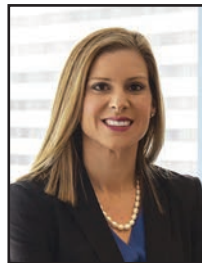


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY PILAR C. NICHOLS



I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and a slowdown of the hustle and bustle of homework, shuttling kids to sports activities, and weekday commitments! Hopefully, this will have us all refreshed for September and the new activities it brings.

As summer flies by, I hope each of you finds the opportunity to unwind and enjoy the season with your loved ones. Summer vacations offer a chance to break away from the daily grind,

whether you're exploring new destinations or simply enjoying the warmth of a staycation. These moments of relaxation and connection are vital not only for our personal well-being, but also for maintaining a healthy balance in our professional lives. Taking time to recharge allows us to embody our professional roles with renewed energy and fresh perspective.

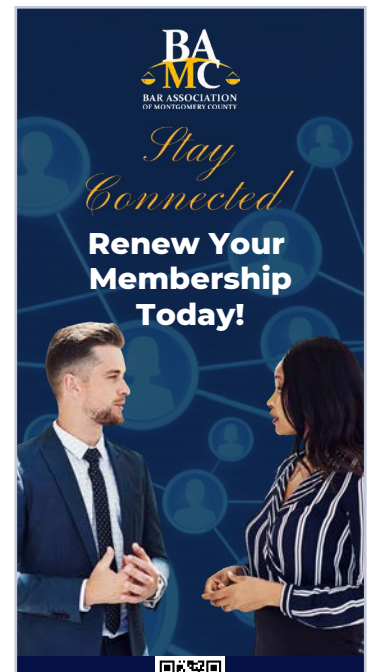
I hope you all enjoyed the fireworks over the July 4th weekend. I always find the 4th to be a poignant reminder of the importance of the rule of law and the system of checks & balances put into place by our founding fathers. As members of BAMC, we're acutely aware of the role those legal frameworks play in preserving the freedoms and rights we celebrate. I hope you will all join me in reflecting on our ongoing responsibility to uphold justice, fairness, and equality in our community and beyond.

As we move into the latter part of summer, we look forward to more holidays that offer opportunities for rest and reflection. Labor Day, in particular, provides a chance to honor the hard work and dedication of all professionals, including those in our legal community. On behalf of BAMC, I extend my best wishes for a joyful and restful summer season. Let's take this time to relax, reflect, and return with a renewed commitment to the important work we do in the legal community.

We would like to thank all of you who have stepped up to Chair/Co-Chair a Committee or Section, whether newly appointed or returning for another great year.

We are revving up for the fall, and this year BAMC is focusing on member engagement. We hope that you will be able to join us for some of these events that are currently in the planning stages:

- Friends & Family Fun Day (Rescheduled)
- Past Presidents' Dinner
- Membership Breakfast
- Membership Luncheon
- Membership Happy Hour
- Bar Associations Battle of the Beltway Tailgate Party
- Returning Spring 2025 — Barristers' Bash



Bar Association Staff

Wanda	Executive Director	(301) 424-3453
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	Maria@barassociationmc.org	
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	Monika@barassociationmc.org	
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Tricia	Seminars & Events Coordinator Executive Assistant	(301) 340-2534
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Pro Bono Program

Client Intake Lines	(301) 424-7651
---------------------------	----------------

The following staff listing is not for public information.
It is for attorney use only.

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Lupe	Case Manager	(301) 424-2706
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Sabrina	Case Manager	(301) 762-8488
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FOR LAWYERS WHO NEED HELP

Anyone aware of Attorneys who are having problems with stress, depression, overwhelmed with their practice, family issues, and related illnesses, including addiction, that interfere with their professional or personal lives, please call the Lawyer Assistance Committee. Committee members can assist Lawyers in finding confidential and effective programs to help them.

All calls are strictly confidential.

William E. Hewitt, Jr., Co-Chair

(301) 424-8520 / billhewittjr@verizon.net

Alisha Jacobsen, Co-Chair

(240) 423-6847 / alisha@jacobsenattorney.com

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Wanda A. Calvin Claiborne, Executive Director & Editor
Cindy Brandenbun, Assistant & Advertising Editor

CIRCUIT COURT NOTES

James A. Bonifant,
Administrative Judge

JUDGE ROTATION – July 9, 2024, THROUGH July 6, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE:
Judge Bonifant

FAMILY CALENDAR ROTATION:

Judge Acosta to remain in Family

Judge Berry to replace Judge McAuliffe

Judge Dumais to replace Judge Hessler

Judge Dwyer to replace Judge Maloney

Judge Fogelman until (12/2024) to remain in Family.

Judge McGuckian to replace Judge Lease

Judge Ryon to replace Judge McCullough Judge Fairfax to remain in Family

Judge Storm (vacancy 12/2024)

Judge McCally (vacancy)

CIVIL CALENDAR ROTATION:

Judge Hessler to replace Judge Leibowitz

Judge Lease to replace Judge Schweitzer

Judge Maloney to replace Judge Smith

Judge McAuliffe to replace Judge Cho

Judge McCullough to replace Judge Burrell

CRIMINAL/GENERAL CALENDAR ROTATION:

Judge Burrell to replace Judge Berry

Judge Cho to replace Judge Dwyer

Judge Cummins to replace Judge McGuckian

Judge Schweitzer to replace Judge Chernosky

Judge Storm to remain Judge Fogelman to replace Judge Storm (vacancy 12/2024)

Judge Ayres to replace Judge McCally

JUVENILE CALENDAR ROTATION:

Judge Chernosky – Dependency CINA/Family – Alternating weeks – replaced Judge Ryon

Judge Leibowitz – Dependency CINA/Family – Alternating weeks – replaced Judge Cummins

Judge Smith – Delinquent/Juvenile Duty – replaced Judge Dumais

CRIMINAL PLEA AGREEMENT

Even if a plea agreement is reached, attorneys are expected to continue to prepare for trial until the plea is accepted by the Court. Filing a plea memo is not a reason to stop preparing for trial. Witnesses should not be released until the plea is accepted by the Court. Stating a plea was not accepted at the last minute is not justification for postponement.

LEGAL ETHICS HOTLINE

David Gavin ... pdgavin@yahoo.com; 301-279-2700
Lydia Lawless ... llawless@kg-law.com; 410-319-0514
Seth Zucker ... seth.zucker@montgomerycountymd.gov; 240-777-7345

For a written confidential opinion, submit your request, marked confidential to one of the Co-Chairs, David Gavin, Lydia Lawless or Seth Zucker, c/o Bar Association of Montgomery County, MD, 27 West Jefferson St., Rockville, MD 20850.

RESPONDING TO THE COURT'S REQUEST FOR CASE STATUS

Due to the Court's backlog, it is imperative for the court to obtain an accurate assessment of the status of your case prior to trial. Surprisingly, emails from chambers or court staff have gone unanswered. Please respond as soon as possible to any emails received.

You will receive an email from Family Division Services (mccfamilycasestatus@mdcourts.gov) or the Civil/Criminal Case Managers (Nicole Pulliam — nicole.pulliam@mdcourts.gov or Annalese Bell — annalese.bell@mdcourts.gov) approximately three weeks prior to your scheduled trial. Thereafter, you may receive emails from the chambers of the assigned judge. You must respond to these emails to advise as to the posture of your case and provide the information requested.

INTERPRETER REQUEST

The need for Court interpreters is on the rise. This includes

the Court's staff interpreters and contract interpreters. Attorneys must notify the Court when they know an interpreter is needed. It is equally important that attorneys notify the Court when there is no longer a need for an interpreter.

If an interpreter is needed for a scheduled Court hearing and/or trial, please complete and submit a Request-for-Interpreter form (CC-DC-041) as soon as possible. Requests for interpreters should be submitted to the Court no less than thirty (30) days before the proceeding for which the interpreter is needed. The sooner the Court is aware that an interpreter is needed, the Court will be in a better position to accommodate the request and avoid a possible postponement.

Additionally, notify the Court at once when you learn an interpreter is no longer needed. Staff interpreters are often needed for more than one hearing occurring at the same time. The Court needs to avoid the expense of contract interpreters who are compensated when they report whether they are needed, or not.

Interpreters provide a valuable and needed service to the Court. Their work is demanding and too often overlooked by those who rely upon their assistance. Please keep the Court informed of the need for an interpreter and when they are no longer needed. More importantly, take a moment and thank the interpreters for their help when you get a chance.

(Continued on page 5)

WHAT COMES AFTER THE SETTLEMENT?

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WANTED

~ SPANISH SPEAKING ATTORNEYS FOR THE BAMC LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE ~

If you are interested in joining the panel, please contact Maria at Maria@barassociationmc.org for more information.

