



**BAR ASSOCIATION
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

MAY 2026
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The Bar In BRIEF

BARASSOCIATIONMC.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY PAUL J. HAVENSTEIN



It is an honor to serve as the new President of our Bar Association. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me, and I look forward to working together in the year ahead.

My path through the Bar Association began in 2015, during my clerkship with (now retired) Judge Michael D. Mason. Joining the Association provided immediate benefit, introducing me to mentors and colleagues whose guidance would prove invaluable to my career in the years ahead.

Like many young attorneys, I initially saw the Association as a place to network and learn the profession. It did not take long, however, to realize that it was also a place to contribute. In 2019, I had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Mentor-Mentee Committee. I went on to serve as Chair of the New Practitioners Section in 2021, where I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing early-career attorneys. The following year, I was selected as a Leadership Academy Fellow. This continued involvement led to my election to the Board of Governors in 2023, an honor that allowed me to contribute to the strategic direction of the organization. While serving on the Board, I had the opportunity to chair the Policies and Procedures Committee, where we worked to ensure that the Association's governance structures remained clear, effective, and aligned with its mission. I was also proud to be among the first members of the Newsletter Editorial Committee. Each of these roles, and now my role as President, have shaped my development as an attorney and as a leader.

My experience is far from unique. For 132 years, the Association has played a pivotal role in supporting attorneys at every stage of their careers. It has helped new lawyers find their footing, mid-career practitioners expand their practices, and seasoned attorneys give back through mentorship and leadership. I am grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me, and I am hopeful that it will continue to empower and inspire attorneys for years to come.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who attended our Annual Meeting on April 24, 2026. Your presence and engagement made the event a success. We had the opportunity to honor some fantastic contributors to our Association, including Brad Bernstein, The Honorable James Bonifant, Casey Cirner, Sara Furlow, Anne Grover, Arielle Hinton, Lilly Hummel, Magistrate Lena Kim, Magistrate Lili Khozeimeh, John Lewis, Pilar Nichols, Jane Rodgers and Eden Terenzini. I would also like to thank to our outgoing President, Aindrea Conroy, and the rest of our outgoing Board members, for their leadership, dedication, and service to our Association.

As we move forward, one of our central goals is to grow and strengthen our membership by embracing modern approaches to engage-

(Continued on page 4)



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Bar Association Staff

Sabrina Operations & Programs Manager (301) 340-2534
Sabrina@barfoundationmc.org

Cindy Member Services Coordinator | Executive Assistant (301) 762-8376
Cindy@barassociationmc.org

Monika Membership Services Representative (301) 424-6351
Monika@barassociationmc.org

Beatris Lawyer Referral Service Coordinator (301) 279-9100
Lawyer Line (301) 424-7040
beatris@barassociationmc.org

Bar Foundation Staff

Sabrina Operations & Programs Manager (301) 340-2534
Sabrina@barfoundationmc.org

Pro Bono Program

Client Intake Lines (301) 424-7651

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

Debbie Program Coordinator (301) 762-5831
Debbie@barfoundationmc.org

Vanessa Case Manager (301) 424-2706
Vanessa@barfoundationmc.org

Maria Case Manager (301) 762-8488
Maria@barfoundationmc.org

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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. Calvina Claiborne, Executive Director & Editor
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CIRCUIT COURT NOTES

Karla N. Smith,
Administrative Judge

4-215/SCHEDULING AND PRE-TRIAL HEARINGS (CRIMINAL)

Please be advised that attorneys are required to appear in person at 4-215/Scheduling and Pre-Trial Hearings. If you are unable to attend, any attorney appearing on your behalf must have full access to your calendar and authority to schedule or modify court dates as necessary. This ensures that all matters can proceed without delay or the need for rescheduling.

DISTRICT COURT APPEALS – REMANDS (CRIMINAL)

Pursuant to Maryland Rule 7-112(f)(4), when a District Court appeal is dismissed or withdrawn, and the defendant has been released from confinement pending appeal, if the defendant has time remaining to serve on the District Court sentence, the Circuit Court shall issue a warrant for the defendant's arrest, returnable to the District Court. Any issues related to bond will be addressed by the District Court.

INTERPRETER REQUEST

Attorneys must notify the Court when an interpreter is needed for their matter. It is equally important that attorneys notify the Court when there is no longer a need for an interpreter. If an interpret-

er is needed for a scheduled Court hearing and/or trial, please complete and submit a Request-for-Interpreter form 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.

