



CITY BAR REPORT

News from the Bar Association of Baltimore City

Ethics Hotline Volunteer

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Moving Forward Together!



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

Women's History Month (WHM) began as a week-long celebration in 1982 and was expanded to a month in 1987. The purpose of WHM is to honor and recognize the

women include Sheila K. Sachs, Alison L. Asti, The Honorable Pamela J. Brown, Katherine Kelly Howard, The Honorable Joan Bossman Gordon, Mary Alice Smolerek, The Honorable Lynn Stewart Mays, Cynthia Leppert, Kelly Hughes Iverson, The Honorable Dana M. Middleton, and The Honorable Myshala Middleton. Additionally, as it just so happens, this is the first time in the Bar's history that there are three women leading all three of the Bar's organizations, which include the Bar Association of Baltimore City (BABC), The Young Lawyers' Division of the Bar Association of Baltimore City (YLD), and The Baltimore Bar Foundation (BBF). I am currently serving as president of the BABC, Rachel Samakow is chair of the YLD and Maryland State Public Defender, Natasha M. Dartigue is president of the BBF. Together, we are women working collaboratively to educate and inspire members of the legal community for generations to come. And because of their commitment to excellence, I would like to take a moment to highlight the accomplishments of my fellow female leaders.

Rachel W. Samakow, a senior attorney with Chesapeake Employers' Insurance, focuses her practice on workers' compensation litigation. In

her in-house counsel role, Rachel also provides legal advice and guidance on a wide array of issues within the workers' compensation canon. Rachel has been an active member of the Bar Association of Baltimore City since 2013. Currently serving as the Chair for the Young Lawyers' Division, Rachel has previously served as Treasurer, Elected Member, Co-Chair for the Membership Committee, and has contributed to the organization as a member of the Public Education Committee, the Events Committee, and the Public Relations Committee. Rachel was the recipient of the 2022 Young Lawyers' Division Rising Star Award. Rachel attended the George Washington University, where she graduated cum laude before earning her Juris Doctor from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2012. During law school, Rachel was a research assistant, participated as a Spanish translator for the Immigrants' Rights Clinic, and competed in the Robert F. Wagner Moot Court Competition.

Natasha M. Dartigue is the current Maryland State Public Defender whose six-year appointment term began on July 1, 2022. Ms. Dartigue is a 1995 graduate of the Howard University School of Law. Upon law school graduation she clerked in the Baltimore City Circuit Court for the late Judge Roger W. Brown. Subsequently,

she began working at the Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore City. Ms. Dartigue has worked as a trial attorney in the juvenile, district and circuit court divisions. She has also served as felony trial supervisor, Deputy District Public Defender for Baltimore City, and Acting District Public Defender before accepting the position of Maryland State Public Defender in May 2022. Ms. Dartigue is the first person of color to lead the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. Ms. Dartigue, who is the daughter of Haitian immigrants, has highlighted the importance of her historic appointment, noting that it "redefines what leadership looks like and expands the possibilities for Black and brown children." She adds that it "especially provides hope to children of immigrants, who are often overlooked and undervalued, that opportunities do exist."

As you can see, I am in the company of two phenomenal women, and we are all standing on the shoulders of all the great female attorneys and judges who came before us. I speak for us all when I say that we look forward to continuing to "Move Forward Together."

We are One. One City. One Profession. One Bar (led by dynamic women).

accomplishments of women throughout history. Since 1995, U.S. Presidents have issued proclamations designating March as WHM with March 8 being designated as International Women's Day. The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA) selects and publishes a theme for the year and this year, the theme is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations." Through this theme, the NWHHA seeks to encourage us all to highlight the collective strength and influence of women in leadership, mentorship and education.

In honoring WHM, I would first like to thank all the women who have served as president of our illustrious organization. I thank them for their time, leadership, mentorship and legal education provided during their tenure. These extraordinary

And The YLD Award Goes To...