CLERK'S CORNER

Karen A. Bushell, Clerk of the Circuit Court

The Maryland Judiciary's Equal Justice Committee (EJC), through its Community Outreach Subcommittee, hosts community forums across the state to increase understanding of the courts and their services while learning the community's needs and the ways in which the courts can provide better service.

On Thursday, September 12, 2024, the Community Outreach Subcommittee will host an in-person forum for Montgomery County residents called "Navigating Family Matters in the Court: Custody, Child Support, Divorce, and Domestic Violence." The Forum is Free and will be held at the Montgomery College, Germantown Campus, Bioscience Education Center from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The panel will consist of judges from the circuit court, attorneys from our Self-Help Center, and attorneys that are very experienced in Family Law and Domestic Violence cases.

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested and stay tuned for further updates on the local Montgomery County Circuit Court's local website and the Maryland Courts website MDCourts.gov.

To register for the event please scan the QR Code to the right:

If you have any topic that you would like me to cover in a future article, please let me know. My door is always open, and I would love to hear from you. My direct line is 240-777-9464 and my email is karen.bushell@mdcourts.gov.



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(Continued from page 3)

FAMILY MEDIATION

If you believe that your case may benefit from facilitation or mediation services at any point during its pendency, please call Anne Hurwitz at 240-777-9076 or Marianne Hendrik at 240-777-9343.

CIRCUIT COURT HEARING AND TRIAL TIME ESTIMATES

When providing the court with estimates for hearing and trial time, please be sure to provide an accurate estimate and err on the side of caution. When trial time is underestimated it results in the need to set further hearings or additional trial days and it disrupts the already double and triple booked trial calendars. Your cooperation is appreciated.

HEARINGS AND TRIALS ON THE TBA DOCKET

There are many trials and hearings scheduled which have yet to be assigned to a judge or magistrate. Many will be assigned the day before or on the day of the trial or hearing. If your case is on the TBA docket, please proceed in normal course and continue to prepare for your trial and/or hearing accordingly. In the event that a judge or magistrate does not become available for the scheduled event, please do not call off any witnesses and/or experts until notified to do so by the Court.

ARRIVAL TIMES – CRIMINAL PRE-TRIAL AND 4-215/SCHEDULING HEARINGS

A reminder to the Criminal Bar the importance of arriving **on time** to the Thursday and Friday Criminal Pre-Trial and 4-215/Scheduling Hearings. There is a lot of time and effort put into coordinating transportation and/or virtual appearances of Defendants' being held at the jail. To avoid delay and keep the docket running smoothly, please be on time.

Please Note

Please check the Circuit Court website for up-to-

date information on the status of court operations. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cct/

DISTRICT COURT NOTES

Sherri D. Koch, Administrative Judge

Happy September to everyone. I hope your summer was enjoyable, relaxing. Thanks to the dedication of the bar, court staff, and judges, I am pleased to advise that we have achieved our goal of addressing the large backup of serious traffic cases. We have also added a second FTFR docket to address these cases more rapidly.

DOCKET CHANGES

With the backlog largely gone, we will implement docket modifications that will further assist with efficient scheduling and adjudication of District Court matter.

The following changes will take effect on September 3, 2024, unless otherwise noted:

Mondays

R-412 - no longer serious traffic

R-413 – Serious traffic/single (all-day) docket at 9am (no longer AM/PM docket)

SS-301 – Serious traffic/single (all-day) docket at 9am (no longer AM/PM docket)

Tuesdays

R-411 – Criminal docket at 9am; VOPs 1:30 (no longer serious traffic in AM)

SS-401 -Criminal docket at 9am; DNRs at 1:30 (no longer serious traffic in AM)

Wednesday

Effective July 3, 2024

R-412 Fail to Pay Rent (added as another docket to address backlog)

Thursdays

R-413 – Serious traffic/single (all-day) docket (no longer serious AM/minor PM)

SS-301 – Serious traffic/single (all-day) docket (no longer AM/PM docket)



Geoff Gilbert, Esquire

What Would You Change To Make Your Practice Better?

Fall is coming and I'm certain you have been thinking for a while over the summer about changes you would like to make to improve your practice. It doesn't matter if you are a solo, partner, work for a firm, or a lawyer working for a company.

Why is the fall a good time to implement change? Because successful changes depend on adding or changing habits, and habits take time to ingrain. The fall gives us three months of uninterrupted time where there are few days off. From Labor Day through Thanksgiving, fall is a great time to make changes with a higher likelihood of success. Here are some examples of changes that lawyers make during this period:

- a. Increasing business development efforts to bring in new clients
- b. Increasing billable hour goals
- c. Adding or letting go of a team member
- d. Getting ahead of the work you have instead of being so deadline-driven
- e. Switching to a new bookkeeper, accountant or other out-source
- f. Adding or getting better at a practice area
- g. Becoming active in our bar association
- h. Training your team better
- i. Delegating more work

We all know that a month from now we will be busier and back into meeting deadlines. That's why it's best to put a plan in place and take the necessary steps now to make sure you succeed.

I hope you are having a great summer. What will you change about your practice this fall?

Fridays

R-412 – No longer serious traffic AM/PM docket

R-413 – Serious traffic/single (all-day) docket at 9am (no longer AM/PM docket)

SS-302 – Serious traffic/single (all-day) docket at 9am (no longer AM/PM docket)

POSTPONEMENTS/ CONTNUANCES

Parties should be prepared for trial on the assigned trial date. If a change of trial date is necessary, please ensure that the motion filed states good cause as required by Rule 4-271(b) and include availability of both sides for new dates. In

(Continued on following page)

(Continued from preceding page) civil case, provide 3 available dates. To the extent that you can include the position of the other party, the motion can be ruled upon more expeditiously.

Note that District Court Administrative Regulation XI.B, issued by Chief Judge Morrissey, requires that any motion for continuance (criminal, civil, traffic) filed less than 5 days prior to trial MUST be ruled on by the assigned trial judge/judge assigned to continuances. The Administrative Regulations are published on the mdcourts.gov website (https://www.courts.state.md.us/sites/default/files/import/district/dcar/admin_regulations.pdf).

CIRCUIT COURT LAW LIBRARY

Jill Schorr, Assistant Law Librarian

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A LAW CLERK

It's that time of year again when most of the law clerks who are currently working at the courthouse will be leaving soon. The law librarians wanted to learn about what the past year has been like for them, so we asked them to share their thoughts about the Law Library, legal research, clerking in general, office supplies, and, most importantly, what are they reading?

Library Resources and Legal Research

Hands down, the most useful library resource for the law clerks is Westlaw. Second place goes to the law librarians (yay us!). Actual books, including old versions of the Maryland Code, (we do have one of the largest collections of Maryland legislative history outside of Annapolis!) came in third place. When asked what they learned this year about the library or legal research that surprised or delighted them, it was a three-way tie between:

- the library being open and helpful to the public,

- our really old *Maryland Reporters*,
- and the help and expertise offered by the law librarians (yay us, again!).

Looking for research tips from the law clerks? Several start with secondary sources, particularly the Maryland Law Encyclopedia. Some said that asking someone who knows more about the topic than you do is a good place to start. Other research hacks: use the annotations in the Annotated Code of Maryland to find relevant case law, create a search query log to avoid duplicating your research, and hone your keywords!

Being a Law Clerk

Several of the law clerks said "the people" were their favorite thing about being a law clerk – networking with local attorneys and interacting with judges and courthouse staff (**we're really friendly and helpful!**). Although, some of them would have liked even more time to socialize and network with other law clerks and attorneys. Learning about the judicial process, writing, observing trials and the practice of law, and seeing how things work behind the scenes in the courthouse were also mentioned. Interestingly, one law clerk said that the ability to spend a lot of time researching and analyzing the issues was wonderful, while another law clerk said that one of their least favorite things was that there wasn't enough

time to spend on the issues. Although the variety of cases was mentioned as a favorite thing, the sad cases, including the domestic violence cases, were mentioned as a least favorite aspect of clerking. When asked what was the most useful thing they learned while clerking, the most common answers given focused on the practice of law: how to advocate for a client, observing good lawyering, court procedure, trial practice, oral arguments, how to act in the courtroom, etc.

The Office

Getting down to the nitty gritty of what we all really need to get us through the workday, we asked the law clerks what they would choose an unlimited supply of in the office. Sustenance was the most common answer, specifically goldfish crackers, popcorn, coffee, LaCroix, and access to a water bottle filling station. Post-It Notes, pens, and positivity (the 3 P's?) were also on the wish list.

Did someone mention BOOKS?

And finally, here are the law clerk's answers to our favorite question: What are you reading?

- *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara

- *The Cautious Traveller's Guide to the Wastelands* by Sarah Brooks

- *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family* by Robert Kolker

- *Nine Stories* by J.D. Salinger

- *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley

- *Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in Our National's Capital* by Chris Asch and George Musgrove

- *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why it Matters* by Priya Parker

- *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury

- *The Saint of Bright Doors* by Vajra Chandrasekera

- *A Clash of Kings* by George R.R. Martin

- *The Bible* (in its entirety!)

