



CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

Ethics Hotline Volunteer
John Prisbe: 410-244-7798
Karen Malinowski: 410-767-5727

Welcome Spring!



Hon. Evelyn Lombardo Cusson,
BABC President

After a long and snowy winter, I anticipate that we are all looking forward to spring. As always, the Bar Association of Baltimore City has much to offer you. Please take a few moments to review the educational, social, and community-building programming available to our members. The BABC website’s calendar of events lists all upcoming events with links to register. In March, in addition to showcasing the vocal talents of our members and friends at the annual Spaghetti Opera

at Chiapparelli’s, we are taking a trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art to see “Amy Sherald: American Sublime” which features the artist’s connection to Baltimore, in honor of Women’s History Month. We end March with a virtual presentation by April Moran, LCSW-C, on tools for managing stress and building sustainable habits. In April, opportunities abound for collegiality and education. Our Continuing Legal Education Committee brings a three-part lunchtime series focusing on trial advocacy in the District Court of Maryland, featuring legal experts and judges with tips and practical information for new and seasoned practitioners alike. Thank you to Goodell Devries, Silverman Thompson, and Gallagher for hosting the series, and to our

wonderful panelists. We will meet and mingle with District Court and Circuit Court judges, and break bread with family law practitioners across the state at the Multi-Jurisdictional Family Law Dinner. Baltimore attorney Aaron Zelinsky, who served as Assistant Special Counsel to Robert S. Mueller, III, will lead the Annual Constitutional Law Seminar (with free lunch), and our Legislation Committee provides a recap of the 2026 legislative session. Senior Legal Services hosts Law Day for Seniors on April 25, at the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center. Please consider volunteering to assist with registration, ushering attendees between presentations, and introducing speakers. It is sure to be an informative and inspiring day with

topics on advance planning, financial scams, and avoiding tax sale (and lunch). To volunteer, please contact Nick Pycha at npycha@baltimorebar.org. Finally, tickets are available for the Orioles versus the Astros at Camden Yards, with food, drinks, and seating for BABC members at the Picnic Perch. Thank you to our committees and members for making these programs and events possible. I look forward to seeing you soon. Of course, if you have any questions or concerns about the operation of the BABC, please do not hesitate to contact me (evelyncusson.babc@gmail.com). I always welcome your feedback and suggestions to improve the experience of our members.

The Lawyer’s Role in a Constitutional Democracy



Derek Van De Walle,
YLD Chair

Lawyers assume responsibilities that extend beyond any single case or client. We serve as advocates, officers of the court, and participants in a system that depends upon fairness, procedure, and public trust. Thus, our role as members of the bar places us in a distinctive position within our civic life. Across the country and around the world, events increasingly place legal institutions at the center of public debate. Courts are increasingly asked to resolve disputes involving immigration enforcement, policing, civil liberties, and the limits of governmental authority frequently dominate the headlines. Courts are asked to resolve disputes that carry profound implications and questions that will shape how constitutional protections are preserved and enforced. For lawyers, these developments demonstrate a simple, but enduring,

truth: the rule of law does not operate on its own. It depends on people—judges who apply it faithfully, lawyers who advocate within it, and institutions that preserve it. Lawyers help ensure that disputes are resolved through reasoned advocacy rather than force, and that government power is exercised within the limits established by law. That responsibility can feel particularly immediate for young lawyers entering the profession today. The early years of practice are often filled with the mechanics of the legal practice: learning procedure, meeting deadlines, and navigating unfamiliar courts. However, those daily tasks are not merely technical exercises. They are the ordinary work through which the rule of law is carried forward. Every motion filed, every argument presented, and every client counseled reflects a deeper commitment to fairness, process, and accountability. Baltimore City’s legal community has long stood within that tradition. Lawyers from this City helped shape some of the most consequential civil rights litigation in American history.

Thurgood Marshall and Juanita Jackson Mitchell carried arguments from Maryland courtrooms to the United States Supreme Court in the long struggle to dismantle segregation. Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., whose name now graces the Courthouse that anchors our downtown legal community, devoted his career to advancing civil rights and equal justice under law. These figures simply did the work before them—drafting briefs, arguing cases, and standing in courtrooms here in Baltimore in defense of principles they believed the law required—thereby using the tools of the profession to give voice to rights that might otherwise have gone unheard. They show that speaking up does not necessarily mean taking to the streets or entering political debates. Often, it means something far more practical: using the skills we have developed as lawyers to assist those who might otherwise struggle to navigate the legal system alone. Sometimes that means helping an immigrant family understand the process for seeking asylum. Sometimes it means assisting someone

in legally changing their name so that their identity is recognized under the law. Sometimes it means preventing an eviction that could leave a family without housing, or helping someone obtain an expungement so that a past mistake does not permanently foreclose future opportunity. These acts may not make headlines. But they matter deeply to the individuals whose lives are affected, and they reflect the quiet but powerful role lawyers can play in advancing justice. The rule of law has endured through many periods of uncertainty in our nation’s history. It endures because lawyers, judges, and citizens alike continue to believe in its importance and work to uphold it. That responsibility now belongs to the next generation as well. The Young Lawyers’ Division encourages its members to remain mindful of that broader responsibility. Through service to the bar, engagement with our community, and dedication to the highest standards of professionalism, young lawyers help ensure that the legal system remains worthy of public trust.