Additionally, counsel should notify the Court at once when they determine an interpreter is no longer necessary. 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 to Court whether their services are used or not.

Interpreters provide a valuable and needed service to the Court, counsel, and parties. Their work is demanding and too often overlooked by those who rely upon their assistance. Please take a moment and thank the interpreters for their help whenever possible.

RESPONDING TO THE COURT'S REQUEST FOR CASE STATUS

The Circuit Court is still down three judges. It remains extremely important that when requested, counsel provide an accurate assessment of the status of their case prior to trial. Approximately three weeks prior to your scheduled trial, you will receive an email from Family Division Services (mcccfamilycasestatus@mdcourts.gov)

LEGAL ETHICS HOTLINE

David Gavin ... pdgavin@yahoo.com
Lydia Lawless ... llawless@kg-law.com
Seth Zucker ... seth.zucker@montgomerycountymd.gov

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.

or the Civil/Criminal Case Managers (Nicole Pulliam (nicole.pulliam@mdcourts.gov) or Annalese Bell (annalese.bell@mdcourts.gov)). Thereafter, you may receive emails from the chambers of the assigned judge. Surprisingly, emails from chambers or court staff continued to go unanswered. Please respond as soon as possible to any emails received to advise as to the posture of your case and provide the information requested.

HEARINGS AND TRIALS ON THE TO BE ASSIGNED (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 a case is on the TBA docket, counsel should prepare for the trial and/or hearing, as it will likely proceed. Upon arrival at the courthouse, the parties and/or counsel are to report to the Assignment Office, North Tower 1st Floor, Room 1320 to check in and wait for further

instruction from the Court. Please be patient with the Court staff. They are working hard to assign matters on the TBA docket as expeditiously as possible to available judges and magistrates.

DISTRICT COURT NOTES

Sherri D. Koch,
Administrative Judge

The Judiciary continues to be concerned about security to include the security of the judges. To that end, I have decided to no longer publicize the schedule of which judges are sitting in which courtroom. I understand that publishing the dockets has been a long-standing practice but unfortunately times have changed necessitating this decision. There was no single event that precipitated this change—merely conversations that led to this decision.

Pursuant to Maryland Rule 7-112(f)(4), when a District Court appeal is dismissed or withdrawn, and the defendant has been released from confinement pending appeal, if the defendant has time remaining to serve on the District Court sentence, the Circuit Court shall issue a warrant for the defendant's arrest, returnable to the District Court.

We have been seeing an increasing number of written jury demands filed within a few days of the trial date. Pursuant to Maryland Rule 4-301, a written motion for jury demand in a criminal case must be filed 15 days before the trial date. Any motion filed within this peri-

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(Continued from page 1)
 ment. The practice of law is evolving, and our Association must evolve with it. We are committed to expanding our social media presence to better communicate with our members, highlight achievements across our legal community, and reach the next generation of practitioners (while maintaining protocols that ensure the safety and security of our members). In addition, we will be launching a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Legal Technology. This initiative will focus on understanding the impact of emerging technologies on the profession, providing educational resources, and helping our members stay informed and prepared in a rapidly changing landscape. In a recent Association poll, 100% of those who responded indicated that AI would impact the legal profession (74.9% thought the impact would be positive), yet only 8.3% reported having advanced knowledge or professional experience with AI. The Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Legal Technology will help our members cut through the hype and identify what new legal technologies are truly transformative to the practice of law, so that our local firms can continue to be competitive in serving our county and beyond.

Our Association thrives when its members are actively involved. I encourage each of you to participate in our Committees and Sections, attend upcoming events, and share your ideas. Your voice and your contributions are essential to our continued success. I am committed to having an open-door policy, so please never hesitate to contact me with any thoughts on how the Asso-

ciation can do better. I remain optimistic about the future of our Association and confident in what we can accomplish together. By building on our strong foundation while embracing changes, we will continue to provide valuable benefits to our members and the community.



As many of you know, I welcomed my first child, Grace, just a week before the Annual Meeting. This has been a deeply meaningful time in my life. As I think about how much she will grow and change in her first year, I have developed a renewed perspective on how much change can occur in just a year with the right effort.