- *The Finlay Donovan Series* by Elle Cosimano

- *Systemic Racism: A Theory of Oppression* by Joe Feagin

Remember—Find the answer fast at the Circuit Court Law Library

mocolawlibrary@mdcourts.gov
240-777-9120
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Judge Jill R. Cummins

George Floyd died four years ago on May 25, 2020. It was Memorial Day and the country, for large measure, was still on lockdown due to Covid-19. There was the horrific video that caught the world's attention, and then spurred overwhelming feelings of anger, sadness, outrage, and the collective outcry for justice. His murder sparked a renewed racial justice awakening and movement across the nation. There were protests, dialogues, uncomfortable conversations and some recognition that all **are not** treated equally or fairly. Along with this awareness, came a surge in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and efforts.

In 2020, DEI efforts focused on creating inclusive workplaces. DEI was trendy, compelling and profitable. Corporations and Universities issued statements announcing and celebrating their new and/or continued commitment to DEI. According to Indeed ¹, DEI job listings increased 123% in the three months following George Floyd's murder. Positions such as Chief Diversity Officer, Diversity Leader, Inclusion Specialist, Chief Culture Officer, and Diversity Coordinator were created. DEI trainings and certification programs flourished. There appeared to be genuine engagement and commitment to creating workplaces which accurately reflected and supported the population in terms of gender, race, orientation and abilities. There was a movement; there was consciousness; there was realization of its value and there was energy all focused on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is more than just a popular/flashy catch phrase. It remains a powerful story. It is a set of values. To ensure our common understanding, these values are best defined as: Diversity - understanding that each person is unique; and embracing those differences including their beliefs, abilities, preferences, race, gender, backgrounds, values, and identities. ² Equity – advocating for fairness and accountability by addressing the systemic inequalities and barriers; offering the same rights and opportunities to all regardless of their background or identity so they are given fair access to opportunities, resources and advancement within the organization. ³ Inclusion – an environment where every voice is heard and valued; where all people, without exception, have a sense of belonging, respect, and appreciation and feel empowered to contribute to and influence every part and level of a workplace. ⁴ These values remain as essential and worthy of endeavor today as ever.

We know and studies show that “DEI policies can improve essential workplace outcomes, from employee engagement, which has positive knock-on effects on productivity and profitability, as well as innovation, which is essential in any business—especially during volatile times.” ⁵

Over the last four years, the drum beat of racial justice along with diversity, equity and inclusion has quieted, and job hiring in the DEI space has leveled off and ceased its monumental surge. The conspicuous effort, thunderous messaging and palpable energy has calmed, for a variety of reasons, but has not been eroded.

However, the often overlooked and unrecognized nature of DEI is that it is not stagnant. Not only has it changed over the last four years, but it has also evolved. With this evolution, it aims to continue chiseling away the ingrained biases which permeate throughout most workspaces. The focus has shifted from emphasis on the “D” to the “E” and the “I” and filling the missing components of actual equity and inclusion or belonging in our workplaces.

Our Nation's history has taught us that substantive change takes time. Work to correct environments that have marginalized certain groups to the benefit of a few, does not happen overnight – it remains a movement, worthy of our efforts. Do not be lulled into complacency. The volume may have decreased, but at its core, the movement perseveres and progresses.

Those in positions of leadership ask yourself:

- In the last four years, have our efforts been transformative or performative? Have we simply checked the DEI box?
- What specifically have we done to foster a workplace culture that actively nurtures equality?
- Have we become stagnant, or do we have strategic plans to create an inclusive and equitable workplace culture?

¹ Indeed, October 13, 2020 – Jane Kellogg Murray, “Jobs in Diversity, Inclusion and belonging have risen 123% since May – here’s how to get one.”

² Culturemonkey.io/employee-engagement/dei-trend/

³ Culturemonkey.io/employee-engagement/dei-trend/

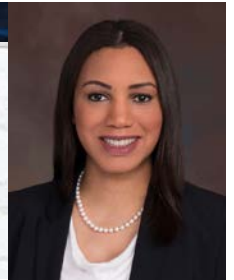
⁴ Nu.edu/blog/inclusion-in-the-workplace/

⁵ Forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2024/02/15/what-can-we-expect-from-dei-in-2024/?sh=684d2bf07be8



Foundation News & Updates

Stephanie Perry
President



Happy Summer BAMC! It's good to be with you, although this time I'm wearing a different hat. I'm writing to you in my capacity as President of the Bar Foundation. As you may know, when my term as President of the Association ended in May 2023, I immediately succeeded to the office of President of the Bar Foundation. For those who may not be aware, that's how it works – the President of the Bar Association has a three-year assignment – BAMC President-Elect in year one, BAMC President in year two, and BFMC President in year three. While my one-year term as BFMC President technically ended July 1, I'll be with you another year! As you may recall, the appointment of former BAMC President Jennifer Fairfax to the bench resulted in a couple of vacancies in our organizations, which are being filled by our Madam President Pilar Nichols for the Association (thank you, Pilar, for your continued service to the Association!) and by yours truly for the Foundation (after the Foundation Board of Directors voted to extend my term in light of our special circumstances). I am happy to do my part to contribute to the ongoing success of our Foundation and Association and glad to be with you for this next Bar year.

At the Foundation's annual Bar Leaders' Dinner in May, we welcomed five new Bar Leaders and three Honorary Lifetime Bar Leaders. Congratulations to our newest Bar Leaders: Julie Christopher, Drew Cole, Carolyn Demougeot, Paul Havenstein, and Kate McDonough! Congratulations also to our newest Honorary Lifetime Bar Leaders: Judge James Bonifant, Judge Jill Cummins, and Thomas "Tom" DeGonia. We look forward to all the ways that this group will continue to lead our organizations forward.



2025
Bar
Leaders



2025
Honorary
Lifetime
Bar Leaders

Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation. The Foundation raised \$645 from our annual meeting auction and \$1,670 at the Bar Leaders' Dinner. Your generosity enables the Foundation to support worthy causes in our Montgomery County community.

Most recently, the Foundation made a grant to the National Judicial College ("NJC") to enable the College to bring its Reading & Robes program to Montgomery County. The NJC developed the Reading & Robes program five years ago as an "outreach program that actively engages judges with children to help them acquire the fundamental building blocks of civics values such as acceptance, integrity, respect and fairness." As part of the program, judges, wearing their robes, read culturally diverse books to local Title 1 schools on themes of justice, fairness, and the rule of law. The program has reached more than 7,000 children in 15 states including 450 children in Maryland last year but none in Montgomery County. Thanks to Judge Louis Leibowitz, who recognized the need to bring this program to Montgomery County children, and to the Foundation's approval of the NJC's grant request, Reading & Robes will be expanded to Montgomery County.

The Summer Scholars' Program started off the summer with a Welcome Reception at the Montgomery County Circuit Court. The Diversity Committee, sponsoring law firms, and four specialty bars were in attendance and welcomed nine second-year law students. The law firms involved in the 2024 program include:

Armstrong, Donohue, Ceppos, Vaughan & Rhoades; Bregman, Berbert, Schwartz & Gilday, LLC; Jezic & Moyse, LLC; Lerch Early & Brewer; Markham Law Firm; McMillan Metro PC; Pasternak & Fidis, P.C.; RLG Law Firm; Selzer Gurvitch Rabin Wertheimer & Polott, P.C.; and Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll PC.

A tremendous thank you to outgoing members of our Foundation Board of Directors, Judge Sharon Burrell and Mal Snyder, each of whom served as a Director for 10 years! We cannot thank you enough for your service to our Foundation.

Mark your calendars and don't miss the Foundation's 31st Annual Golf Outing and 3rd Annual Pickleball Tournament, which will be held Monday, October 14, 2024. I will be on the pickleball courts and look forward to formidable challengers. Although if Jeremy Rachlin and Vi Nguyen show up again, I'm pretty sure I can predict the champions. On a related note, please start considering now not only your attendee list, but also be thinking of fun auction items that our attendees won't be able to resist. Let's raise some money!

Pickleball
Players 2023



BAMC Softball

The 2024 Montgomery County Bar Association Softball League season has officially ended. After going undefeated in the regular season to win the regular season title, Res Ipsa lost the championship playoff tournament game to the LE Brewers. Congratulations to LE Brewers

(Lerch Early & Brewer) for a great playoff run, winning the playoff tournament and ending the championship game on a nifty double play. The league also included teams from Shulman Rogers, Goldberg Finnegan (Torts Illustrated), Montgomery County Circuit

and District Court judges and employees (the Benchwarmers), and Stein Sperling. Special thanks to all the captains who helped make the season such a successful and fun league. The league is a great way to interact with other members of the bar in a fun and informal setting. If

you have an office that would like to join us, or you're an individual who would like to join one of the teams, we would love to have you! Just email the commissioner, Andre Forte at aforte@wfortelaw.com The 2025 season will begin near the end of April, beginning of May.

