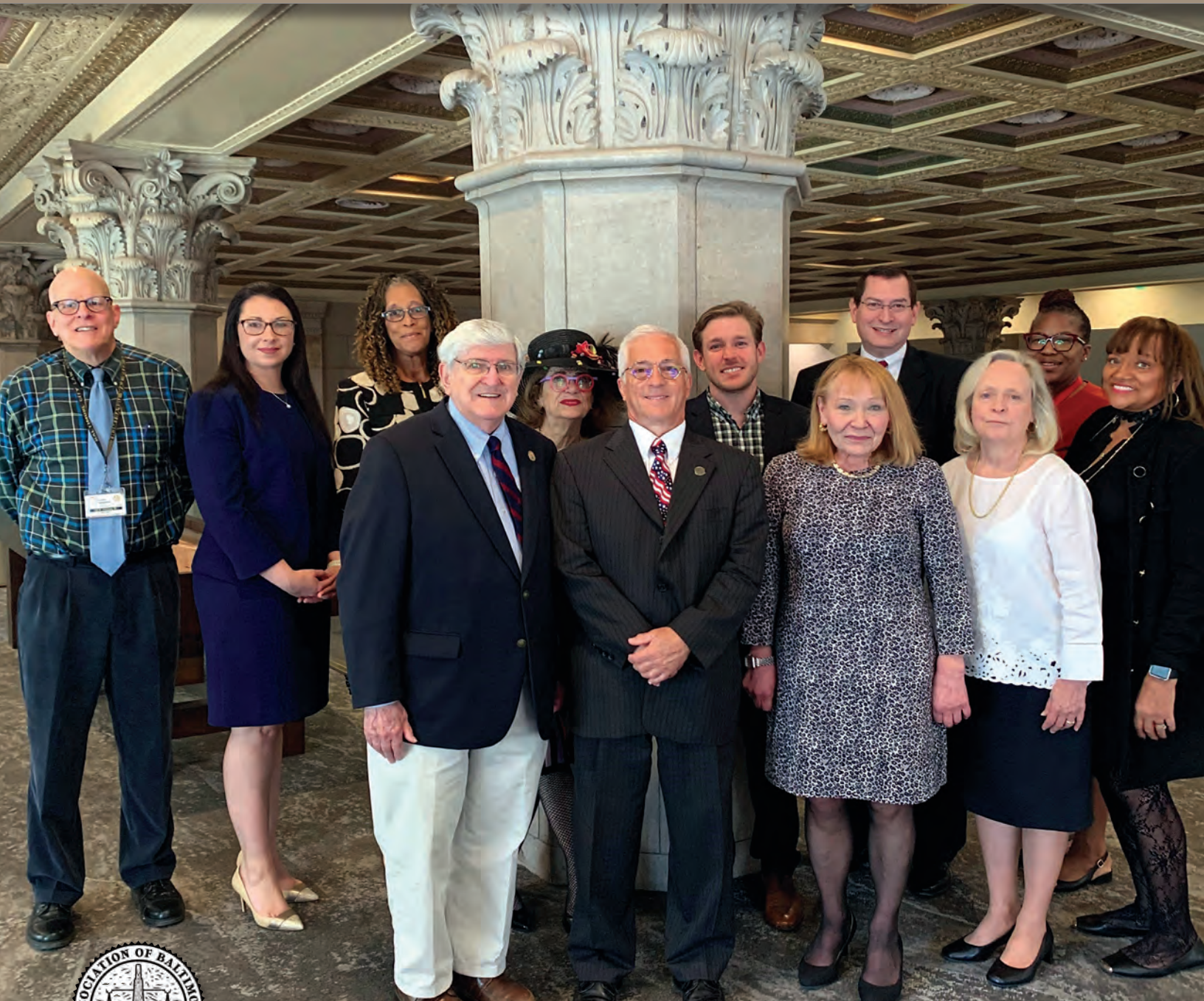


THE BALTIMORE Barrister

SPRING 2024

VOL 14 | NO 2



Sustaining Members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City

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Sam Pulver, Hon. Darren Kadish, Hon. Myshala Middleton

Front row, left to right: Paul Kramer, James Motsay, Hon. Joan Bossman Gordon, Katherine Kelly Howard, Alice Pinderhughes

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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.

For a complete list of our services and Neutrals throughout MD, DC, and VA, call (888) 343-0922 or visit www.McCammonGroup.com

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The Baltimore Barrister

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The Baltimore Bar Foundation's Spaghetti Opera Night Once Again Provides a Great Night for All

Ryan Dietrich, President, Baltimore Bar Foundation



Over the course of two nights in late March, a packed dining room in Chiapparelli's restaurant in Little Italy rang out with the sounds of opera at the Baltimore Bar Foundation's Spaghetti Opera event.

This longstanding, one-of-a-kind event is a perennial favorite. After enjoying a networking hour at one of Little Italy's oldest restaurants, guests each night are treated to an authentic Italian dinner accompanied by live opera performances. This year not only

featured performances from traditional Italian opera composers, such as Puccini and Verdi, but also added a mix of more modern composers such as Gershwin and Sondheim.