Over the coming year, I hope we will continue to strengthen our professional community, support the development of our members at every stage of their careers, and advance initiatives that reflect both the traditions of our profession and the evolving needs of those we serve.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to a productive, collaborative, and successful year ahead.

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 Brooke Sisson at brooke.sisson@mdcourts.gov.



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Jessica Storck
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<http://www.mdbarinsurance.com/>



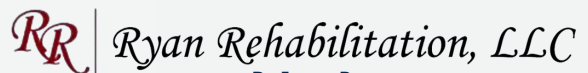
Jessica York
jessica.york@planetdepos.com
<https://planetdepos.com/>



Steven Purdy
spurdy@stout.com
<https://www.stout.com>



Katrina Jones.
kjones@mccammongroup.com
<https://www.mccammongroup.com/>



Dr. James Ryan
ryanrehabmontgomeryvillage@gmail.com
<https://ryanrehabilitation.com/>



Victoria Smith
vsmith@vallitadvisors.com
<https://www.vallitadvisors.com/>

(Continued from page 3)

od of time will be held for trial judge. Filing the motion does not excuse the defendant and counsel from appearing for the district court trial date.

We continue to be short judges (although some are taller than others) so we appreciate your patience as we cancel some dockets while other dockets are large. We look forward to seeing you at our monthly bench bar Zoom meetings.

CIRCUIT COURT LAW LIBRARY

Teresa Sites, Law Librarian I
Highlights from the Maryland Courts Website



Looking for tips on how to navigate the features of the Judiciary's Maryland Courts website? Read on for this law librarian's highlights from the website, including pages I often consult or suggest for our patrons. You may use our research computers in the library (pictured) to browse this website. Remember, your first 20 black and white prints or copies are free every day!

To start, navigate to the Judiciary's website at <https://www.courts.state.md.us/>. At the top of the page, there is a bar with the options: "Courts," "Court Help," "E-Services," "Lawyers," "Media" and "Community." Each option contains a drop-down menu with more links. Let's dive into some of these links and the information they offer.

Official Court Forms (<https://www.courts.state.md.us/forms>)

The link to official court forms is available in drop-down menus under several options: "Courts," "Court Help" and "E-Services." Click on "Court Forms Search" to access a data-

base of official court forms. We recommend scrolling halfway down the page to the search box in the middle of the page and typing in your search terms or form number to locate suggested forms.

Court Help Videos (<https://www.courts.state.md.us/reference/videolibrary>)

Under "Court Help," click "Court Help Videos" for a library of updated videos on a wide range of legal topics. Each video, or video series, provides a brief topical overview and can be especially useful for pro-se litigants. When you click to view a particular video, note that a "tip sheet" printout appears in the top right corner with a summary and often links to more resources. At the information desk at the library, we offer free disposable headphones for you or your clients to view these videos at our research computers.

Maryland Electronic Filing (MDEC) (<https://www.courts.state.md.us/mdec/efiling>)

Find the "E-Filing" link under both "E-Services" and "Lawyers." While this page contains all you need to know about e-filing, a particularly important section includes contact information for when you need technical help when e-filing. To get answers to these questions, call the Maryland Judiciary service desk at 410-260-1114 or email at mdcourts@service-now.com. Remember, at the Law Library, we offer three MDEC stations with scanners for you to complete your filings. At these stations, you may also view and print publicly available electronic filings.

Language Services (<https://www.courts.state.md.us/languageservices>)

Would your client like to request a court interpreter? Click on the link "Court Language Services" under "Courts." On this page, there is information on how to request an interpreter as well as related official court forms.

(Continued on following page)



Geoff Gilbert, Esquire

What Are You Doing to Bring Business Into Your Firm?

Whether you are a solo, a partner or an associate, there is no better time than right now to begin building relationships with potential clients and other lawyers who might refer business to you.

It's not hard work to get referrals for your firm. If you are interested, it does take a consistent effort to stay in touch and get together with those who might refer you a case. Attorneys who can bring in work to firms are valued and valuable. Don't let it interfere with the amount of hours you bill, and you've got the formula for success.

My suggestion is to start slow. Once a month or every two weeks, have contact or get together with lawyers and others you know who might also be able to refer you a case. If you don't know any, meet them at a bar program. Montgomery County Bar programs are great, not only for learning, but for connecting with our fellow lawyers. Being part of our legal community through the Bar is always a good idea.

