



# 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

## Ethics Hotline

The Ethics Hotline is a member benefit of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. It is staffed by

volunteers who informally answer questions related to the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct.

The advice given reflects the best judgment of those volunteers and no attorney/client relationship is created.

Go to this site for more information, [www.baltimorebar.org/for-attorneys/resources/ethics-hotline/](http://www.baltimorebar.org/for-attorneys/resources/ethics-hotline/).

## New Beginnings.....



The Hon. Teresa Epps Cummings, President of the Bar Association of Baltimore City

September symbolizes many new beginnings. Our children return to school. Football season shifts into high gear. The weather begins the transition from summer to fall.

And, if you have had a chance to look at the BABC's September calendar, you will notice the flurry of activity that is ushered in at the BABC office at the beginning of each September. Regarding new beginnings in 2024, in addition to becoming president of the BABC, I am now an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) and in a very short amount of time I have learned that many lawyers and lay

people alike, have no idea what we do at OAH. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to provide a very brief overview.

The OAH began conducting hearings on January 1, 1990. The office was created by Chapter 788 (SB 658) of the Laws of 1989. Its statute is codified in State Government Article, Title 9, Subtitle 16 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The OAH is an independent unit within the executive branch of State government and conducts fair and timely hearings for over 30 State agencies in contested cases for over 200 different programs, with over 500 types of hearings. The State agencies for which OAH conducts hearings include, but is not limited to, the Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Health, and Maryland Department of Labor. The mission of the OAH is to provide prompt, accessible and efficient due process for any person

or business affected by the action or proposed action of State and government agencies.

Currently, the OAH is headed by Chief Administrative Law Judge (CALJ) Chung K. Pak. A ten-member State Advisory Council on Administrative Hearings advises the CALJ. ALJs are appointed by the CALJ who is appointed by the Governor for a six-year term. All ALJs of the OAH are cross trained to hear all the different types of cases before the OAH. New ALJs undergo an intensive training period which includes classroom-type instruction and overviews coupled with observing hearings and being observed conducting hearings. All ALJs are certified mediators. And, while most hearings are held remotely via the Webex Videoconferencing platform post-COVID pandemic, some hearings are conducted in-person. Depending on the hearing type, an ALJ will either provide a written decision

or a bench decision. An ALJ has the power to regulate the course of the hearing and the conduct of the parties and authorized representatives, including, but not limited to, the power to administer oaths and affirmations, issue subpoenas for witnesses and the production of evidence, rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant and material evidence.

The Administrative Law Building in Hunt Valley is the headquarters of the OAH. This building houses hearing and meeting rooms, a clerk's office, ample public waiting areas, and a law library. The OAH operates a satellite office in Salisbury and has a dedicated hearing space in Rockville. For additional information regarding the OAH, please plan to attend the open house on Monday, September 23, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. RSVP for the "OAH Open House" to Bernice Verner (Bernice.verner@maryland.gov).

## Let's Go YLD!



Rachel Samakow, Chair of the Young Lawyers' Division

While the weather may be cooling down, the YLD has been warming up and is hitting the ground running on our programming for the year. From our CLEs to our social events,

the YLD is planning a little something for everyone this bar season. Without giving too much away, let me give a little sneak peek of what's to come.

By the time you're reading this article, the YLD has already gotten the year underway with the annual law school fairs at both the University of Baltimore, and the University of Maryland. Our table was a big hit

at both schools with our "Free Dad Joke" sign, which caused a lot of buzz and brought a lot of student engagement. Thank you to both law schools for having us at these events.

We enjoyed the "Bringing the Bars Together" happy hour at the Maryland Club, which if you were lucky enough to attend, I'm sure you had a great time! It is so nice that all the individual bars in Baltimore can come together a couple of times a year and network as one.

Next up, we will be celebrating the start of the bar year with our YLD kickoff event, the Mix and Mingle. Details are still getting ironed out, but keep your eyes peeled for an event at the end of September at the Hotel Indigo.

