



# CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

## Ethics Hotline Volunteer

George Mahaffey: 410-783-4000  
Christopher D. Wright: 410-696-7861

## The President's Message Technology, How Far Will It Go?



Jim Motsay

Like many of you, I'm not in the office every day and when I am it's just a different experience. Covid seems to not have just changed our lives but has changed our experience and our capacity to do work.

Because of Covid, we use technology to a greater extent.

When I first started practicing law almost 42 years ago, there were no fax machines or cell phones. Electric typewriters were beginning to make their way into law offices as a regular piece of equipment. As the years went by, we saw offices change in terms of technology. Fax machines were introduced. We no longer picked up the telephone as a means to communicate as much as we did in the past. Just as we seemed to really be comfortable with fax machines, cell phones began making their way into our daily and professional lives.

Next, the computer entered the law office. Computers made life so much easier in many respects. For example, when you had a multipage document

correction, they were easily made. On the downside, it allowed you to work faster and harder.

Then the World Wide Web became available. Giants like Microsoft would regularly upgrade their software with a newer version. New software programs are and continue to be produced.

The computer became smaller. Laptops allow us to take our documents and files with us. During this time, email was also introduced. It is instantaneous communication.

So, what is our next latest and greatest technology advancement? I think right now that appears to be artificial intelligence (AI). There are various versions of AI out there and those versions are being further refined by companies that can direct the use of AI to fit within a particular profession. Right now, in the forefront is ChatGPT. With this AI program, you can ask for information to be given back to you, have it write a memorandum, motion, letter, or even research a topic. Seeing how I've always tried to keep up with newest technology, I decided to sign-on and create my own AI account. I quickly learned that the substance is good, but it doesn't really give

you the finer points that may be needed. In other words, you receive the basics. As AI continues to grow, we should expect improvements in the quantity and quality of the output.

AI is not without controversy. There are many concerns being raised regularly in response to the basic idea of AI, as well as any refinements. In reports within the legal profession, attorneys have used AI to write motions and memorandums, and the court has been critical of the use of AI. We learned in law school we need to verify our sources.

One of my biggest concerns involves copyright and plagiarism issues. Yes, ChatGPT or other such AI programs are pulling information together from various sources it finds on the internet. When you receive the information back, there is no credit given to where that information has been gathered. I can't help but wonder if one day you see what you published, with the court or in an article, and you find that someone else used it and you had not been properly given credit.

This applies to the issue that I have concerning plagiarism. Are we plagiarizing someone else's work through a third-party source? If that third-party

source is pulling that information from someone else's site, then our use of it without proper credit to the original author is plagiarism. Plagiarism is totally unacceptable anywhere but especially in the field of law. By contrast, Google returns our search request with citations.

I recently attended a seminar on AI. The speakers talked about ChatGPT and the legal ChatGPT software programs. The speakers extolled the use of ChatGPT. Unfortunately, when I asked, they did not address the concerns of plagiarism and copyright. They did express concern that knowing how to use AI in the legal and academic settings needs much more discussion. The law professor agreed that it is a problem when you compare AI to how Google gives us information.

This now places us all in a bit of a dilemma - should we use AI for writing our memos, letters, motions, briefs, etc.? How should we properly cite the references for the that material within the body of these various works? I am going to be asking one of our committees to help with this discussion, provide a CLE in the spring for people to hear the comments. I wish you all well with your use of AI. Keep in mind, it is a limited source.

## Young Lawyers' Division Update Renew Your Membership or Join Today!



Sara El-Sara

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Labor Day. The YLD (with a special shout out to Membership Committee Co-Chairs Sarah Belardi and Maria Bermudez) has hit the ground running as we participated in student organization and activity fairs at both the University of Baltimore School of Law and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. The Membership Committee coordinated with both law

schools, our executive office, and the BABC to help recruit and welcome new law students at their respective organizational fairs during the last week of August. As a reminder YLD/BABC membership is completely FREE for law students and recently admitted attorneys. Specifically, this includes all attorneys admitted to practice under the age of 37 at the start of the bar year and attorneys of any age admitted to the Bar for less than five years. Additionally, the BABC offers discounted membership rates to other groups such as government and public interest lawyers or attorneys admitted to the Bar for less than 10

years. Getting involved early can provide tremendous benefits including making new friends, gaining valuable practice tips from mentorship, and giving back to the community through multiple community service activities. The YLD/BABC certainly provides a great bang for your buck! Join or renew at any time by visiting the BABC website: [www.baltimorebar.org](http://www.baltimorebar.org).

We are excited to host a "Mix & Mingle" Happy Hour at Hotel Indigo on October 17th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Big thank you to Sarah Belardi for taking the lead in organizing this event. The BABC Annual Crab Feast, scheduled for

October 4th, is always a fun evening of feasting with family, fellow members, and friends. There is still time to register but register soon because this event sells out every year.

Finally, many of the YLD Committee Co-Chairs are setting the dates for their first meetings, so please be on the lookout for notices if you would like to attend or join a committee. You can be as involved as you want to be, and all levels of commitment are welcome. Please be sure to check the BABC weekly email blasts and website calendar for more upcoming events that are currently being planned.