When meeting a lawyer, take an interest in how you might send them a case or a client that will need what they do. Learn about what they do and think about how you might be able to help them. Some possible questions to ask another lawyer you are having a coffee with are:

- What is a typical case for you or your firm?
- What your role is in a case?
- How do you help clients?
- What have you done at your firm that you love the most? And, what do you love about it?
- After you learn all of this, you can ask if it's ok to tell you about what we do and I do at my firm? If they say yes, then tell them.

The goal is not to get a case tomorrow. Get to know the person before you start quizzing them about their practice. The goal is to build a relationship with them for the long term. And, if you enjoy going to lunch or coffee with them, do it again.

The deeper the business relationship and the more you enjoy it, the more likely it is that you may get some referrals in the future. If you don't force it, it will come to you. You only need a small portion of these contacts to send you a case.

What are you doing to bring business into your firm?

The deadline for the newsletter is always the 3rd Friday of the month for the following months' issue.

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Accommodations
(<https://www.courts.state.md.us/legalhelp/accommodations>)

Under “Court Help,” this page contains information, procedures and court forms if you would like to request an accommodation from the court.

Latest News
(<https://www.courts.state.md.us/>)

Stay current with updates from the Maryland Courts by scrolling down below the fold on the main page of the Maryland Courts website to the view the section “Latest News” on the left. If you click on this section, you’ll discover past news releases; for example, you’ll see March’s announcement about the introduction of the updated Maryland Judiciary Case Search & Record Portal. You can also access this page through the “Media” tab and clicking on “News Releases” in the drop-down menu.

Guide to Maryland Law Libraries (<https://www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib/using-library/for-librarians/maryland-law-libraries>)

Looking for where you can perform legal research across the state of Maryland? Click on “Finding Legal Help” in the

dropdown menu under “Court Help” in the top bar. When you scroll to the bottom of the page, click on the link “Circuit Court Law Libraries.” Consult this page to find a listing of all Maryland law libraries. You can click on each linked library to find its location and contact information. On the listing you’ll find that, here at the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library, we are staffed full-time and open to the public 8am-4pm. Visit us in person or contact us by phone (240-777-9120) or email at mocolawlibrary@mdcourts.gov with your research need.

Treatise Yourself! This month, our librarians are reading:

Spare by Prince Harry
The Burning Library by Gilly MacMillan

Flashlight by Susan Choi
Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain by Betty Edwards

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

50 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850
mocolawlibrary@mdcourts.gov
240-777-9120
New hours: 8am-4pm



BA MC
BAR ASSOCIATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

WRITERS NEEDED FOR THE BAR IN BRIEF NEWSLETTER!

Do you enjoy writing articles of interest to the legal community? If so, we need you!

For More Information Contact:
Wanda A. Calvin Claiborne
Executive Director
Wanda@BarAssociationMC.org

TOPICS
New Technology | AI and the Legal Profession | Growing Your Practice | State & County Updates
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For more information, contact Sabrina@BarFoundationMC.org



**Collateral Consequences & Defense
Strategies for Military-Connected Clients**

Thursday, May 19, 2026 | 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom



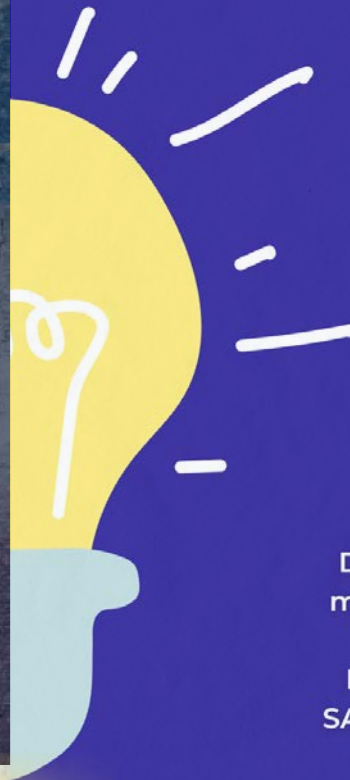
This CLE program prepares Maryland practitioners to represent clients with military ties in state criminal cases.

The program focuses on three areas: collateral military consequences of civilian charges (including effects on service, security clearances, and retirement), navigating state prosecutions for clients seeking to join the Armed Forces, and effective mitigation for veterans charged in Maryland courts.