The Peabody-trained singers reflected not only the best of Baltimore, but of its legal community as well. The event featured soprano Claire Iverson, who is the daughter of Kelly Hughes Iverson, a partner at Goodell Devries. And sharing the spotlight was tenor Daniel Sampson, the son of Judge Gregory Sampson of the Baltimore City Circuit Court.

This highly successful event is all for a good cause. Proceeds from the event support the Baltimore Bar Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. Each year, the Foundation provides financial support for non-profit programs and organizations in Baltimore City that further the improvement of the administration of justice. The Foundation also provides a partial college scholarship each year to a de-

serving Baltimore City public high school student who has expressed a desire to pursue a career in law.

If you missed the Spaghetti Opera, you can still support the Foundation (and have a great time) at our golf outing on Monday, May 20, at Woodholme Country Club in Pikesville. Guests will enjoy lunch, 18 holes of scramble-format golf on a well-maintained course, and then dinner and an auction afterwards. Not a golfer? You can still bid on great items from the auction. The auction is virtual, and will open on May 1st and close on May 20th at 7:30 pm. The URL will be published soon in the BABC Weekly newsletter. Ticket information is available on our website (<https://www.baltimorebar.org/baltimore-bar-foundation/>). We hope to see you at the golf outing or one of our other events!



This Just In: Attorneys are Stressed!

Young Lawyers' Division Update

Rachel Samakow, Esq., Chair, Young Lawyers' Division, Bar Association of Baltimore City



As lawyers, we are no strangers to stress. Our profession often revolves around crisis in our clients' lives, tight deadlines, significant amounts of preparation, last minute assignments, too much work to manage in one day, billable requirements, the pressure to succeed – you name it, we're likely stressed about it. We are one of the only professions – aside from pro athletes – where even on your best day, with the best prep, you still have the other side actively fighting against you.

So, we know we have it. The question is, how do we deal with it? As April is Stress Awareness Month, it is a good time to take stock in how stress is impacting you directly, whether that's physically, emotionally, or in how you approach your practice.

For when you are feeling stress physically, here is a quick exercise to try. First, identify where you are feeling tension. Are your shoulders tight? Do you have a headache? Are you clenching your jaw? Focus on where you are physically feeling tense, take a deep breath, inhaling for four seconds, holding for four seconds, and releasing the breath for eight seconds. Try that breath cycle a couple times through - you will not only release the tension from your body, but you will get a chance to clear your mind as well.

Another fast anxiety reliever is to drink something hot. Coffee, tea, or even hot water with lemon will have an instant effect promoting blood circulation, allowing your system to reset. An added bonus is taking a "time out" from your desk to make a cup of coffee or walk to your favorite café which will allow you to take a physical break from your work.

This brings us to our next stress reliever - moving your body. Doing something physical, like your favorite exercise, a walk with a friend, or yoga can have a major impact on how you handle stress not only within your body, but mentally as well.

Handling anxiety emotionally can be more challenging and looks different for everyone. Talking about our stress can be tricky when considering attorney-client privilege and we sometimes are not able to fully explain the whole issue. Talking to a coworker or colleague about how to handle a specific situation can be helpful as you likely don't have to provide background information in what's causing you to feel stressed out.

Speaking with our loved ones and friends can also be extremely beneficial. Even if you have to keep some situational details to a minimum, you do not have to hold back on how you are feeling emotionally. Talking to a doctor or therapist is also a great way to have a very tailored approach on how best to handle your stress.

Another helpful course of action is to try to stop stress before it starts. This can be challenging, but there are many ways you can implement little things in your legal

practice to help you handle professional pressure. For example, organizing your workspace will allow you to focus more clearly on your work rather than stressing over where your supplies are when you need them. Scheduling breaks and fun activities into your week can help keep stress down knowing you have a breather on the horizon. Creating check lists of your daily to-dos can also be helpful, but make sure to only put a handful of things on a list at a time so it does not feel overwhelming. Bonus points for starting the list with something you have already handled, like making your bed or organizing your desk!

Finally, in a success driven profession it is easy to feel anxiety that we are always falling behind. Allowing our definition of 'success' to be fluid and change daily lets us acknowledge our accomplishments more clearly. For example, maybe success is filing a motion two days before the deadline, or settling a difficult case with opposing counsel, or leaving work at reasonable hour (especially now with spring in the air).

I hope these tips help you have a less stressful week!



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY YOUNG LAWYERS' DIVISION

CORDIALLY INVITES BABC MEMBERS & GUESTS TO OUR

AWARDS CEREMONY

Thursday, May 23, 2024
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Please join us as we present
the YLD Public Service Award to Kiernan Waters,
the YLD Rising Star Award to Jacob Dorfman, and
the YLD Sustained Leadership Award to James Robinson.

The QG Clock Restoration Restaurant & Bar
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Refreshments will be provided.

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The Gradual Derogation of Affirmative Action

Domonique Flowers, Esq.



In what could only be called a watershed moment that would forever change the landscape of college admissions, the U.S. Supreme Court in *SFFA v. Harvard* and *SFFA v. UNC*, struck down affirmative action as we know it. In its 6-3 ruling, the high court held on June 29, 2023, that the admission programs used by the University of North Carolina and Harvard College violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution which prohibits racial discrimination specifically by government entities.¹ The Court found that the admission program at both institutions unlawfully considered individual students' race in determining whether to offer those students admission.² In considering the broad implications of this decision which have yet to be realized, it is instructive to look back at the development of affirmative action to determine how courts have interpreted it since its inception.