Andre Forte, Commissioner

LE Brewers Playoff Champions



Back row, l-r: Fred Smith, Kristi Dean, Ben Rind, Danny Moroney, Greg Rind, Jim Hammerschmidt, Josh Schmand; Bat boy Theo Rind; Front row, l-r: Alison Rind, Yoshi Abreu, Justin Schwager, Stuart Schwager, Scott Pacheco

Res Ipsa Regular Season Champions



Back row, l-r: Claudia Von Nordheim, James Stuart, John Delaney, KJ Kim, Brian Darling, Fred Dorsey, Lauren Gunnison, Graham McMillan, John Gunnison; Front row, l-r, Asim Humayun, Veronica Dullin, Andre Forte, Chip Lipscomb

Congratulations to our colleague,

Sondra Douglas

on her well-deserved appointment as President of the Baltimore County Bar Association! Sondra's dedication, wisdom, and leadership continue to inspire us.

We are proud of her remarkable achievement and look forward to her impactful tenure.





DIVERSITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Judge Jill R. Cummins and Benjamin Vaughan
Co-Chairs



Summer Scholars: A BFMC Pipeline Program

The Diversity Committee of the Bar Foundation of Montgomery County has sponsored the Summer Scholars program for the past fourteen years. In so doing, we have confirmed our commitment to the goal of true diversity within our legal community. We hope that the Summer Scholars will make Montgomery County their professional home in the future.

In a partnership with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, LGBTQ+ Bar Association, and the law schools in Maryland and Washington, D.C., we seek to match exceptional and gifted students of all colors, ethnicities, genders and identities with participating law firms for a 10-week summer associate position. The Summer Scholars program has served as the model for similar programs now underway in Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties. Below are pictures from the Welcome Reception held at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County.

For more information on how your firm can participate in the 2025 program, please email Tricia@BarFoundationMC.org.



Congratulations 2024 Summer Scholars and Thank You Sponsoring Law Firms:

Lauren Giron - American University
Washington College of Law, Class of 2025
Armstrong, Donohue, Ceppos, Vaughan & Rhoades Chtd.

Rena Lee - University of Maryland Francis
King Carey School of Law, Class of 2025
Bregman, Berbert, Schwartz & Gilday, LLC

Cesar Nava - University of Maryland Francis
King Carey School of Law, Class of 2025
Jezić & Moyse, LLC

Savannah Kelly - American University
Washington College of Law, Class of 2025
Lerch, Early & Brewer

Evagevelly Posadas - University of Baltimore
School of Law, Class of 2025
Markham Law Firm

Andrea Hutton - University of Baltimore School
of Law, Class of 2025
McMillan Metro, P.C.

Corinne Bleecker - University of Maryland
Francis King Carey School of Law, Class of 2025
Pasternak & Fidis, P.C.

Katherine Kettell - University of Baltimore
School of Law, Class of 2025
RLG Law Firm

Amanda Freeman - University of Baltimore
School of Law, Class of 2025
**Selzer Gurvitch Rabin Werthheimer & Polott,
P.C.**

Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll PC
Supporter



2024
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Hon. Irma Raker
Bethesda



Sean Rogers
Leonardtown



Hon. Carol Smith
Timonium



Scott Sonntag
Columbia



Richard Sothoron
Upper Marlboro



Jeff Trueman
Baltimore



Greg Wells
Rockville



James Wilson
Rockville

APRIL 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2 AM	3	4	5 PM	6
7	8 PM	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 AM	18 AM	19 AM	20
21	22	23 AM	24 AM	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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130th Annual Meeting and Law Week Celebration

Great Moments Live in Pictures





ADMINISTRATIVE LAW SECTION

John Henderson, Co-Chair
Javaneh Pourkarim, Co-Chair

We will kick off the new year with our 1st meeting on **September 4th** at 5:30p.m. via Zoom.

We are always looking for volunteers and welcome newcomers. If you wish to get involved with the Administrative Law Section, please contact us at: john.henderson@maryland.gov javaneh.pourkarim@maryland.gov

ADR-COLLABORATIVE LAW SECTION

Regina DeMeo, Co-Chair
Jane Rodgers, Co-Chair

We support Attorneys in our communities with resources to explain ADR process options to potential clients and to offer these valuable forms of services in-house to clients. We welcome your suggestions about discussion topics and Speakers for our meetings, CLEs and roundtable discussions. Please reach out to your Co-Chairs to get more involved with our Section. Thank you for your service. Our Section works to educate community members about Alternative Dispute Resolution options, to include Mediation and Collaborative Law. Process options handouts for the public are available; please email one of your Co-Chairs to request a digital copy.

More on ADR & Collaborative Practice:

Mediation is a form of ADR in which the parties select a trained mediator, an independent and neutral third party, to facilitate the parties' settlement of their legal dispute outside of court. It is a voluntary, cooperative and problem-solving process whereby the Mediator facilitates open communication between the parties. The Mediator discusses options and potential solutions with the parties and transmits settlement offers between the

parties, encouraging a voluntary meeting of the minds. One can locate and contact a trained Mediator by visiting montgomerycountymd.gov/cct/adr.

Collaborative Law is interdisciplinary and can incorporate the advice of trained civil attorneys, child specialists, financial neutrals, business valuation specialists, mental health professionals, real estate agents and more into the dispute resolution process. It encourages two or more disputing parties to engage in candid and effective out-of-court communications and empowers them to find their voices to attain durable, voluntary and mutually beneficial solutions. To learn more about how to provide Collaborative legal services to your clients, please visit: collablawmaryland.org and/or collaborativeprojectmd.org/.

CIRCUIT COURT BENCH BAR COMMITTEE

Heather Collier, Co-Chair
Meg Rosan, Co-Chair

MEETING DATES

Aug. 7, 2024	Feb. 5, 2025
Sept. 4, 2024	Mar. 5, 2025
Oct. 2, 2024	Apr. 2, 2025
Nov. 6, 2024*	May 7, 2025
Dec. 4, 2024	June 4, 2025*

*in person meetings
Meetings are held at 8a.m. on the 1st Wednesday of the month. The location (in-person vs. Zoom) of meetings will be determined in advance of

each meeting date and circulated to the Committee on the listserv.

Our next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, August 7, 2024 on Zoom**. Attendance is not limited to Committee members. All attorneys in good standing are welcome and encouraged to attend the Bench Bar Committee meetings. If you are not on the Committee, please contact either of us for the location of the specific meeting you wish to attend.

Court Status

The Court is working diligently to efficiently adjudicate all pending cases. Please carefully monitor the court's website and email blasts to the Bar Association from the Court and Judge Bonifant, particularly in criminal and family law matters, as the Court is implementing several policies and procedures to prioritize the settlement and/or adjudication of matters set on these dockets.

Sheriff's Office

Capt. Adam Strawderman has been promoted to Court Services Division Commander, and he can be reached at 240-777-7121, Adam.Strawderman@montgomerycountymd.gov. Capt. Keena Jones has been appointed as an Assistant Sheriff, in operations at the Court.

The Sheriff's Office is regularly exploring efforts to improve security in the courthouse. If you ever have a concern about

a security issue in the courthouse before, during or after any Court appearance, do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff's office.

MDEC

Any attorneys with questions about MDEC should review Title 20 of the Maryland Rules, and the Policies and Procedures Manual on the Maryland Courts website: mdcourts.gov/mdec and mdcourts.gov/mdec/efilingatty (the right-hand side of the page has multiple resources).

If you have questions or concerns to bring to the our attention, please contact us at:

Heather: (301) 907-2804 or hscollier@cfvlaw.com
Megan: (301) 656-1177 or mrosan@bulmandunie.com

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

Teresa Casafranca, Co-Chair
Isabelle Raquin, Co-Chair

MEETING DATES

Sept. 4, 2024	Feb. 5, 2025
Oct. 2, 2024	Mar. 5, 2025
Nov. 6, 2024	Apr. 2, 2025
Dec. 4, 2024	May 7, 2025
Jan. 8, 2025	

Starting in September, the section will meet virtually on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm, unless otherwise noted.

The zoom link will be distributed through the listserv and is always the same.

Over 20 Years of Medical Malpractice Litigation Experience



Valerie Grove pursues claims on behalf of injured victims of malpractice. Her knowledge of medical negligence litigation and related health law issues is extensive.