David M. O'Dea
Attorney and Founderr
O'Dea Schneider PLLC



Alexander R. Schneider
Attorney and Founder
O'Dea Schneider PLLC



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A Confidential Call Away

William E. Hewitt Jr.
Co-Chair

301.424.8520

billhewittjr@verizon.net

Alisha Jacobsen
Co-Chair

301.424.0677

alisha@jacobsenattorney.com

Federal Oversight of State Ethics Investigations

Notice-and-Comment Rulemaking is once again at the forefront of the legal community nationwide after the United States Department of Justice (the “DOJ”) proposed a new process for evaluating state bar complaints against its attorneys.

On March 5, 2026, the DOJ, Office of the Attorney General’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) appeared in the Federal Register.¹ The proposed rule, titled “Review of State Bar Complaints and Allegations Against Department of Justice Attorneys,” (the “Proposed Rule”) seeks not only to review complaints against DOJ attorneys but to suspend state ethics investigations and proceedings against both current and former DOJ attorneys pending the DOJ’s own internal investigation of the allegations.

Harkening back to the days of untangling the intricacies of the Administrative Procedure Act (the “APA”) in law school, agencies generally publish a NPRM to amend, alter, repeal or promulgate new rules. The proposed rule is then typically subject to a “notice-and-comment” period, which is open to the public.

Essentially, this Proposed Rule subordinates state ethics investigations and proceedings to an internal DOJ-led process, potentially shielding thousands of DOJ lawyers from independent state investigation and warranted disciplinary or remedial action.

The DOJ currently employs over 10,000 attorneys nationwide.² The number of former DOJ attorneys to whom this Proposed Rule would apply is staggering. In the first 10 months of President Donald Trump’s second term, an estimated 2,526 DOJ lawyers retired or quit, and hundreds more “left via forced reductions.”³ Factor into this mass exodus the number of routine retirees and transfers of attor-

neys from the DOJ and one can glimpse the wide-reaching effects of this Proposed Rule.

In support of a DOJ-led process, the Proposed Rule states that “over the past several years, political activists have weaponized the bar complaint and investigation process” noting that “certain State bar disciplinary authorities have undertaken investigations of Department attorneys without notifying and coordinating with [the Office of Professional Responsibility (“OPR”).”

The Proposed Rule adds that while the DOJ has historically delegated enforcement of attorney discipline to each state’s disciplinary authority, “the Attorney General retains the discretion to displace State bar enforcement and to create an entirely Federal enforcement mechanism, or to displace State bar enforcement in part when it is inconsistent with the Federal Government’s determinations regarding the regulation of Federal attorneys.”

The Proposed Rule is broad in its proposed scope to the extent that it applies “whether the allegations [against a DOJ attorney] are made in a complaint filed by a third party or the bar disciplinary authorities open an investigation into the allegations without a complaint having been filed.” Only after OPR “has concluded its investigation” and the Professional Misconduct Review Unit (“PMRU”) renders a decision will OPR “notify the appropriate State bar disciplinary authorities of the completion and, as appropriate, the results of the investigation.” The Proposed Rule provides no timeframe within which the DOJ must complete its investigation and review, creating the risk that the DOJ could indefinitely delay or postpone its own investigations to insulate its attorneys from discipline at the state level.

The Proposed Rule seems on its face to be incompatible

with Bar Counsel’s responsibility under the Maryland Attorneys’ Rules of Professional Conduct to timely investigate complaints that are not “facially frivolous, unfounded, or duplicative” and do not otherwise fall within a recognized exception to stay the inquiry and investigation.⁴

While the Proposed Rule is framed as a request that state bar authorities suspend their investigations until conclusion of the DOJ’s internal review, the Proposed Rule states that if state bar authorities “refuse the Attorney General’s request,” the DOJ will take “appropriate action” to “enforce this regulation” or prevent the state bar authority from “interfering with the Attorney General’s review of the allegations.” The DOJ does not offer any legal basis to require state bars to halt their investigations, nor does it elaborate on the type of “appropriate action” it would undertake.