The Birth of Affirmative Action

When President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order (EO) 10925 in 1961, he sought to promote racial fairness in employment funded by the federal government. The Order required federally funded employers to "take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin."³ Despite the historical importance of EO 10925, it was the landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act (CRA) signed by President Johnson that paved the way for affirmative action as it is understood in the twenty-first century. The CRA prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin.⁴ Specifically, Title VII provides for equal employment opportunities by prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.⁵ Despite its promising implications during the Civil Rights Period, civil rights groups including the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) were quick to point out the limitations with such legislation alleging that the CRA was purportedly "color-blind" legislation aimed specifically and singularly at non-discrimination, and particularly at non-discrimination against blacks.⁶ The Civil Rights Movement began to explicitly differentiate between antidiscrimination purposes and colorblindness on the basis that colorblindness was insufficient to uphold equal protection under the law and to guarantee equal rights and privileges.⁷

In an effort to address this new sentiment of active anti-discrimination measures, President Johnson issued Executive Order 11246, generally considered as the federal action that inaugurated affirmative action. However, EO 11246 still contained its limitations as it required affirmative action only from employers holding contracts with the federal government. It did however have more of an enforcement mechanism as it included sanctions for contractors who did not comply.⁸ As sanctions were imposed, one area of concern that emerged in the late 1960s and early 1970s included the use of quotas as the new standard by which affirmative action effectiveness was measured.

Affirmative Action at the University Level

Prior to the fall of 1972, universities had not given racial nor ethnic

integration a top priority in awarding admission to their learning institutions. It wasn't until the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare began directing affirmative action programs towards colleges and universities, that the idea of quotas in admission decisions became a topic amongst scholars.⁹ While the use of direct, fixed quotas thus seemed to be prohibited in employment based affirmative action, admissions officers in public universities had already begun to put into place "minority quotas" for their annual undergraduate admissions by the late 1960s and it would not be until 1978 that a clear decision concerning the use of quotas in education would be made.

Ultimately, it would be the judiciary in *Regents of University of California v. Bakke* 438 U.S. 265 (1978), which would weigh in and make a decision regarding the use of quotas in affirmative action. By the late 1970s, a long string of U.S. Supreme Court decisions began setting boundaries on affirmative action, partly in response to white job and school applicants who sued over "reverse discrimination."¹⁰ The Court's bottom line: schools and employers could take race into account, but not as a sole criterion. Setting quotas based on race, ethnicity or gender was prohibited. The *Bakke* case in 1978 set this precedent because it directly addressed both the legality of quotas, or set asides, in admissions, and the use of race or ethnicity as factors in admissions decisions. Beyond the direct relationship to medical schools, *Bakke's* broader message has been on admission policies at large. Although it did not put to rest the legal, social or policy debate regarding race-conscious decision making in college admissions, *Bakke* became the cornerstone of discussion around subsequent legal challenges.¹¹ With the 1978 decision, the Supreme Court provided specific guidelines for university admissions policies, both narrowing (through the finding that quotas were illegal) and expanding (by allowing race/ethnicity to be included as part of holistic review) how race/ethnicity could be considered.¹² Several cases after *Bakke* attempted to clarify the issue of affirmative action, both in employment and education, but the fact remained that because no clear majority of the justices subscribed to any whole opinion, the record remained cloudy.¹³ The opinion was politically attractive because it neither demanded large-scale affirmative action programs with fixed numbers of ethnic proportionality, nor required strictly color-blind admissions. More importantly, the decision helped to propose the idea of diversity as a metric for college admissions.

Diversity as a Metric

In the *Bakke* decision, Justice Powell stated that "Institutions of higher learning still had freedom to make judgements about admissions in the absence of quotas."¹⁴ This freedom included the latitude to select a student body, and the selection of a diverse student body can promote the educational environment most conducive to "speculation, experiment and creation" in which all students, minorities and nonminority's alike, benefit.¹⁵ Still, a larger debate that grew in the late 90s concerned the elimination of racial distinctions in the law which favored a color-blind approach. This sentiment was demonstrated in California with the passage of Proposition 209. This mandate in 1996 prohibited the state and its local jurisdictions from using race or gender based criteria in hiring, admissions or contracting.¹⁶ Although the proportion was titled the California Civil Rights Initiative, the

purpose behind it was to end the use of the more aggressive affirmative action programs in exchange for race neutral laws.¹⁷

With the national focus on education as well as on the benefits of diversity, the issues inherent in affirmative action debate would once more be decided in the court system. This time, the Court would revise the very definition of affirmative action and instead of emphasizing historical discrimination as a compelling interest to justify it, the focus would be squarely on the educational benefits that result from a diverse student body.