RAISE THE BAR BY ATTENDING BAR EVENTS

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

Bar Association of Baltimore City
Maryland Association For Justice
Maryland Defense Counsel
Maryland State Bar Association

MEET THE JUDGES

OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND DISTRICT COURT
FOR BALTIMORE CITY

April 15, 2026 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.
The Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel
202 E. Pratt Street Baltimore, MD 21202
*Enjoy a forum for judges and lawyers to meet one
another in a social setting outside of the courtroom.*

ADMISSION \$35 PER PERSON
Includes One Drink Ticket and Lite Fare

Register online at <https://www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/>





THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY EVENTS COMMITTEE PRESENTS

ORIOLES



ASTROS



TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2026

6:35 P.M.

CAMDEN YARDS

TICKETS \$65 - INCLUDES FOOD, DRINKS, PICNIC PERCH

PURCHASE TICKETS BY MARCH 31 AT [BALTIMOREBAR.ORG](https://www.baltimorebar.org)

BABC SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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Hon. Nicole K. Barmore

Monica Basche

Hon. Robert M. Bell

Jonathan M. Binstock

Richard C. Bittner

Robert J. Bowie

Hon. Pamila J. Brown

Hon. Catherine Chen

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Linda Shields

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Derek Van De Walle

Hon. Anthony F. Vittoria

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Sen. Christopher West

Mark Anthony Yost Jr.

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.

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THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED FROM
FEBRUARY 1-28, 2026

Chauncey Bellamy

Manhar Dalal

Melissa Dalal

Rayshan Hampton

Derek Lee

Tyler Mazur

Eleanor Marie Meschino

Madeline Quigley

Zeke Rogers

Angelina Spirito

Megan Weaver

Thank You to Our Law Firm Sponsors



Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC

Law Offices of Peter T. Nicholl

Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White LLC

Goodell, Devries, Leech & Dann, LLP

Gordon Feinblatt LLC

Ballard Spahr, LLP

Baxter, Baker, Sidle, Conn & Jones, P.A.

Bekman, Marder, Hopper, Malarkey & Perlin LLC

Ferguson, Schetelich & Ballew, P.A.

Kramon & Graham, P.A.

Niles, Barton & Wilmer, LLP

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Shapiro Sher Guinot & Sandler, P.A.

Shawe & Rosenthal, LLP



MINNESOTA
LAWYERS
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The BABC Presents

High Expectations, High Stress:
Practical Tools for Lawyers

March 31 | 12-1pm | Via Zoom

Guest speaker: April V Moran, LCSW-C



Feeling the pressure of deadlines, long hours, and constant expectations?

Join us for a practical CLE on managing stress in legal practice. This program will offer real-world tools attorneys can use at work to stay focused under pressure, recover from stressful moments, and build sustainable habits for demanding legal careers.

Members - Free

Nonmembers - \$40

Register at www.baltimorebar.org/ecalendar
Zoom link will be provided to all registrants the morning of the CLE





BALTIMORE BAR FOUNDATION
SPRING GRANT CYCLE
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW

DUE DATE: May 31, 2026

The Baltimore Bar Foundation is a charitable organization, incorporated in 1970 to foster and maintain the honor and integrity of the profession of the law; to improve and to facilitate the administration of justice, to enhance and improve the image of lawyers, and to promote the study of the law and research therein and the diffusion of knowledge thereof.

In furtherance of those objectives, the Foundation provides financial support for non-profit programs and organizations that have a significant relation to the Baltimore City community and that may be expected to contribute to:

- the improvement of the administration of justice
- the provision of legal services through staff attorneys or unpaid volunteers to persons who find it difficult to obtain legal services through normal channels
- the education of the general public, including primary and secondary school students, regarding law and the legal system
- the improvement of the image of lawyers and of the legal profession through lawyer participation in community outreach programs and other good works

Although on occasion the Foundation will provide all of the funding necessary for the accomplishment of a given objective, in most cases only a portion of the projected budget will be underwritten, usually on the express condition that the balance of the funds be raised from other sources. Grants of "seed money" in this manner for a law-related project often provide help and confidence for foundations that wish to offer gifts for such projects but lack expertise in the legal field to make a judgement as to whether the project is worthy of support. Thus, the Foundation can act as a catalyst in bringing support from other donors to projects that require more funds than the Foundation can offer.

For applications go to the Baltimore Bar Foundation

at www.baltimorebar.org, or e-mail nfoster@baltimorebar.org.