## CITY BAR BRIEFS

### Still Haven't Renewed Your Membership? Visit Our Website and Renew Today!

Go to: [www.baltimorebar.org](http://www.baltimorebar.org)

1. Log into your account
2. From the menu, select "Renew Your Membership Now!"
3. From the tabs, select "Dues & Payments"
4. Confirm your payment amount
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6. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Next"
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If you have any questions or need help renewing your membership, please email us at: [info@baltimorebar.org](mailto:info@baltimorebar.org)

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1. From the Menu choose "Auto Renewal Preference"

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We hope this makes managing your individual membership easier.

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- Increase your visibility within the Bar Association of Baltimore City

Once a member, you will receive referrals from our office of potential clients that have been screened by our staff.

For each area of law you are qualified to practice, you will become a member of that panel. For instance, if you practice criminal and tax law, you will become a member of the criminal law and tax law panels. Client referrals are sent to you on a rotation basis on each panel for which you are signed up.

To see all the rules criteria for becoming a panelist:

Go to: [www.baltimorebar.org](http://www.baltimorebar.org)

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Visit [TheDailyRecord.com/Calendar](http://TheDailyRecord.com/Calendar) or click 'calendar' under 'resources.' Fill out the form and submit. Your event listing will appear on TheDailyRecord.com and in our print edition.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**OCTOBER 4**  
Crab Feast

**OCTOBER 12**  
Cabaret & Cabernet

**OCTOBER 17**  
Meet & Greet Happy Hour

**OCTOBER 21**  
Green Mount Cemetery Tour

**NOVEMBER 1**  
BABC Memorial Service

**NOVEMBER 6**  
Sustaining Members Cooking Class

**NOVEMBER 7**  
Supreme Court Admissions

**NOVEMBER 18**  
National Adoption Day

## BABC SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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- |                           |                           |
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| Cynthia Leppert           | Hon. Barbara Baer Waxman  |
| Hon. Lynn Stewart Mays    | Sen. Christopher West     |

The generous support of Sustaining Members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City greatly assists this bar association in fulfilling its mission and achieving further growth and success. The unwavering dedication of these members ensures the BABC will continue its long and distinguished tradition of service to our legal community and the public. If you are interested in becoming a Sustaining Member, please contact Karen Fast at [kfast@baltimorebar.org](mailto:kfast@baltimorebar.org).

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Post your events on our calendar: Visit [TheDailyRecord.com/Calendar](http://TheDailyRecord.com/Calendar) or click 'calendar' under 'resources.'



*The Bar Association of Baltimore City  
invites you to our*

# ANNUAL CRAB FEAST



6526 HOLABIRD AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21224

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4  
5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Join us for Crabs, Pit Beef,  
Fried Chicken, Pasta and more!

**BABC MEMBERS & GUESTS: \$80**

**CHILDREN 10 & UNDER: \$35**

ALL FRIENDS & FAMILY OF THE BABC INVITED!  
ALWAYS A SELL-OUT - REGISTER EARLY!


**PRICE WILL GO UP \$10 AT THE DOOR.**

To register, please visit:  
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## GREEN MOUNT CEMETERY TOUR

**SATURDAY, OCT 21**  
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.


**This event is free for BABC members and their guests**

1501 Greenmount Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21202



To register, please visit:  
[www.baltimorebar.org/calendar](http://www.baltimorebar.org/calendar)

The tour will go on rain or shine

If you have any questions, please contact us at: [info@baltimorebar.org](mailto:info@baltimorebar.org)




Presented by The Historical Committee  
of the Bar Association of Baltimore City

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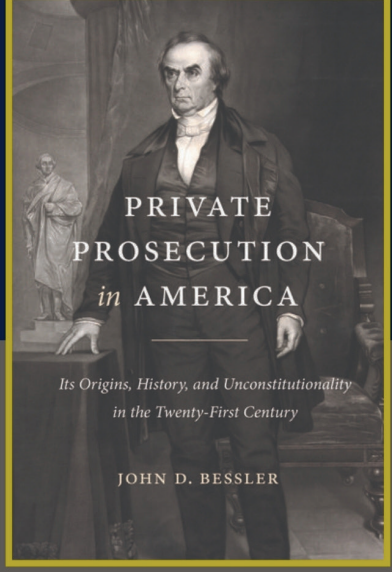
DON'T WAIT! JOIN NOW!




The Historical Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore City presents


## THURSDAY'S AT THE MUSEUM

Join us for an insightful presentation by Professor John D. Bessler.  
His presentation will focus on his book, "Private Prosecution in America."



To purchase this book, please scan the QR code.





**Professor John D. Bessler**  
University of Baltimore School of Law

Tracking its origins to medieval times and the English common law, the book shows how "private prosecutors" were once a mainstay of early American criminal procedure. Professor Bessler's book is the first comprehensive examination of this practice that dates back to the colonial era.

**Thursday, September 28**  
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

VIA ZOOM

To register, please visit: [www.baltimorebar.org](http://www.baltimorebar.org)

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Joining LRIS provides an excellent opportunity for not only solo and small firm practitioners, but newly admitted attorneys to grow their clientele and practice.


The BABC LRIS is an ABA Approved Lawyer Referral Service

## For more information

E-MAIL ALAINA BOSWELL AT:  
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