By 2003 the Supreme Court had sustained programs of racial rectification only by the thinnest possible margins.¹⁸ In *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the Court held that the equal protection clause does not prohibit the law school's narrowly tailored use of race in admissions decisions to further a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that come from a diverse student population.¹⁹ It also held that affirmative action when used in a narrowly tailored manner, was permissible.²⁰ It upheld Justice Powell's opinion that achieving diversity through affirmative action was a compelling state interest.²¹ The ruling seemed to provide proponents of affirmative action a major victory. The Court held different however in *Gratz v. Bollinger* decided that same day. In that case the Court found unconditional admissions point system that awarded automatic points to minority students.²² In deciding these cases, the Court sought to clarify the major issues and provide a more conclusive interpretation on affirmative action in college admissions.

Because the courts no longer legitimized race-conscious remedies as a means of correcting societal discrimination, a new camp surfaced and argued that within the context of higher education, racial diversity was important to educational excellence and a democratic society.²³ The new focus on diversity however revealed its lack of adequate definition by the Court and by anyone else for that matter. The lack of proponents to articulate the meaning of diversity including advocating for the expansive number of groups it now could benefit, caused further confusion amongst university officials to determine how to structure their admission policies regarding race conscious efforts versus race neutral efforts. Ultimately, the Supreme Court would have the last word and in *Fisher v. University of Texas* in 2013, the justices placed new emphasis on a requirement that universities use race in admissions only when "necessary."²⁴ In a key passage, the Court ruled that universities bear "the ultimate burden of demonstrating, before turning to racial classifications, that available, workable race-neutral alternatives do not suffice."²⁵ While in the past, the Court took universities at their word that race-neutral strategies were not sufficient, in *Fisher* the Court, for the first time, held that universities would receive "no deference" from judges on whether using race is in fact necessary.²⁶

The recent decisions of *SFFA v. Harvard* and *SFFA v. UNC* effectively overruled nearly 45 years of precedent established by the forgoing decisions. However, the silver lining involved in all of this is that the Court stopped short of prohibiting universities from considering an applicant's discussion of how race affected his or her life, be it through discrimination, inspiration, or otherwise.²⁷ It will be incumbent on institutions of higher learning to come up with

different strategies that will allow them to continue to recruit diverse students. This can be accomplished by embracing holistic approaches that consider race as a factor that contributes to the individualized experiences of students as opposed to race merely being used as an identity.

¹*Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. 181 (2023).

²*Id.*

³John F. Kennedy: "Executive Order 10925—*Establishing the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity*," March 6, 1961.

⁴Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352, 78 Stat. 241, 241-68 (1964).

⁵*Id.*

⁶R.A. Lee, "The Evolution of Affirmative Action," *Public Personnel Management* (1999): 393-407.

⁷Andrew Kull, *The Color Blind Constitution* (Harvard University Press, 1992), 26.

⁸*Equal Employment Opportunity Executive Order 11246*, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (Washington DC).

⁹Barry Gross, *Reverse Discrimination* (Prometheus Books Buffalo New York, 1977), 41.

¹⁰Patricia Marin and Catherine L. Horn, *Realizing Bakke's Legacy: Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity* (Stylus Publishing, 2008), 6.

¹¹Dawn R. Swink, "Back to Bakke: Affirmative Action Revisited in Educational Diversity," *Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal*, Issue 1 Article 8 Spring (2003): 226.

¹²*Id.*

¹³Peter Lehmueller & Dennis E. Gregory, "Affirmative Action: From Before Bakke to After Grutter," *Johnson & Wales University* (2004): 443.

¹⁴Terry Eastland, *Ending Affirmative Action* (Harper Collins Publishing Inc., 1996), 77.

¹⁵*Id.*

¹⁶Paul Ong, *Impacts of Affirmative Action* (Sage Publishing, 1999), 14.

¹⁷*Id.*

¹⁸Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action was White: An untold history of racial inequality in twentieth-century America*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2005), 166.

¹⁹*Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003).

²⁰Katznelson at 451.

²¹*Id.*

²²*Gratz v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 244 (2003).

²³Green, Denise, "Justice and diversity. Michigan's response to Gratz, Grutter, and the affirmative action debate." *Urban Education*. 39 (2004): 374-379.

²⁴Richard D. Kahlenberg, *The Future of Affirmative Action: New Paths to Higher Education Diversity after Fisher v. University of Texas* (The Century Foundation Press: New York, 2014), 1-2.

²⁵*Id.*

²⁶*Id.*

²⁷*Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. 181, 39 (2023).

Meet Baltimore City Solicitor Ebony M. Thompson



On January 29, 2024, following a unanimous confirmation by the Baltimore City Council, Ebony M. Thompson made history by becoming the first woman and first openly gay Baltimore City Solicitor in the City's 294-year history. The Bar Association extends its congratulations to Solicitor Thompson, and had the chance to engage with her in a question-and-answer session.

Can you tell us about your journey to becoming the Baltimore City Solicitor?

My journey to becoming Baltimore City Solicitor started when I was a Baltimore City College high school student. During that time, I was selected as a Law Links intern. This internship solidified both my love for the law and the profession. My experience with the Law Links program remained with me throughout my legal career. It came full circle when former City Solicitor Jim Shea requested I join his administration.

How do you approach leadership in your role, and what qualities do you think are important for a successful leader in the legal field?