The Proposed Rule represents a dramatic change in the oversight and regulation of attorneys by the state in which they are licensed. The United States Supreme Court has long recognized that “[s]ince the founding of the Republic, the licensing and regulation of lawyers has been left *exclusively* to the States and the District of Columbia within their respective jurisdictions.”⁵ The Court in *Leis* continued, “[t]he State prescribe the qualifications for admission to practice and the standards of professional conduct. They are also responsible for the discipline of lawyers.”⁶

The McDade Amendment, codified at 28 U.S.C. § 530B (also known as the Citizens Protection Act of 1998), mandates that federal prosecutors be subject to state disciplinary rules to “the same extent” and in “the same manner” as other attorneys. The amendment was Congress’s answer to earlier efforts to insulate its attorneys

from state disciplinary rules and procedures.⁷ This Proposed Rule appears on its face incompatible with both legislative enactments and Supreme Court precedent providing that the DOJ attorneys be subject to the state bar disciplinary rules in “*the same manner*” as other attorneys.

The last day to submit comments relating to the NPRM was April 6. Over one million comments (1,055,481 to be exact) were posted in response to the Proposed Rule. The Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”), the National Organization of Bar Counsel (“NOBC”),⁸ the Conference of Chief Justices and the American College of Trial Lawyers (“ACTL”) are among the public commenters opposing the Proposed Rule. Twenty-two states’ Attorneys General, including Maryland’s Attorney General Anthony G. Brown, signed onto a comment opposing the Proposed Rule. On the last day to submit public comments, 129 former federal and state judges submitted a comment co-signed by Democracy Defenders Funds and Lawyers Defending American Democracy calling on the Acting Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General, Todd Blanche, to withdraw the Proposed Rule.

U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin (MD-08) filed his own comment opposing the Proposed Rule.⁹ Rep. Raskin’s comment cites to the DOJ’s recent admission that it “accidentally” violated more than 50 judicial orders in a single district court in New Jersey over a two-month period in cases involving immigrants challenging their detentions.¹⁰ If the Proposed Rule moves forward, it will undermine the responsibility of state disciplinary authorities to timely investigate its own attorneys.

Only time will tell if the sheer number of comments filed in opposition will dissuade the

DOJ from proceeding with issuing a final rule, prompt a modified proposal or, ultimately, have no lasting effect on the DOJ's rule-making process.

¹Review of State Bar Complaints and Allegations Against Department of Justice Attorneys, Federal Register, available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/03/05/2026-04390/review-of-state-bar-complaints-and-allegations-against-department-of-justice-attorneys> (last accessed April 8, 2026).

²Office of Attorney Recruitment & Management, U.S. Department of Justice, available at: <https://www.justice.gov/oarm> (last accessed April 8, 2026).

³Lawyers Leaving US Government Drive Workforce Shift, Reuters, Jan. 29, 2026, available at: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/lawyers-leaving-us-government-drive-workforce-shift-2026-01-29/> (last accessed April 8, 2026).

⁴MARPC Rule 19-711.

⁵*Leis v. Flynt*, 439 U.S. 438, 442 (1979) (emphasis added).

⁶*Id.*

⁷McDade-Murtha Amendment, Congress.gov, available at: https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/RS/PDF/RS21092/RS21092.3.pdf (last accessed April 8, 2026).

⁸NOBC is an organization representing more than 75 local, state and federal “lawyer regulatory agencies in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.” See, <https://www.nobc.org/> (last accessed April 8, 2026).

⁹<https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2026-04-02-raskin-to-bondidoj-re-proposed-rule-state-bar-review.pdf> (last accessed April 8, 2026).

¹⁰*Id.* at 2.

Author:

*Kelly A. Robier, Esquire
Committee Co-Chairs
P. David Gavin, Esquire
Lydia E. Lawless, Esquire
Seth Zucker, Esquire*



Announcement of Vacancies

The Supreme Court of Maryland is accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following committees of the Court. For each of the positions, the applicant must be an attorney admitted and in good standing to practice law in Maryland. For the character committee vacancies, the applicant should live or maintain a business address in the relevant jurisdiction.

Standing Committee on the Rules of Practice and Procedure

• The Court is accepting applications for two vacancies for attorney positions. For additional information on the Standing Rules of Practice and Procedure, see Maryland Rule 16-701.

Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service

• The Court is accepting applications for one vacancy on the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services. For additional information on the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services, see Maryland Rule 19-501.

Character Committee

• The Court is accepting applications for vacancies on Character Committees in the following Appellate Circuits. For additional information on the Character Committees, see Maryland Rule 19-103.

• Character Committee for the Second Appellate Circuit (Baltimore and Harford Counties) – one vacancy.