Rachel Samakow, Chair of the Young Lawyers' Division

Hollywood is currently celebrating awards season, and I'm watching the Oscars as I tap out this article. A fun fact about me is that I am a huge movie buff, but I'm admittedly behind in my screenings

of all the Oscar contenders (the whole lawyering, mothering, chairing legal clubs thing has been keeping me busy).

I love watching the Oscars; seeing actors and others in the entertainment industry be recognized by their peers for their outstanding work, it's inspiring. I feel the same level of enthusiasm watching my peers be recognized for their outstanding work as well, a lot of which takes place outside of a courtroom.

I am in awe of how some of our YLD crew make event planning look absolutely

effortless. Or how some of our newer board members have thrown themselves right into the mix making contributions that have elevated both our programing, and our team. One of the things I look forward to most during the bar year is when we take a pause to recognize the phenomenal work done by our YLD team.

So, with the Oscars on in the background, let me tell you a bit about YLD Award season.

There are four awards given to members of the YLD annually. The first is the Bar Association of Baltimore City's Annual Presidential Award, which is presented at the Past Presidents' Luncheon. The description of the award is as follows:

The Bar Association of Baltimore City's Annual Presidential Awards are presented to two individuals (one of whom shall be a member of the Young Lawyers' Division) who are members of the Bar Association of Baltimore City who have: 1) selflessly undertaken community,

civic, and/or charitable service which brings honor to the profession, and/or 2) who have devoted time and energy to the Bar Association of Baltimore City through substantial work on BABC committees, or other exemplary service to the Association.

The three remaining YLD awards are presented at our annual YLD Spring Social and Awards Reception:

The YLD Public Service Award recognizes a member of the YLD who has dedicated significant time and energy to public service activities and/or other community service. The nominee must have actively served as a member of a YLD Committee for at least one (1) year. The nominee shall not have been paid for the public service work being recognized.

The YLD Rising Star Award recognizes a member of the YLD who recently has made significant contributions to the BABC and who shows promise as a future YLD leader. The nominee must have actively served as a member of a YLD

Committee for at least one (1) year.

The YLD Sustained Leadership Award recognizes a member of the YLD who has made significant contributions to the YLD through sustained service in a leadership capacity. The nominee shall have shown outstanding dedication and made significant contributions to the YLD as a leader and mentor and supported the YLD Council and its programs. The nominee must have been an active leader in the YLD for a minimum of five (5) years in order to be eligible for this award.

When you were reading through these award descriptions, if anyone immediately came to mind, please reach out to us to nominate them- you do not have to be a YLD member to submit a nomination! Help us recognize those who really make the BABC and YLD all that it is!

Well, the wrap up music has started playing, so I'll take my cue...

To submit a nomination for a YLD Award, e-mail us at info@baltimorebar.org.

The Bar Association of Baltimore City Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) is experiencing a record number of referrals and is in need of additional attorneys to meet the demand.

NEED CLIENTS? JOIN LRIS

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

To join Lawyer Referral, contact the BABC office at info@baltimorebar.org

BECOME LAW FIRM SPONSOR

- The Law Firm Sponsorship Program is designed to enable law firms in the Baltimore region to continue their support of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. Law firms are asked to make their commitment annually to the BABC and support its programs. This program has been intentionally designed to provide supporting law firms significant value in the form of benefits throughout the bar year.
- Sponsorship Levels Between \$1,000-\$10,000 offers a range of benefits, including tickets to the Crab Feast, Past Presidents' Luncheon, Annual Holiday Party, and Annual Meeting, as well as an invitation to BABC's Annual Managing Partners' Luncheon. Sponsors also receive complimentary BABC membership for a new young lawyer or newly admitted attorney. Additional perks include the firm's logo or name featured on the Bar Association's website with a link to the firm's website, and recognition as a sponsor at the Crab Feast, Past Presidents' Luncheon, Annual Holiday Party, and Annual Meeting. Sponsors are also acknowledged in BABC's newsletters, The City Bar Report and The Barrister.