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FAMILY LAW SECTION

Bianca Pinnock, Co-Chair
Makia Weaver, Co-Chair

We hope you all are staying cool in this extreme heat! We, as your Family Law Section Co-chairs, want to hear from you about how we can support you and your practice of family law. We encourage you to contact us, and we will share comments (with your permission) and will do our best to accommodate your requests:

appel@mhwfamilylawyers.com
bpinnock@shulmanrogers.com

Family Law Section Meetings are the third Thursday of every month. Each meeting is approximately 1 hour long and will take place at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. All meetings will take place via Zoom.

2024 Section Meeting Dates

- **Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 5:30 pm.** To Be Determined
- **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 5:00 pm.** Annual Magistrates' Roundtable
- **Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 5:30 pm.** To Be Determined
- **Thursday, December 5, 2024:** Save the Date! Family Law Section Holiday Party at Shulman Rogers

CLE'S

The Family Law Section's CLE Chairs, John Weaver and Inna Loring, are working on family law CLEs for the upcoming year.

Monthly Lunch & Learn Series Topics (1 hour – Virtual):

*Formulating Parenting Plans: Best Practices; *Appointing (and working with) Trustees to Sell Real Property; *Retirement Benefits Orders – Practice Tips; *Evidence – Social Media.

Fall 2024 Programs: *Rita Rosenkrantz Basic Family Law Training (Two 3-hour Sessions); *Representing Children in Immigration Matters: Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status (Virtual) Magistrate Malik, et al.; *Maryland High Income & High Asset Divorces: Advanced Issues & Best Practices (REPRISE) – Continuation of Spring 2024 CLE that ran out of time! *Family Law Around the Beltway: Marital Settlement Agreements or Premarital Agreements; *Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigations and Findings: How to handle the process, and to challenge and defend findings; *Civil Appeals: Best Practices.

Winter/Spring 2025 Programs: *Presenting an Effective *Pendente Lite* Case in Three Hours; *Litigating Child Custody (Symposium); *Alimony Awards – Initial Awards and Modification/Termination; *Addressing Religious Issues in Your Client's Divorce; *Negotiation Principles, Strategies, and Techniques in Family Law Cases; *Family Law Arbitration; *International Family Law – Mediating Custody Cross-Borders; *Maryland Family Law Update (FLUP 2025). And there's more to come...

Please contact John Weaver (john@zfamilylaw.com) and/or Inna Loring (inna@zfamilylaw.com) with any CLE ideas you have.

IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION

Benjamin Hu, Co-Chair
Laurence Johnson, Co-Chair

MEETING DATES

Aug. 7, 2024	Jan. 8, 2025
Aug. 28, 2024	Feb. 5, 2025
Sept. 4, 2024	Mar. 5, 2025
Oct. 2, 2024	Apr. 2, 2025
Nov. 6, 2024	May 7, 2025
Dec. 4, 2024	

Our monthly Lunch and Learn presentations have been rescheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at noon. On **Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 12 p.m.**, section co-chair Benjamin Hu will give an overview of **Ability-Based visas (O-1s, EB-1As, and EB-2 National Interest Waivers).**

All Immigration Law Section attorneys are also cordially invited to an **in-person lunch at 12 p.m. noon on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at Regina's Restaurant** in Wheaton: 411423 Georgia Ave, Wheaton-Glenmont, MD 20902. We look forward to featuring many speakers on immigration topics: please contact benjamin.hu@bhulaw.com if you wish to present a webinar in the coming year.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & TECHNOLOGY LAW SECTION

Michael Greenberg, Co-Chair
Raymond Van Dyke, Co-Chair

Join us from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on **September 12, 2024** for a breakfast meeting at the offices of Shulman Rogers. Our speaker is **Dr. Gillian Fenton** who will speak on the topic **"Navigating the US Manufacturing Requirement of the Bayh-Dole Act: Practice, Policy, and Pitfalls."**

Please feel free to contact either of us at ray@vandykeiplaw.com

or michael@aplegal.com with any questions.

NEW PRACTITIONER SECTION

Elizabeth Farley, Co-Chair
Katelyn Holbrook, Co-Chair

We hope you all are enjoying the summer! Katelyn and I are excited to continue as your New Practitioner Section Co-Chairs again this year! We would like to welcome Niall McMillan as the new Chamber Chat Chair for this year.

We are excited to see you all at some upcoming section events this fall. We will be sending out a schedule of section events in the near future. But for now, please mark your calendars for **September 25** for our **Fall Happy Hour**. Planet Depos has kindly agreed to sponsor the event and provide drink tickets. More details to come!

Be on the lookout for NP Section listserv messages for updates and upcoming events. As always, if you have any comments, suggestions, concerns, or simply want to get more involved, please contact either of us at:

lfarley@bulmandunie.com
keholbrook@lerchearly.com

REAL ESTATE LAW SECTION

Jamie Hamelburg, Co-Chair
Wendy Pullano, Co-Chair

Our next meeting will be held on **September 10th** at 8:00a.m. via Zoom.

TAXATION LAW SECTION

Chaya Kundra, Chair
Bipartisan Bill Takes Up Taxpayer Advocate Recommendations to Streamline Filings

3 fixes to the US Tax code to streamline the filing process introduced. They include applying the mailbox rule to electronic submissions, updating
(Continued on following page)



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(Continued from preceding page) the estimated tax payment schedule, and revising the S corporation election process for new small businesses.

Reminder: Marijuana Businesses Still Subject to Section 280E

In IR 2024-177, 6/28/2024, the IRS reminds taxpayers that marijuana remains a Schedule I controlled substance and marijuana businesses remain subject to Code Sec. 280E, until a final federal rule is published.

Maryland—Property Tax—Baltimore City annual property tax.

Effective June 24, 2024, the City of Baltimore has enacted Ordinance No. 24-345, Council Bill No. 24-0522, imposing an annual tax on all property from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The annual tax of \$2,248 is levied and imposed on every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of real property, along with an annual tax of \$5.62 on every \$100 of personal property and operating real property pursuant to Md. Code Ann. Tax-Prop. § 8-109(c). During this period, the semiannual payment service charge under Md. Code Ann. Tax-Prop. § 10-204.3 is 1.21%.

Shop Maryland Tax-Free Week: August 11-17, 2024

From 12:01 a.m. on the second Sunday in August through midnight on the following Saturday, qualifying clothing and footwear priced \$100 or less will be exempt from Maryland's six percent sales tax. The first \$40 of back/bookbag sales also qualify. "Clothing or footwear" means an article of apparel designed to be worn on or about the human body. "Accessory items" include but are not limited to jewelry, watches, watchbands, handbags, handkerchiefs, umbrellas, scarves, ties, headbands, and belt buckles. A list of exempt and taxable items is available on the Comptroller's website at www.marylandtaxes.gov, or by calling the Taxpayer Service Section at 410-260-7980 in Central Maryland or toll-free 1-800-MD TAXES from elsewhere.

WORKERS COMPENSATION LAW SECTION

**Ron Rubloff, Co-Chair
Jeff Stickle, Co-Chair**

We hope you are enjoying your summer!

Our next section meeting will be held on **September 13, 2024 at 12:00 via Zoom**. The link will be circulated through the listserv as the date approaches. We will be discussing **Developments in Workers' Compensation** as well as planning our 2024-2025 meetings, guests, and CLE. Mark your calendars!

Support Drug Court by helping a participant obtain stable employment and therefore restore their life, stay committed to recovery and become a productive member of the community. For further information please contact Jenna Davis, Drug Court Coordinator at (240) 777-9141.

**BF
MC**
BAR FOUNDATION
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Mark Your Calendar!
31st Annual Golf Charity Classic
Manor Country Club
Monday, October 14, 2024

- Golfing with Colleagues
- Latest Craze - Pickleball!
- Networking with Sponsors
- Auction Bidding - Support your Community
- Relaxing Day Outdoors
- Picnic Style Lunch
- Happy Hour - Eat, Drink, and Connect

The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce 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



PRO BONO PROGRAM

By Debbie Craven,
Program Coordinator

Please consider volunteering for the Pro Bono Program. Our program needs you and our community residents need you.

If you are interested in learning about family law, the **Pro Bono Program provides FREE LEGAL TRAINING** to attorney volunteers. The **Rita Rosenkrantz Family Law Training** is available via webcast to attorneys for free in exchange for agreeing to accept a family law case. You will have one year to complete your commitment. Please contact Tricia Rust, our Seminar and Events Coordinator, at Tricia@BarFoundationMC.org if you are interested in obtaining the most recent webcast.

The **Pro Bono Resource Center (PBRC)** coordinates live and webcast training programs for volunteer lawyers and other advocates in a variety of sub-

stantive law areas in exchange for a pro bono commitment. Check out the PBRC website, www.probonomd.org, for details.

If your areas of practice include both immigration and family law, you may be interested in getting involved with representing clients that meet the criteria for Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJ). Thank you to immigration attorney Rachel Ullman, as she initiated this collaborative effort between the BAMC Immigration Section, the BFMC, and the MSBA.