The most important quality for a successful leader is a recognition that you are as strong as the team surrounding you. I am proud to work alongside a strong administrative team and the outstanding legal minds within the Baltimore City Law Department.

What are some of your proudest achievements as Baltimore City Solicitor?

There are several, but two resonate. First, the Law Department provided advice and assistance for Mayor Brandon Scott's squeegee collaborative. This private/public collaboration sought to address issues between squeegee workers and motorists. The goal was to craft a policy that adhered to law, but also provided resources for challenges facing squeegee workers. Since the collaborative's initiation, there has been a substantial decrease in squeegee-related crime.

Second, the law department fully supported and assisted in the enactment of consumer protection legislation for Baltimore City. This new legislation advanced the Law Department's ability to hold businesses accountable for unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices. Moreover, it permits the Law Department to take action against not only bad practices that affect the City directly, but also its residents.

Are there any specific initiatives or policies you're working on that you're particularly excited about?

One ongoing initiative that has been important to me is using blockchain technology to combat Baltimore City vacant housing. The goal

is to leverage such technology to eliminate time consuming processes that delay vacant housing processing. This technology would expedite ownership changes, expedite the process for redevelopment and rehabilitation of properties, and make more properties accessible to Baltimore residents.

How do you see your role as City Solicitor impacting the residents of Baltimore?

In my years with the Law Department and the City, I have seen the impact the Law Department and my work has on the City and its residents. This includes the first instance that the Baltimore City Police Department was declared in full and effective compliance with multiple sections of its Consent Decree. It also includes several notable settlements arising out of Law Department lawsuits, including those with Polymer80 (ghost guns—the most stringent injunctive measures to reduce the flow of illegal guns in our City), concerning PCB contamination, and concerning the opioid crisis. Moreover, although issues facing City government are not all legal in nature, the majority of them have a legal component.

You are the first woman and first open member of the LGBTQ+ community to hold the position of Baltimore City Solicitor. How do you hope your role will inspire other women and members of the LGBTQ+ community in the legal profession?

I joined United States Marine Corps Reserve in the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" era. This required many people who served our nation to hide who they were or who they loved. I hope that my appointment and service as City Solicitor will demonstrate to women and the LGBTQ+ community that the law and legal community is inclusive. However, the legal profession must be deliberate in fostering an inclusive environment.

Are there any lessons or values from your family that have guided you in your role as City Solicitor?

My family's background is rooted in service. My mother is a retired Baltimore City Public School schoolteacher, and my father is a retired Bethlehem Steel electrician. I learned from them early in my life that patience and persistence are key to success. I am also motivated by my three daughters, who I want to know that their dreams and ambitions are attainable.

The Bar Association of Baltimore City
144TH ANNUAL MEETING

Reception: 5:00 pm | JUNE 20, 2024
Dinner: 6:00 pm

The Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel
202 E. Pratt Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Keynote Speaker: Renée M. Hutchins, JD
Dean of the Francis King Carey School of Law



Traditionally, the Annual Meeting honors the current Presidents of the Bar Association of Baltimore City and the Baltimore Bar Foundation and the Chair of the Young Lawyers' Division, while also passing on the reins to the new officers for the upcoming year.

This year, the current BABC President, James Motsay, will pass the reins to the Hon. Teresa Epps Cummings (Office of Administrative Hearings) and the current BBF President, Ryan Dietrich, will pass the reins to Natasha Dartigue. Rachel Samakow will continue as YLD Chair.

Please plan to join us as we celebrate the above and present the BBF Fellows Award, the induction of the new BBF Fellows, and special honors to BABC members.

Members: \$85 | YLD: \$75 | Non-Members: \$95

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The Bar Association of Baltimore City Welcomes New Members who have joined from January 1, 2024, through April 30, 2024.

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YLD Tour at Baltimore Spirits Company

January 25, 2024

On January 25, 2024, the Young Lawyers' Division started the new year with a tour and tasting at Baltimore Spirits Company. Attendees learned about the fermenting process and then enjoyed a flight of whiskey. Cheers!



Black History Month

February 7, 2024

In honor of Black History Month, Ebony M. Thompson, Dana P. Moore, and José Anderson spoke on Baltimore City's racial past and what the government is doing and can do to address lingering racial disparities. *Paving the Path to Equality: A Black History Month Exploration of Baltimore City's Past and Present Initiatives* proved to be a standing room only presentation. Thanks to the Monumental City Bar Association, The Alliance of Black Women Attorneys and The Library Company of the Baltimore Bar for making this February 7th event a success.



BABC Firm Breakfasts

February 8, 2024

On February 8, February 14, and March 6, members of the Bar staff and Executive Council popped into breakfast at Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP, Franklin & Prokopik, and Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, respectively, with some breakfast sweets and coffee. It was a great opportunity to introduce nonmembers to the Bar Association of Baltimore City.



Spaghetti Opera Night

March 20 & 21, 2024

The Baltimore Bar Foundation's Spaghetti Opera Night or should we say, "Nights," occurred on March 20th and 21st. Both sold out shows helped raise a record amount of money for the Foundation's Spring Grant Cycle. Thanks to Kelly Hughes Iverson for her tireless effort in making this a great event.