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BALTIMORE BAR FOUNDATION, INC.
**ANNUAL GOLF OUTING
 & AUCTION**

APRIL 28, 2025 | WOODHOLME COUNTRY CLUB
 300 WOODHOLME AVENUE
 PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

11:30 am Lunch
 1:00 pm Shotgun Start
 5:00 pm Dinner, Awards & Auction

\$195 PER PLAYER



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Includes: Golf package, signage on a tee, an ad in the program, recognition in bar publications & more!


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 Contact Karen Fast at kfast@baltimorebar.org

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The Baltimore Bar Foundation
 Presents
Spaghetti Opera Night
 Featuring



Claire Iverson
Soprano



Guzal Isametdinova
Piano



Daniel E. Sampson
Tenor



March 19 & 20, 2025
 Chiapparelli's Restaurant
 237 S. High Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202

6:00 p.m. - Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)
 7:00 p.m. - Dinner & Performance

\$89 per person. After February 15,
 \$95 per person.
 includes dinner, wine, dessert and coffee

To register, go to:
www.baltimorebar.org/calendar/

For more information, contact:
info@baltimorebar.org


The Bar Association of Baltimore City
 Estates and Trusts Committee
 presents

**ESTATE ADMINISTRATION
 BOOT
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Enhance your legal career with our Basic Estate Administration Boot Camp! Designed for new lawyers and paralegals. This intensive training will equip you with the essential skills and knowledge to navigate estate administration confidently.

Presenters:

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 Mary Rose E. Cook, Esq.
 Megan Easter, Esq.
 Robert M. Horne, Esq.

Yale Ginsburg, Esq.
 Jennifer S. Yeagle, Esq.
 Tia Knott, Paralegal

- Free for Members, \$40 for Non Members (per session)
- Free for Law students and Paralegal Students

Lunch will be served

For Kosher options email: yginsburg@bakerdonelson.com

Dates: **Monday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**

Time: **12:30 to 2:00 pm**

Location: **Baker Donelson, 100 Light St., Baltimore, MD**

Sponsored by:  First National Bank

THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY EVENTS COMMITTEE
 PRESENTS

**BASEBALL
 Night**

TICKETS ONLY
\$55

TUESDAY,
 MAY
13

ORIOLES VS TWINS

CAMDEN YARDS
 GATES OPEN AT 6 P.M.

**CAMDEN FRANKS
 & PULLED PORK**

**POPCORN BAR &
 NACHO BAR**

**FROZEN TREATS,
 SOFT DRINKS AND
 MORE!**

REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 15

LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

REGISTER AT: WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/CALENDAR/

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Visit 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.

JOIN THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF BALTIMORE CITY IN APRIL



**AND GET 3 MONTHS OF
MEMBERSHIP FOR FREE!**

Join the Bar Association of Baltimore City this April and get 3 months FREE on a one-year membership. Your membership will be extended through June 2026! Don't miss out on this limited-time deal!

*For questions about membership contact
Info@Baltimorebar.org*

**TO JOIN GO TO
[HTTPS://WWW.BALTIMOREBAR.ORG/FOR-
ATTORNEYS/MEMBERSHIP/JOIN-OR-RENEW/#ONLINE](https://www.baltimorebar.org/for-attorneys/membership/join-or-renew/#online)**





The Bar Association OF Baltimore City Welcomes New Members Who Have Joined From February 1, 2025 Through February 28, 2025

- Donald Bateman
- Jennifer BellamyBuckman
- Samantha Elisabeth Bingaman
- Tiffanie Cannon
- Tiara Carr
- Amara Conteh
- Julie E. Diaz
- Alan B Kohl
- Victoria Kunkoski
- Robyn Samantha Lessans
- Morgan Murphy
- Gina Pagani
- Mallori Reed
- Alicia Shelton
- Madeline Stewart
- Rose Woolson
- Olivia Zachman

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Shawe & Rosenthal, LLP

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The BABC Sustaining Members are sponsored by the Bar Association Insurance Agency

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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 Karen Fast at kfast@baltimorebar.org.

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