The Pro Bono Program participates in the **Judicare Project**. The Judicare Family Law Project, a partnership between MLSC and the Administrative Office of the Courts, provides payment to private lawyers to serve low-income Marylanders who could not otherwise afford representation in contested family law cases. Case types include custody, divorce and other contested family law matters. Attorneys can seek reimbursement of \$120 per hour



Cheers to our Volunteers! Thank you for making the pledge to make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you to following wonderful attorneys for their time, dedication, and service for the month of May and June 2024

Canto, Jose+
Chimah, Bernadette+
Creighton, Tyler
DeNobile, Kathleen+
Dunkwu, Hilda
Faerberg, David
Granderson, Samantha
Hamilton, Dontrice*
Heiny-Gonzalez, Andres
Hoffpauir, Norma
Koh, Debra+
Koh Friedman, Patricia+
Lane, Jonathan

Mendocilla, Nataly
Montero, Manny
Njogu, Regina
Otieno, Rosalyn
Price, Daryl+
Razaghi, Kiyanoush*
Renner, Richard
Terenzini, Eden+*
Thabit, Yahya+
Umeh, Kaosy+
Walker, Beatrice+
Washington, Juan+

*Accepted more than one case
+Supervising Attorney

with a cap of 35 hours per case. (\$4,200.00). **You must have a minimum of 18 months of family law experience.** If you would like additional information regarding the Judicare project, please contact me directly.

With our busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer, but it doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment. If you have 1 or 2 evenings a month, we would love to have you join us as a volunteer at one of our clinics. Contact me for details.

**BF
MC**
BAR FOUNDATION
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**Making a Difference
One Pro Bono Client
at a Time!**

-Volunteer Today-

For more information
Contact Debbie Craven:
Debbie@BarFoundationMC.org | 301.762.5831

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, Montgomery County Committee

Sara Furlow, Co-Chair
Raynna Anyangwe, Co-Chair

The Montgomery County Committee meetings are on the 1st Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated. The next Montgomery County Committee meeting will take place on **Saturday, September 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.** Location TBD. For more information, you may contact either of us at mococommittee@bournebar.org. The Montgomery County Committee meetings are open to all attorneys and law students interested in being part of the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association.

Upcoming Events:

J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's General Body Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month. The next General Body Meeting will be **Thursday, Sep-**

tember 19, 2024 at 6 p.m. Location TBD. For more information, you may contact President Chandra Walker Holloway at president@bournebar.org.

To remain connected with the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association, please visit our website at www.bournebar.org.

SIMON E. SOBELOFF JEWISH LAW SOCIETY

Richard Schimel,
Program Chair

SUMMER CHARITY PICNIC:

On **Sunday, August 11, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.**, we will hold our annual **Fundraising Barbecue** at the home of Board President Bethany Shechtel. The food and beverages will be free to all participants. We are requesting a donation of a minimum of \$20.00 per person to contribute to the Emergency Response Fund of IsraAID, which coordinates humanitarian activities in shelters housing evacuees from Israel's Gaza border region. Those responding will be

provided with the picnic address by return email. Spouses of members are welcome. A Kosher grill and Kosher accompaniments will be provided for those that wish to respect dietary laws.

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS:

In late 2011, the German Federal Bar asked the American Bar Association for assistance to introduce to the nation's capital a compelling exhibit of 25 panels depicting the humiliation, degradation and purge from the German legal profession of roughly 5,000 lawyers simply because they had Jewish ancestry. Since the Fall of 2012, more than 50 U.S. venues have hosted the exhibit. Host venues have included federal courthouses and state supreme courts, public libraries, law schools, Jewish community centers, synagogues and private venues. The exhibit will be on display in the 3rd Floor Atrium Montgomery County Circuit Court from September 16-20, 2024.

November of 2018 saw the release of the English translation

of the book, *Lawyers Without Rights: The Fate of Jewish Lawyers in Berlin after 1933*. This book underscores an interest in passing on to future generations the horrors of the Holocaust as well as fostering a better public understanding of the rule of law.

At 6:15p.m., on the evening of **Thursday, September 19, 2024, Annette Weerth**, Legal Advisor to the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, will join us in Courtroom 3A of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County to discuss the exhibit. In addition, **Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice David N. Wecht** will join us by Zoom link to discuss the substance of the book.

We will convene at the 3rd Floor Atrium at **5:30 p.m.** for appetizers and beverages. The program will begin at 6:15 p.m. This promises to be an important and thought-provoking event. All are encouraged to attend. We will provide a Zoom link for the discussion by Justice Wecht for those unable to attend in person.

BA MC
BAR ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

THE LAWYER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE IS HERE FOR YOU!

If you, or an attorney you know, is dealing with stress, depression, family issues, overwhelmed with work and related illnesses (including addiction) please contact the Lawyer Assistance Committee. Committee members can assist you with finding confidential and effective programs.

A Confidential Call Away

William E. Hewitt Jr.
Co-Chair
301.424.8520
billhewittjr@verizon.net

Alisha Jacobsen
Co-Chair
240.423.6847
alisha@jacobsenattorney.com

BA MC
BAR ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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For more information, contact MARIA@BarAssociationMC.org

Law Firms Gear Up to Battle Deepfakes

by Sharon D. Nelson, Esq., John W. Simek, and Michael C. Maschke

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THE RISE OF DEEPFAKES

While lawyers have certainly been aware of deepfakes for years, everyone was fighting malware infections. As we constantly remind lawyers, the cybersecurity world evolves rapidly – and the prudent law firm will evolve as well.

In the past year, deepfakes have become the second most common cybersecurity incident, lagging only behind those persistent malware infections that law firms have been battling for years.

Mind you, we are not suggesting (yet) that law firms are being deluged by deepfakes. However, having watched the rise of deepfakes in businesses, law firms know darn well that they will be invited to the party by cybercriminals – and that they must be prepared.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING

Over the years, we have given hundreds of CLEs on cybersecurity training for law firms, but for the first time, we are now including training to protect law firms against deepfakes, which may well involve such things as client voice cloning along with other forms of deepfakes.

It only takes a matter of seconds to clone a client's voice from a sample of the voice. While there are many permutations of deepfakes, a common scenario for a law firm might be a call requesting a lawyer to wire a large sum of money as part of a business transaction. It is amazing how much information cybercriminals have at their command to make such requests plausible.

Law firms hold some of the most sensitive data of their clients, and yet they are unprepared to adequately protect that data. Deepfakes may prove a considerable challenge to law

firms if they don't institute adequate training.

HOW CAN YOU DEFEND AGAINST DEEPFAKES?

While each deepfake scenario may be different, there are means to defend against deepfakes! Nothing expensive or complicated about this, but why not set a secret code word? Perhaps a word unlikely to come up in a legal conversation like "dinosaur" or "hayride?" Whenever a client calls you – or communicates with you via any form of unsecure audio or video communication, ask for the code word. If they don't have it, terminate the communication.

Beware, they may say they forgot the code word. Start from the beginning – you call them at a known good number and establish a new code word. Is this perfect or all-inclusive in protecting you? No. But it's a start and it doesn't cost a cent.

Do change the code words from time to time, just in case. We're certain that legal practice management systems will (if they haven't already) build verification techniques into their systems allowing two-way authentication.

TRIED AND TRUE HALLMARKS OF DEEPFAKES

One hallmark: The communication is urgent, particularly when monies are to be wired immediately. The authors all agree that you should take special care when you are asked to deal in cryptocurrencies which are still often fraught with risks.

Gifts cards? Oh yes, we have seen a law firm where an employee was asked to buy gift cards by the "managing partner." She bought \$1200 worth of gift cards which ended up in the criminal's hands. And no, the firm did not reimburse her.

A law firm's version of "tough love" we suppose.

Other indicators of probable fraud include "don't tell anybody what you're doing" warnings, asking for personal/confirmation information, and telling you to keep the communication itself on the "down low."

THINGS THAT USED TO IDENTIFY DEEPFAKES

The world was a simpler place not so long ago. You could look at a deepfake video and see things like strange skin tones, odd lighting effects or jerky movements. The speech wouldn't sound quite right or was out of sync. Perhaps the eyes didn't blink or the body moved a bit strangely. You'll still see some of the old defects, but increasingly artificial intelligence is making many deepfakes harder to spot.

On the flip side, AI is often now used to detect AI-generated deepfakes. And it's very likely that, even as AI deepfakes become better and better, so will AI deepfake detection technologies. Our foe is also our friend when it comes to AI.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Worth a careful read: The story of how a finance worker at a multinational firm was tricked into paying out \$25 million by a deepfake video call from the company's chief financial officer which included several members of staff on the call, all of whom were also deepfaked.

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/02/04/asia/deepfake-cfo-scam-hong-kong-intl-hnk/index.html>. It is time for law firms to prepare for deepfake attacks before they too become headlines!