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Meet the Judges

April 3, 2024

“Meet the Judges” always shows a big turn out! On April 3rd, 45 judges came to mix and mingle with our members at the Renaissance Hotel. **Thanks to Excelsia Injury Care for their continued support and for sponsoring this event.** A special thanks to the Baltimore City Sheriff’s Office for all the security and keeping our judges and members safe.



Law Day for Seniors

April 13, 2024

On April 13, 2024, the staff of Senior Legal Services created another successful “Law Day for Seniors.”

Over 150 seniors came out to hear seminars from our members, staff, Executive Council and judges.

Thanks to Meals on Wheels and all of our sponsors for making this event another successful community event.



Time to Renew!

Don't miss exciting events put on by
The Bar Association of Baltimore City,
The Young Lawyers' Division
and The Baltimore Bar Foundation.
And don't forget, all CLEs are FREE for members!

Renew your membership
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Baltimore City Goes Live E-Filing Training Handout

Prior to Go Live...

1. **E-filing References** – Visit (and bookmark) this site. <http://mdcourts.gov/mdec/efiling.html>
2. Register (and bookmark) the e-filing site. You must register for [MDEC ODYSSEY FILE AND SERVE](#) or one of the [alternate service providers](#) pursuant to Rule 20-104. All attorneys should register under a firm account. If you are not a solo practitioner, wait for the email invitation from your firm administrator to register.
3. Register (and bookmark) the remote access record search site, [MARYLAND JUDICIARY RECORD SEARCH PORTAL](#). You must register with the same email address as your e-filing account. Registration for the portal is a two-step process. See [Record Search Portal Registration Steps](#) - Attorneys
 - a. Register for remote access
 - b. Login and **request access** by selecting your role as attorney or state's attorney

Go Live...

- All documents must be submitted in pdf format. From Word, select File -> Save As -> PDF (*.pdf).
- Add your service contact to each case. If you don't designate a [service contact](#), the application will default to the filer's service contact email address. Only add service contacts for opposing parties or opposing attorneys from the PUBLIC list. NEVER add anyone outside of your firm to your firm list or the public list.

- All documents containing confidential information must be submitted with the [Notice Regarding Restricted Information Pursuant to Rule 20-201.1](#)

- See the [Policies and Procedures Manual](#) for details concerning MDEC e-filing.

Support...

E-Filing Technical Support

- Call Tyler Technologies at 800-297-5377, Monday – Friday (8 a.m. – 8 p.m. EST)
- Email Maryland Judicial Information Systems at mdcourts@service-now.com or call 410-260-1114 (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Court Support

- Baltimore City Wabash Ave. District Court, 410-878-8000
- Baltimore City Patapsco Ave. District Court, 410-878-8300
- Baltimore City North Ave. District Court, 410-878-8500
- Baltimore City East Fayette St., 410-878-8900
- Baltimore City Circuit Court, 410-333-3722

Law Libraries

- Thurgood Marshall State Law Library, 361 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis 410-260-1430
- Baltimore Bar Library, 100 N. Calvert St., Room 618, Mitchell Courthouse 410-727-0280

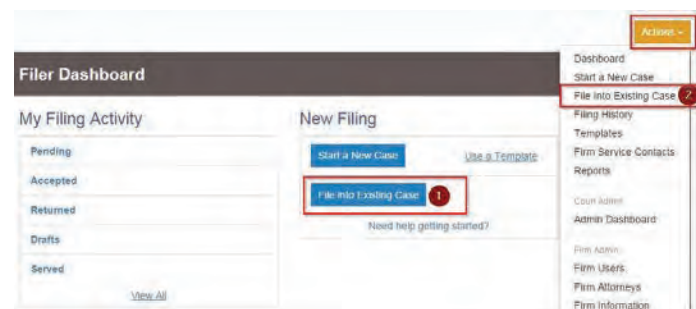
E-Filing into an Existing Case

If you have a case number, then you should follow these steps to file into the existing case. Before starting the process, you will need to have the documents that you want to send to the court saved as PDF file on your computer/laptop.

There are two ways to search for an existing case - by case number or party name.

File Into an Existing Case – Search by Case Number

1. From the **Filer Dashboard**, click the blue **File into Existing Case** button.
2. Click the orange **Actions** button in the top right corner. Choose **File into Existing Case** from the dropdown list.



3. Select the Location (court). Use the All Locations option for easy access to all case numbers.
4. Type in your case number.
5. Click the Search button.

File Into Existing Case

Select a Location

Location

All Locations

Search for a Case by

Case Number

Party Name



Case Number

10-000000000000000000

Search

Clear Search

File Into an Existing Case – Search by Party Name

1. Enter the first and last name or click Party is a Business/Agency to search by business/agency name.

2. When the case appears, click on the black **Actions** button to the right of the case information, and choose **File Into Case** from the list.

On existing cases, the Case Information and Party Information sections are already filled out, and you may scroll down to the Filings section.

Filings Section

The Filings section is where you will upload the documents saved on your computer/device that will send the court through the e-Filing website. Boxes or fields outlined in **RED** are **required**. After you complete all required fields in a section, the red boxes will disappear, and a blue **Save Changes** button will appear on the lower right corner of the screen.