The Bar Association of Baltimore City
Continuing Legal Education Committee Presents:

The 2026 District Court Trial Advocacy Series



During this three-part series, gain courtroom confidence and receive an introductory primer on District Court practice from sitting judges and experienced practitioners

April 15 – Strategies for Opening and Closing Arguments and Courtroom Decorum at Goodell Devries

April 22 – Presentation of Evidence and Ethics Considerations at Silverman Thompson

April 29 – Direct and Cross Examination and Impeachment at Gallagher LLP

12:00-1:30pm for all three sessions

Lunch will be included

Free to members, \$30 per session for nonmembers

Register at baltimorebar.org/ecalendar

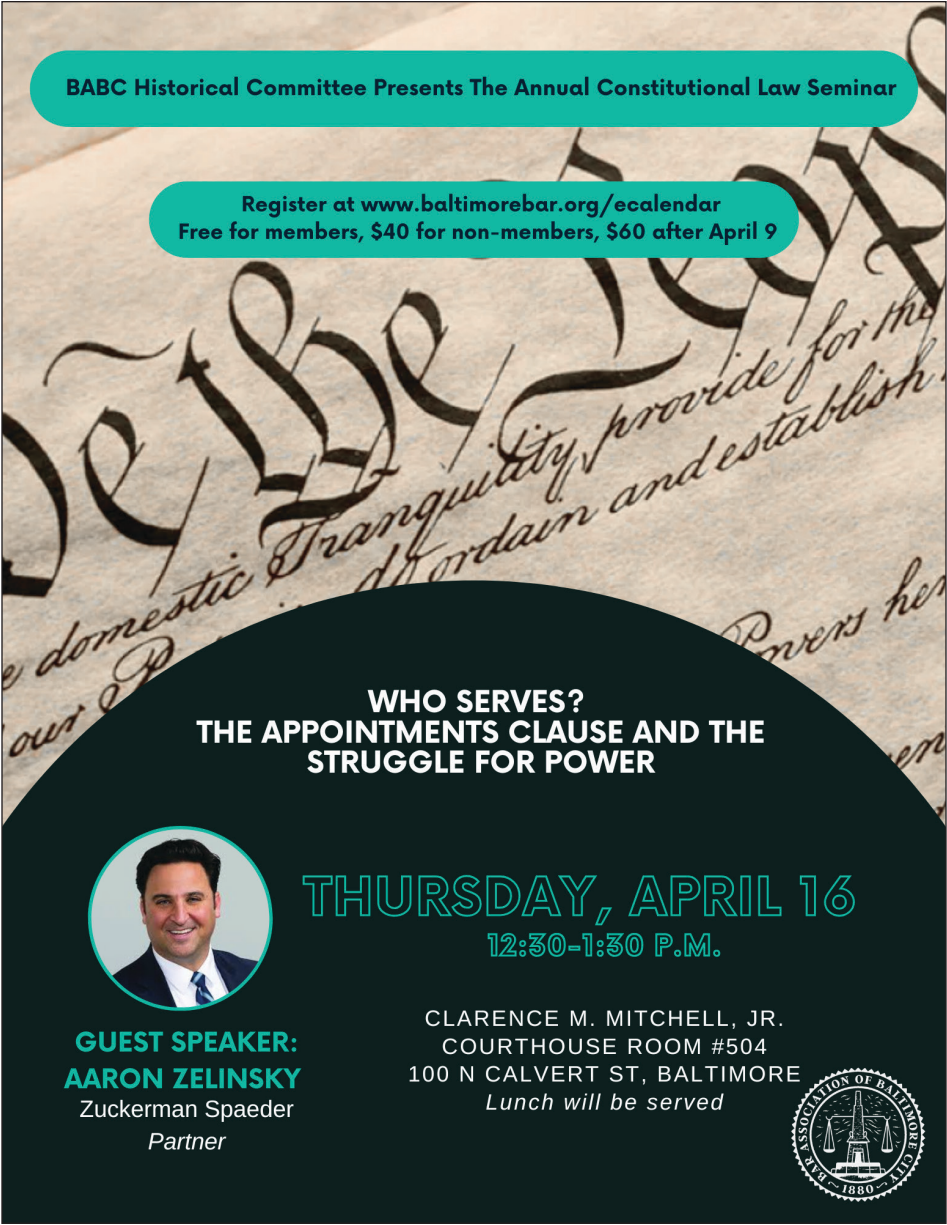




BABC Historical Committee Presents The Annual Constitutional Law Seminar

Register at www.baltimorebar.org/ecalendar

Free for members, \$40 for non-members, \$60 after April 9



WHO SERVES?
THE APPOINTMENTS CLAUSE AND THE
STRUGGLE FOR POWER



GUEST SPEAKER:
AARON ZELINSKY
Zuckerman Spaeder
Partner

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
12:30-1:30 P.M.

CLARENCE M. MITCHELL, JR.
COURTHOUSE ROOM #504
100 N CALVERT ST, BALTIMORE
Lunch will be served