Sharon D. Nelson is an attorney and the president of Sensei Enterprises, Inc. She is a past president of the Virginia State Bar, the Fairfax Bar Association and the Fairfax Law Foundation. She is a co-author of 18 books published by the ABA. snelson@senseient.com

John W. Simek is vice president of Sensei Enterprises, Inc. He is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) and a nationally known expert in the area of digital forensics. He and Sharon provide legal technology, cybersecurity and digital forensics services from their Fairfax, Virginia firm. jsimek@senseient.com

Michael C. Maschke is the Chief Executive Officer at Sensei Enterprises, Inc. Mr. Maschke is an EnCase Certified Examiner (EnCE), a Certified Computer Examiner (CCE #744), an AccessData Certified Examiner (ACE), a Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH), and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP). He is a frequent speaker on IT, cybersecurity and digital forensics and he has co-authored 14 books published by the American Bar Association. He can be reached at mmaschke@senseient.com.

Support Drug Court by helping a participant obtain stable employment and therefore restore their life, stay committed to recovery and become a productive member of the community. For further information please contact Jenna Davis, Drug Court Coordinator at (240) 777-9141.

LEGAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

McMillan Metro Faerber is pleased to announce the addition of **Keith O. Gilmore** to our firm. Keith is an Associate Attorney licensed in Maryland and Washington, DC., as a member of the Real Estate Law Department. He has experience in acquisition and development contracts, commercial leasing, and title analysis and settlements. Keith's wide-ranging real estate experience positions him to provide comprehensive legal advice to firm clients, and he is committed to providing tailored solutions that align with clients' business objectives while carefully mitigating potential risks. With prior experience, including 7 years with a national title company as a commercial title attorney providing underwriting and closing commercial transaction services across all asset classes, Keith is uniquely qualified to handle complex transactional and title matters in Maryland and Washington, D.C. Keith holds a J.D. from Howard University School of Law, a Master's in Real Estate Finance from Georgetown University, and a Bachelor's degree from Morehouse College. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest associate. You may reach Keith at kgilmore@mcmillanmetro.com.

RENT/LEASE

BETHESDA — One or two professional offices available, ideal for sole practitioner. Located in the heart of Bethesda, a block from Metro. Furnished with use of conference room, files, copier, other amenities. Please contact Bob at 202-289-7603.

ATTORNEY OPPORTUNITIES

ATTORNEY — Bienstock Law, LLC, a full-service law firm located in Rockville, has an immediate opening for a full-time Attorney. Candidates should have a JD from an accredited law school, 3+ years of litigation

experience, admission to the MD Bar (or admission pending), and eligibility to be admitted to the DC Bar. Clerkship is a plus. Foreign language is a plus. Our attorneys provide excellent legal work, put our clients' interests first, and represent our firm's brand at all times, which is to be compassionate, responsive, and professional. Ours is a small and very busy firm. You will be involved in all aspects of our work. This is an opportunity to be appreciated, feel good about your job, work in a friendly, supportive environment, be mentored, develop professionally, and make important contributions to the lives of others. We offer flexibility and a good work/family balance. Salary commensurate with experience and market. Paid vacations, 401(k), profit sharing, and free parking. All inquiries are held in strict confidence. Please forward resume, salary requirement, and references to sheila@bienstocklegal.com.

JUNIOR ASSOCIATE — Estate Planning — West & Feinberg, P.C., an established Bethesda law firm, is looking to hire a junior associate to join its estate planning practice. Excellent academic credentials but no prior experience in estate planning is required. The attorney hired will draft estate planning documents and will gain experience with both simple and sophisticated estate plans. For additional information about the firm, visit www.westfeinberg.com. To apply, forward a resume to hiringpartner@wflaw.com.

The deadline for submission of copy for the newsletter is always the 10th of the month for the following months' newsletter, unless the 10th falls on a weekend ... then, it is the Friday prior to the 10th.

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~ For the most up-to-date revisions, please visit the Court Schedules section of the BMC website ~
STATE'S ATTORNEY OFFICE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT SCHEDULE: AUGUST 2024

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	5	6	7	8	9
RV-411	CR Wallace Ayuk	AM Tr. - Varunok		CR Adcock Kim	CR Tripp Varunok
RV-412	AMIPM Tr. - Adcock			MHC - Mooney	AMIPM Tr. - Rosenthal
RV-413	AMIPM Tr. - Kim	AM Tr. - Wallace		AM Tr. - Snyderman	AMIPM Tr. - Webster
RV-414	AMIPM Tr. - Tripp	AM Tr. - Crews			
Nolle/513					Wallace
RV-612		Comp AM - Mooney DUI PM - Adcock			DV - Wenzell Hanson
SS-301	AMIPM Tr. - Webster	AM Tr. - Salamin		AMIPM Tr.- Salamin	
SS-302				DV - Wenzell Hanson	AMIPM Tr. - Ayuk
SS-401	CR Rosenthal Crews	AM Tr. - Richardson		CR Rosenthal Webster	CR Snyderman Richardson
8:30 Dkt	Chung	Kramer	Chung	Kramer	Kramer
WEEK 2	12	13	14	15	16
RV-411	CR Salamin Wallace	AM Tr. - Adcock		CR Crews Adcock	CR Varunok Wallace
RV-412	AMIPM Tr. - Varunok			MHC - Mooney	AMIPM Tr. - Rosenthal
RV-413	AMIPM Tr. - Webster	AM Tr. - Salamin		AM Tr. - Rosenthal	AMIPM Tr. - Crews
RV-414	AMIPM Tr. - Trip	AM Tr. - Crews			
Nolle/513					Tripp
RV-612		Comp AM - Mooney DUI PM - Varunok			DV - Wenzell Hanson
SS-301	AMIPM Tr. - Snyderman	AM Tr. - Webster		AMIPM Tr.- Ayuk	
SS-302				DV - Wenzell Hanson	AMIPM Tr. - Salamin
SS-401	CR Rosenthal Ayuk	AM Tr. - Richardson		CR Tripp Snyderman	CR Webster Richardson
8:30 Dkt	Kramer	Chung	Kramer	Chung	Chung
WEEK 3	19	20	21	22	23
RV-411	CR Salamin Richardson	AM Tr. - Wallace		CR Snyderman Kim	CR Wallace Adcock
RV-412	AMIPM Tr. - Adcock			MHC - Rodriguez	AMIPM Tr. - Crews
RV-413	AMIPM Tr. - Varunok	AM Tr. - Snyderman		AM Tr. - Wallace	AMIPM Tr. - Salamin
RV-414	AMIPM Tr. - Crews	AM Tr. - Tripp			
Nolle/513					Varunok
RV-612		Comp AM - Rodriguez DUI PM - Adcock			DV - Wenzell Hanson
TBDSS-301	AMIPM Tr. - Kim	AM Tr. - Ayuk		AMIPM Tr.- Ayuk	
SS-302				DV - Wenzell Hanson	AMIPM Tr. - Richardson
SS-401	CR Webster Ayuk	AM Tr. - Varunok		CR Crews Salamin	CR Tripp Webster
8:30 Dkt	Kramer	Chung	Kramer	Chung	Chung AM (Varunok PM)
WEEK 4	26	27	28	29	30
RV-411	CR Kim Salamin	AM Tr. - Crews		CR Wallace Adcock	CR Varunok (T- Londono) Wallace
RV-412	AMIPM Tr. - Adcock			MHC - Mooney	AMIPM Tr. - Kim
RV-413	AMIPM Tr. - Varunok	AM Tr. - Kim		AM Tr. - Tripp (T-Krupkin)	AMIPM Tr. - Webster
RV-414	AMIPM Tr. - Webster	AM Tr. - Richardson			
Nolle/513					Adcock
RV-612		Comp AM - Rodriguez DUI PM - Varunok			DV - Wenzell Hanson
SS-301	AMIPM Tr. - Ayuk	AM Tr. - Snyderman		AMIPM Tr.- Richardson	
SS-302				DV - Wenzell Hanson	AMIPM Tr. - Snyderman
SS-401	CR Richardson Snyderman	AM Tr. - Ayuk		CR Ayuk Webster	CR Tripp (T-Krupkin) Crews
8:30 Dkt	Tripp	Chung	Kramer	Chung	Kramer

7/21/24

~ For the most up-to-date revisions, please visit the Court Schedules section of the BAMC website ~