Filing Type: There are three types of filings: EFile, EFile and Serve, and Serve.

EFile will send your filings to the court. It will not serve your filings on the other parties on the case. You would have to serve the parties on your own.

EFileandServe will send your filings to the court and also serve them electronically on any service contacts you select in the Service Contacts section.

Serve will not send your documents to the court but will serve them electronically on any service contacts you select in the Service Contacts section.

The filing code is the specific type of filing that you are sending to the court. (Example: complaint, motion, memorandum, affidavit, etc.) If you have multiple documents to file, you should add the main document first, which is typically a complaint, answer, motion, etc. Choose the filing code that most closely matches the document you want to upload. If you are submitting a form, the name or title of the form may help you choose the right filing code. **TIP: If you start typing a word into the field (for example, motion), the list will show you all the options that include that word.**

The Filing Description field allows you to describe the lead document that you are filing.

Skip the **Client Reference Number (optional)**.

The **Comments to the Court** box can be used to add comments for the court's e-filing reviewer. The comments should contain information that is not already included in your documents.

The **Courtesy Copies** box can be used to notify the entered email address that something has been accepted by the court. The user submitting automatically gets an 'Accepted' notification email. If multiple courtesy copies are needed, separate each email with a comma. Courtesy Copies are NOT formal service to other parties.

The **Lead Document** is the main document you are adding to a filing, and it is required. Here you upload a document from your computer. The document must be a PDF file and the file name shall relate to the title of the submission.

Click the **Save Changes** button after you complete all the required fields in the section.

If you need to add another filing, click the **+ Add Another Filing** button. You will need to add a Filing Code, Filing Description, and Lead Document for each filing.

Service Contacts Section

The Service Contacts section is available if you chose either the EFileAndServe or Serve Filing Types. If your service contact is not listed with a check to the left of the contact name, find the party you are associated with and click on the corresponding Actions button. Choose one of the 2 options.

1. **Add From Firm Service Contacts** – Here you can choose a service contact within your Firm's list of service contacts. Select the email contact you wish to add to the case and click the close button. The service contact will be added to the case.

2. **Add From Public List** – List of email contacts that are available to the public.

You can add a service contact outside of your firm account from the public list if the contact exists in the public list. You can search by name, email address, or firm name.

Fees Section

The Fees section is where you will select your Payment Account to pay for a filing fee. It is required to complete in order to activate the **Summary** button at the bottom and **Submit** your filing to the court.

You must select a **Payment Account**, even if the cost is \$0.00.

The **Party Responsible for Fees** is the party you are filing on the behalf of. Only one party can be selected in this field.

Click the **Save Changes** button after you complete all the required fields in the section.

The next step is to check all 3 of the Submission Agreement boxes below the Fees section. They may not apply to what you are doing, however Submission agreements are required by the court and must be checked in order to proceed and activate the **Summary** button.

After you review your Summary screen, scroll to the bottom of the page, and click the **Submit** button.

For technical support, contact Judicial Information Systems Support Desk at 410-260-1114 or mdcourts@service-now.com,

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Member Spotlight

Kayla DiNuccio



Where do you currently work?

I'm an Associate Attorney at Blank Kim Injury Law

What is your current involvement with the BABC and other Bar organizations?

I currently serve as a Member-at-Large of the Young Lawyers' Division. I also proudly served as a co-chair of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Young Lawyers' Division from 2021 to 2023. I've been a member of the BABC since 2015 when I was a law student.

What is your favorite part of being involved with the BABC?

The BABC is such an inviting organization with invaluable opportunities to learn and get to know your peers. Although it can be intimidating to attend your first event without knowing anyone, I can almost certainly guarantee that you will be welcomed by a friendly face. I have learned so much from being part of the BABC and attending events, such as receiving practice tips from District Court and Circuit Court judges, as well as changes in the law. All the knowledge I have gained and continue to gain has made me a better lawyer and advocate for my clients. Being part of the BABC has also provided me with the confidence to reach out to other attorneys for help, many of whom I developed relationships with at networking events.

Otis Freeman



Where do you currently work?

I serve as Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

What is your current involvement with the BABC and other Bar organizations?

For the BABC, I serve as a Co-Chair of the Government and Public Interest. I also

serve as a Co-Chair for the Diversity & Inclusion Committee of the MSBA.

What is your favorite part of being involved with the BABC?

I truly have enjoyed the ability to meet lawyers across the city who work in various areas of law. It has tremendously helped to build my network of colleagues in the area. Also, my ability to provide resources for other lawyers, mentees, and persons seeking counsel.