Later this fall, we will be bringing back some of your YLD favorites,

such as our virtual cooking class and our Yappy Hour, which is always a howling good time. We'll also be adding some new programs this year, including several dynamic CLEs, as well as some wonderful public service outings to give back to Charm City. We're currently fleshing out a couple student-requested events at the law schools, such as a panel on government lawyering, and an interview prep panel and program. For those that would like to assist our future YLD members on how to bridge the gap between law school and law practice, this would be a great opportunity to do so. On October 30th, the BABC is co-hosting a breakfast with the University of Baltimore Dean LaVonda Reed and everyone is invited. To sign up, go to the BABC website. It's FREE!

As always, we will be celebrating the holidays with our children's party, to be funded by a robust silent auction, as well as some very generous donations from our legal community. If you'd like to get involved with either contributing to the auction, donating directly to the event on behalf of yourself or your office, or would like to volunteer at the party, we would be happy to have you!

This is only a sample of our year to come, and we're excited to invite you to join us at our upcoming events. If you have an idea for a program or outing, let us know! We'd love to make your ideas a YLD reality. And of course, none of these YLD events would be possible without the efforts of our enthusiastic YLD Board and committee members. Thank you for all that you do!

## POST ALL YOUR EVENTS FREE ON OUR CALENDAR

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](http://TheDailyRecord.com) and in our print edition.



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**Veritext**



# BABC SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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# The Bar Association of Baltimore City Welcomes New Members who have joined from August 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tiana N. Boardman    | Yakira Price          |
| Tiffani S. Collins   | Rachel K. Rogers      |
| Marnell Cooper       | Raelyn Schuh          |
| David De Alva        | Lea Schwartz          |
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| Macy Hamlett         | Cheryl Simpson Parker |
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| Jennifer Erin Keyser | Deborah Warner-Dennis |
| Odi Odian            | Jerome Wilson         |



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).

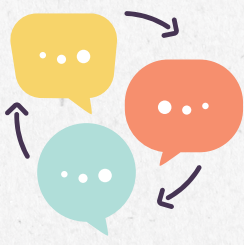


The Bar Association of Baltimore City  
Family Law Committee Presents

## An Open Discussion with Judge M. Middleton

Tuesday, September 24, 2024  
12:30 pm

Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse,  
Room 504



Judge M. Middleton will be Judge in Charge of Family starting January 2025, she would like to hear from family practitioners regarding the Family Division.

Lunch will be provided.

Members: Free, Non-members: \$40

Register at [www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/](http://www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/)

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY  
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE PRESENTS



## GREEN MOUNT CEMETERY TOUR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1501 GREENMOUNT AVE,  
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

Join the BABC for its annual tour of Green Mount Cemetery.

Opened in 1839, Green Mount Cemetery is an early example of an urban-rural cemetery, that is, a cemetery with a park-like setting located close to the countryside.

Green Mount is the final resting place of some of Maryland's most famous, and infamous, figures including Johns Hopkins, Enoch Pratt, William and Henry Walters, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Betsy Patterson, A.S. Abell, John H. B. Latrobe, John Wilkes Booth, and Elijah Bond, who patented the Ouija Board!

REGISTER AT: [www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/](http://www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/)

**SPACE IS LIMITED**  
All members & their guests may attend for free.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW PRESENTS




## Breakfast WITH THE DEAN



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024 | 7:30 - 9:00 AM

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW  
12TH FLOOR READING ROOM  
1401 N. CHARLES ST.  
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

Come to the University of Baltimore School of Law for a networking breakfast and meet the new dean, LaVonda Reed, and other law school leaders.

MEMBERS: FREE, NON-MEMBERS: \$20

RSVP AT [WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/](http://WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/)



The Bar Association of Baltimore City  
invites you to our

## ANNUAL CRAB FEAST



6526 HOLABIRD AVENUE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21224

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9  
6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

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

\$90 EARLYBIRD PRICE BY SEPTEMBER 30  
\$95 OCTOBER 1 - 8  
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PRESENT THE 10TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AND VOLUNTEER  
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# CABARET & CABERNET

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

FEATURING MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF THE BAR

University of Maryland  
Francis King Carey School of Law  
Westminster Hall | 519 W. Fayette St  
Baltimore, MD 21201

6:00 - 6:45 PM Registration & Cocktail Hour

6:45 - 7:00 PM Awards Presentation

7:00 - 8:00 PM Cabaret

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