District Court Judges Schedule — August

DATE		RV411	RV412	RV413	RV414	RV512 DV's/PO's	RV513 Duty/Bonds	RV514	RV612	SS401	SS402	SS301	SS302	SS303
Thursday	1	Del Pino	Reed/Koch	VJ	CLOSED	Gelber	Moffett	Oliver	CLOSED	Williams	VJ	VJ	Ferretti	CLOSED
Friday	2	Williams	VJ	CLOSED	Moffett	Ferretti	Gelber	CLOSED	Del Pino	Reed	Oliver	VJ	VJ	CLOSED
Monday	5	Ferretti	Del Pino	VJ	VJ	Moffett	Williams	Gelber	Reed	Nee	Glynn	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday	6	Gelber	CLOSED	Glynn	Ferretti	Del Pino	Reed	Moffett	? / CLOSED	Williams	Nee	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday	7	Gelber	Nee	Ferretti	Moffett	Reed	Glynn	VJ	VJ	Del Pino	Williams	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thursday	8	Glynn	Sabett	VJ	CLOSED	Gelber	Williams	Reed	CLOSED	Moffett	Ferretti	Nee	Del Pino	CLOSED
Friday	9	Moffett	Reed	CLOSED	Gelber	VJ	Del Pino	CLOSED	Ferretti	Glynn	VJ	Williams	Del Pino	CLOSED
Monday	12	Nee	Williams	VJ	CLOSED	Del Pino	Moffett	Ferretti	Sabett	Oliver	Reed	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday	13	Oliver	CLOSED	VJ	CLOSED	Ferretti	Nee	Del Pino	Bills /CLOSED	Reed	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday	14	Williams	Nee	Ferretti	Moffett	Reed	Oliver	CLOSED	VJ	Bills	VJ	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED
Thursday	15	Reed	Bills	VJ	CLOSED	Moffett	Nee	Del Pino	CLOSED	Williams	Oliver	VJ	Ferretti	CLOSED
Friday	16	Ferretti	Reed	CLOSED	Bills	Williams	Moffett	Nee	Oliver	Del Pino	VJ	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday	19	Williams	Del Pino	Bills	VJ	Oliver	Reed	Moffett	Gelber	Ferretti	Nee	Glynn	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday	20	Oliver	CLOSED	Glynn	VJ	Ferretti	Del Pino	Gelber	Bills/Koch	Reed	Moffett	Nee	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday	21	Moffett	Bills	Williams	Oliver	Gelber	Ferretti	Reed	VJ	Del Pino	Glynn	VJ	VJ	CLOSED
Thursday	22	Bills	Koch/Reed	Ferretti	CLOSED	Del Pino	Moffett	Nee	CLOSED	Gelber	Williams	Glynn	Oliver	CLOSED
Friday	23	Koch	Glynn	CLOSED	Ferretti	VJ	Bills	Moffett *	Oliver	Del Pino	Reed	Nee	Williams	CLOSED
Monday	26	Mays	Reed	VJ	VJ	Moffett	Gelber	Del Pino	Oliver	Bills	Glynn	VJ	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday	27	Nee	CLOSED	Reed	VJ	Mays	Del Pino	Moffett	Bills	Gelber	Oliver	Glynn	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday	28	Bills	Mays	Moffett	Oliver	Del Pino	Reed	Glynn	CLOSED	Gelber	Nee	VJ	VJ	CLOSED
Thursday	29	Del Pino	Bills	Glynn	CLOSED	Gelber	Nee	Moffett	CLOSED	Mays	Reed	Oliver	Koch	CLOSED
Friday	30	Bills	Reed	VJ	Gelber	Glynn	Koch	CLOSED	Del Pino	Moffett	VJ	Oliver	Nee	CLOSED

LEAVE
Bills – 1, 2, 5-9, 12
Del Pino – 14
Ferretti – 26-30
Gelber – 12-16, 23
Glynn – 1, 2, 12-16
Koch – 5-9, 12-16, 27
Moffett – 12
Nee – 1, 2, 9, 21, 26
Oliver – 5-9
Williams – 13, 20, 26-30

RV513
Mon. – Interims / Bonds
Tues. – Interims / Bonds
Wed. – Interims / Bonds
Thurs. – Interims / Bonds
Fri. – NP / PH / Bonds

RV514
Fri. – Helper or Special Set
(Exceptions: Third Friday for the Expungement Docket or in the PM on the last Friday of the month when Oral Exams are heard)

RV611
Mon. – Pls
Tues. – Pls

RV612
Mon. – Helper/ VOPs
Tues. – Comp. Dkt./ DUI Court
Wed. – ICC Tolls / Red Lights & School Bus / Parking Tickets & Speed Camera
Thurs. – CLOSED
Fri. – DV Criminal

SS302
Tues- Pls

SS303
Mon. – Fri. – CLOSED (unless special set case is assigned or need backup judge)

Date Prepared: May 31, 2024
Date Revised:
Judges' Meeting:
Bench Bar Meeting: N/A

*=Special Set
()= Helper Judge/Courtroom

ACTING ADMIN. JUDGE
Gelber – 5-9
Moffett – 12, 14-16, 27

Circuit Court

2024		Criminal	Civil	Duty	Motions	Family	FamDuty	General	CINA	Juvenile	Admin	Drug Court	MH Court	EAP Duty	
		August													
7/29/24	29th-4th	Storm CM	Hessler	McAuffe	Berry	Acosta	Dumais	Burrell	Chernosky	Smith	Bonfant	Rupp	Fogleman	District	
		McCally PT	Lease	McGuckian 7/29		Ayres		Cho							
			Maloney	(2:30-4:30pm)		Dwyer		Schweltzer							
			McCullough			Fogleman		Cummins							
						Leibowitz									
						McGuckian									
						Ryon									
						Fairfax									
8/5/24	5th-11th	Maloney CM	Hessler	Storm	Burrell	Acosta	McCullough	McCally	Leibowitz	8/5 - Dumais	Bonfant	N/A	Fogleman	McCullough	
		Cho PT	Lease			Berry		Schweltzer	8/8 - Chernosky	8/6 - Dumais					
			Maloney			Chernosky		Cummins		8/7 - Acosta					
			McAuffe			Dumais				8/8 - Acosta					
						Dwyer				8/9 - Acosta					
						Fogleman									
						McGuckian									
						Ryon									
						Fairfax									
						Ayres									
8/12/24	12th-17th	Cho CM	Hessler	Storm	Ayres	Acosta	Burrell	McCally	8/12-Cummins	Dumais	Debellus	N/A	Fogleman	District	
		Storm PT	Lease		Fairfax	Ryon		Schweltzer	8/13-Schweltzer						
			Maloney			Berry			8/14-Cummins						
			McAuffe			Fogleman			8/15-Cummins						
			McCullough			Leibowitz			8/16 - Savage						
						McGuckian									
						Fairfax									
						Dwyer									
						Chernosky									
8/19/24	19th-25th	Cummins CM	Hessler	Acosta	McGuckian	Chernosky	Dwyer	McCally	Leibowitz	Smith	Bonfant	Dwyer	Ryon	Acosta	
		Cho PT	Lease			Ayres	8/22-Fogleman	Schweltzer	8/19 Savage						
			Maloney			Berry		Storm	8/20 Cummins						
			McAuffe			Dumais		Burrell	8/21-22 Chernosky						
			McCullough			Fogleman			8/23 McAuffe						
						Ryon									
						Fairfax									
8/26/24	26th-1st	Cho CM	Hessler	Leibowitz	Storm	Acosta	Dumais	Schweltzer	Chernosky	Smith	Bonfant	Smith	Ryon	Schweltzer	
		Cummins PT	Lease			Ayres		Burrell		8/29-Acosta					
			Maloney			Berry		McCally							
			McAuffe			Dumais									
			McCullough			Dwyer									
						Fogleman									
						McGuckian									
						Ryon									
						Fairfax									

CM=Criminal Motions; PT=Criminal PreTrial Jury Demand/Appeal Docket

Periodicals
Postage
PAID
at
Rockville, MD



CALENDAR

CC - Conference Call | **CR** - Bar Office Conference Room | **LCR** - Lower Level BAMC Conference Room

C/S - See Committee/Section Pages or Listserv Messages for Location | **CLR** - CLE Classroom

CLE - CLE Seminar — Call Tricia at 301-340-2534 for information | **ZOOM** - Remotely

AUGUST

7	Noon	Zoom	Immigration Law Section Meeting
28	5:30PM	Zoom	BFMC CLE Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER

2	~ Bar Association / Bar Foundation Offices Closed ~		
4	8:00AM	Zoom	Circuit Court Bench Bar Committee Meeting
	12:15PM	C/S	Juvenile Law Section Meeting
	12:30PM	Zoom	Criminal Law Section Meeting
9	5:00PM	CR	Executive Committee Meeting
13	Noon	Zoom	Workers Compensation Law Section Meeting
19	5:30PM	Zoom	Family Law Section Meeting
25	5:30PM	Zoom	BFMC CLE Committee Meeting
	5:30PM	C/S	New Practitioner Section Happy Hour

Information Regarding Scheduled Committee/Section Meetings

All committee and section meetings are currently being scheduled both in-person and virtually at the preference of the Chair/Co-Chairs. Any change to the original schedule will be announced through the groups' listserv.

Please watch your email for listserv messages regarding your committee and/or section meetings.