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY
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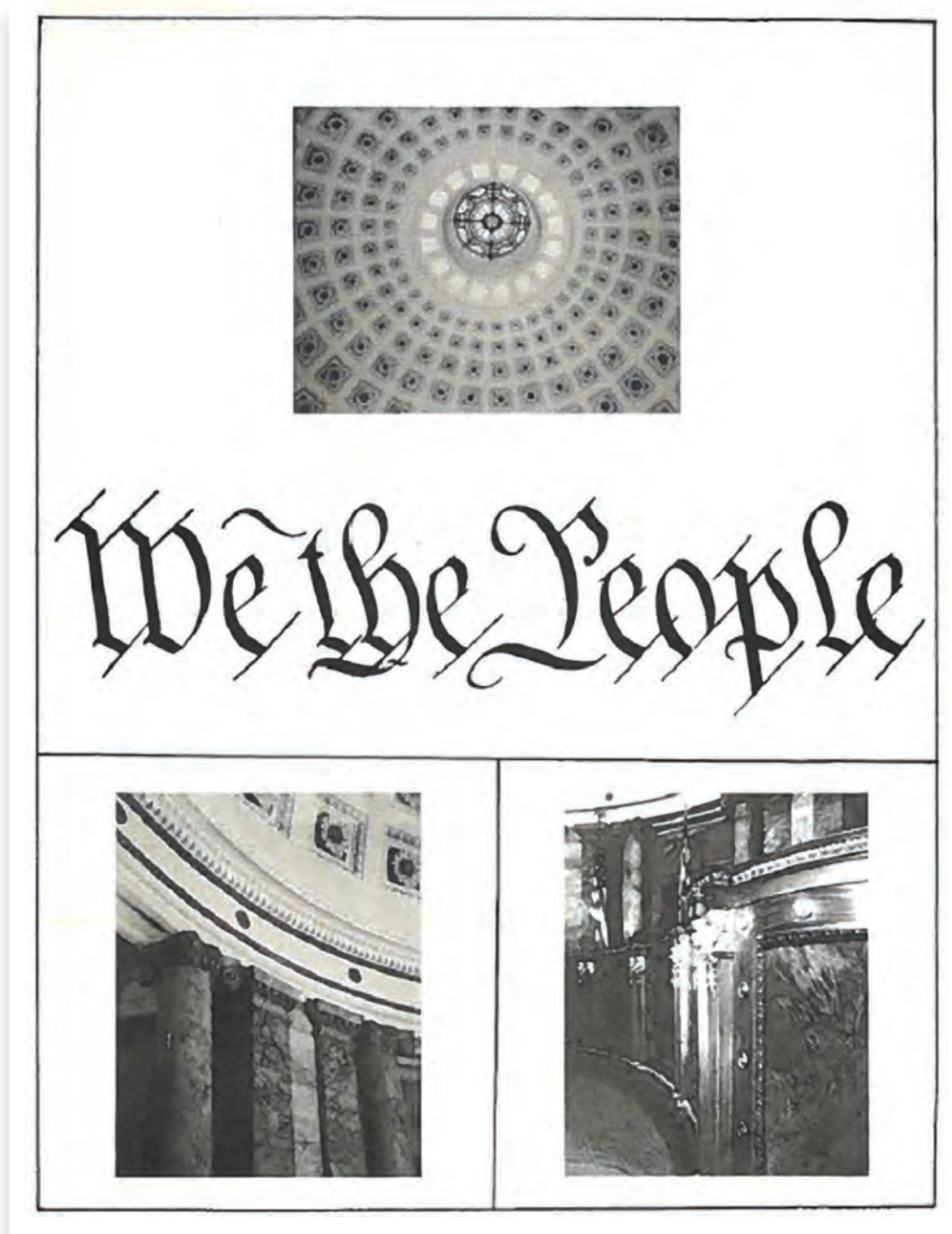
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Blast From the Past




On September 26, 1987, the Bar Association held a Ball to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution and to commence fundraising efforts to renovate the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse. The Bicentennial Ball included an unveiling of a portrait of Luther Martin, the first portrait to be restored; a video presentation on the U.S. Constitution; a viewing of Maryland's original copy of the Constitution, loaned by the Maryland State Archives; and a tour of the Mitchell Courthouse. Below is a copy of the menu for the Ball.

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WILLIAMSBURG FRIED DOWLESS BREAST OF CHICKEN
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MARYLAND DELEGATE WHO DID NOT SIGN
THE CONSTITUTION



LUTHER MARTIN
1748-1826
Portrait by Cephas Thompson
c.1804

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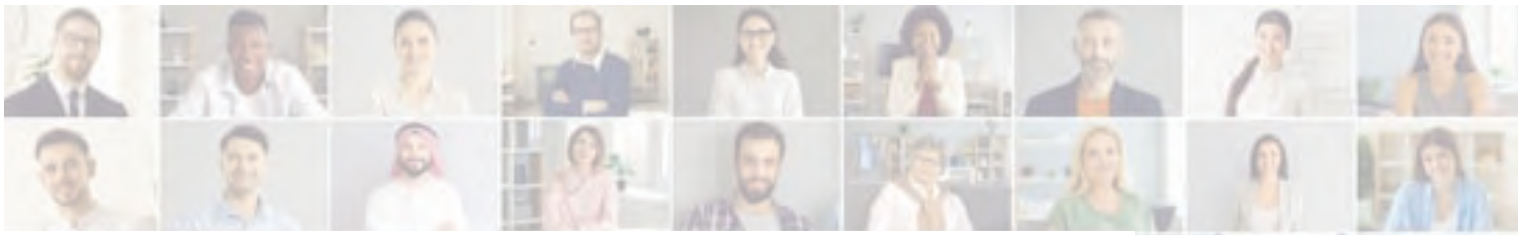
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