policymakers, and legal professionals from across the state to discuss emerging legal issues, evolving regulations, and best practices in the profession. The summit featured educational sessions on topics ranging from access to justice and ethics to technology and legislative developments, providing valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Maryland's legal community. The event also offered meaningful opportunities for networking and collaboration with colleagues committed to advancing the practice of law and public service.



BABC Executive Council Orientation

June 18, 2026

New BABC officers and chairs met to discuss the 2026-2027 year ahead.

President Hon. La Zette C. Ringgold-Kirksey strategized with the group to ensure a prosperous year ahead focusing on collaboration, education and elevation.



YLD Ice Cream Social

June 24, 2026

The last YLD social of the membership year is always sentimental - YLD members were able to unwind and catch up over a sweet treat at Ben & Jerry's in the Baltimore Peninsula thanks to our sponsor, Planet Depos!



End of Year President's Reception

June 26, 2026

The BABC celebrated 2025-2026 President Hon. Evelyn Lombardo Cusson's final event as the active president and all of her accomplishments during her term at Guilford Hall Brewery.

We also celebrated Former BBF President and Life Fellow Paul Kramer's 90th birthday!

Special thanks to Planet Depos and Diva Law for sponsoring!



YLD Wins Two American Bar Association Awards

June 23, 2026

The Young Lawyers' Division is thrilled to announce that its annual Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters has received not one, but two national awards from the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division: the Service Project Award and the Most Outstanding Service Project Award.

Each year, the ABA YLD gives these Awards of Achievement to local bar associations to encourage project development by recognizing the time, effort, and skills expended by young lawyer organizations in implementing public service and bar service projects in their communities. For the Most Outstanding Single Project, the award winner is chosen from among all Single Project/Service to the Bar submissions in recognition of exceptional, unique, and exemplary projects.

This recognition belongs to the many volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who made the Holiday Party for Children possible. Thanks to their generosity and hard work, nearly 300 children and parents experiencing homelessness enjoyed a joyful, holiday-themed evening filled with celebration, dignity, and care.

In announcing the award, the ABA wrote to YLD Chair Derek Van De Walle

“We commend you and your colleagues for your dedication, innovation, and meaningful contributions to the legal profession. Your efforts exemplify excellence in service and leadership, and we are grateful for your continued engagement. We encourage you to maintain this exceptional level of participation and impact in the years ahead.”

Congratulations to everyone who helped make this special event such a success. We can't wait to do it all again in December 2026!



On the Move

Congratulations to Faith Kim, Esq.!



Faith Kim joined Morgan & Morgan as a Pre-Suit Attorney in April 2026, where she represents clients injured in automobile collisions. In her role, Faith oversees the pre-litigation process, working closely with her team of case managers to develop claims, evaluate damages, collect records, negotiate with insurance carriers, and position cases for the strongest possible recovery before suit is

filed. Committed to advocating for those in need, Faith earned her J.D. from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. During law school, she served as President of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, was named Law Clerk of the Year by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, and competed on the National Trial Team.

Faith is passionate about advocating for injured clients during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. That is why she is committed not only to fighting for the best possible outcome, but also to providing clear guidance, steady communication, and trusted support throughout the process. She takes pride in helping clients feel informed, heard, and protected throughout their case.

If your firm or business has any news, announcements, or promotions, please let us know so we can highlight them in The Barrister!

Group Admission to the Supreme Court of the United States



Price
\$350
/ Person

Registration

Registration fee for guests is \$150. [link to Application](#)

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- ✓ Supreme Court Admission Fee
- ✓ Breakfast at the Supreme Court
- ✓ Swearing-In
- ✓ Oral Arguments
- ✓ Group Photo
- ✓ Supreme Court Lecture
- ✓ Group Lunch



Scan QR code for
[link to Application](#)

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Registration is limited to 12 applicants.

Completed applications are due no later than August 3, 2026.

To obtain an application package, contact the BABC office at info@baltimorebar.org, or call 410-539-5936.

Register on
www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/



***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.**



WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR

Save the Date!
JOINT BAR
WELCOME BACK
HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 2026
5-7PM



THE MARYLAND CLUB
1 EAST EAGER ST.
BALTIMORE
MD
21202



Bar Association of Baltimore City
Annual Memorial Service
September 23 | 4 p.m.

Ceremonial Courtroom 400
Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse
100 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Join us as we celebrate and memorialize the lives of
members of the Baltimore City bench and bar who passed
away between January 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

Reception to follow
This event is open to
all who wish to attend.
Register at
www.baltimorebar.org/ecalendar





**CONRAD'S
CRABS**

BABBC

ANNUAL CRAB FEAST



September 30

6-8pm

**Baltimore Rowing & Water Resource Center
3301 Waterview Ave,
Baltimore, MD 21230**

Members & non-members earlybird fee (through August 31) - \$90

Regular fee (Starting September 1) - \$95

Door fee - \$105

Register at www.baltimorebar.org/ecalendar



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