• Character Committee for the Fourth Appellate Circuit (Prince George's County) – two vacancies.

• Character Committee for the Sixth Appellate Circuit (Baltimore City) – three vacancies.

The Court is accepting applications through its online application portal, which is accessible at: <https://www.mdcourts.gov/forms/scmcommitteesapplication>. The application portal will be open for three weeks beginning on Monday, April 27, 2026 and closing on Monday, May 18, 2026.

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MEMBER MEMORIAL NOTICES

If you receive information regarding the passing of a BAMC member, please let us know by sending the obituary and/or service information to **Cindy@barassociationmc.org**.

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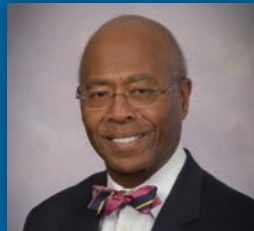
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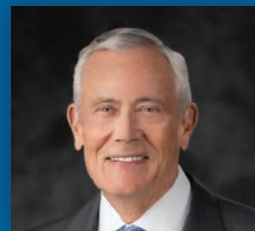
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ADR-COLLABORATIVE LAW SECTION

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

MEETING DATES

May 19, 2026

Our lunch meetings take place from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month via Zoom. The Zoom link is provided to our listserv members via email.

If you would like to volunteer to be a Speaker for our Section, please contact one of us. We welcome your suggestions about topics and Speakers for our meetings and roundtable discussions.

CIRCUIT COURT BENCH BAR COMMITTEE

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

MEETING DATES

May 6, 2026 June 3, 2026*

*In person meeting

Meetings will be held at 8:00a.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, at 8:00 a.m. on Zoom. All BAMC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you are not on the Committee, please contact either of us for the location of the specific meeting you wish to attend.

Administrative Judge transition March 14, 2026

Following the retirement of the Honorable James Bonifant effective March 13, 2026, the new Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court is the Honorable Karla Smith.

Courthouse Security

If you 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.

Case Managers

Attorneys are encouraged to respond fully and promptly to case managers when they reach out to secure case status in advance of trials. This helps the Court to operate most efficiently.

If you have any concerns or issues to bring to the Committee's attention, please contact either of us at:

Heather: (240) 673-7773 or
heather@cwrfamilylaw.com
Meg: (301) 656-1177 or
mrosan@bulmandunie.com

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

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

MEETING DATES

May 6, 2026

Meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 12:30p.m. via Zoom, unless

otherwise noted. The link will be distributed through the listserv.

DISTRICT COURT BENCH BAR COMMITTEE

Richard London, Co-Chair
David Moyse, Co-Chair

MEETING DATES

May 20, 2026 June 17, 2026
Meetings will be held at 8:00a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

FAMILY LAW SECTION

Mary R. Likos, Co-Chair
Makia Weaver, Co-Chair

We hope you are enjoying this Spring weather! We want to hear from you about how we can support you and your practice of family law. We encourage you to continue to contact us with your feedback, thoughts and requests for programming. We will share comments (with your permission) and will do our best to accommodate your programming requests. Please address all comments, questions, or concerns to either of us at:

maweaver@lerchearly.com
mrlikos@lerchearly.com

As a reminder, Family Law Section Meetings will take place on the third Thursday of each month through May 2026. Each meeting is approximately 1 hour long and will take

place at 5:30 pm unless otherwise noted. All presentations/meetings will take place via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent through the listserv prior to the meeting.

We have our last section meeting for this Bar year coming up on May 21st. We hope you can join us for a phenomenal finale presentation!

2025-2026 Section Meetings

• **Thursday, May 21, 2026:** Presentation by **Laura Kane** and **Kerrie LaRosa** on **parenting coordinators and parent coaches, and how they can be helpful to family law attorneys in standard custody cases and high conflict custody cases.**

CLE's

The Family Law Section's CLE Chair, Inna Loring, is working on family law CLEs for the remainder of this year, and the upcoming year. If you have any CLE ideas or suggestions, please contact Inna Loring directly (innaloring@gmail.com).

We are working on organizing CLEs on the following topics in the summer and fall 2026:

- Immigration Issues Affecting Custody Cases
- Child in Need of Assistance (CINA): An Overview From All Sides
- Monetary Awards
- Parental Relocation
- Destitute Adult Children
- Client Competence

Stay tuned for dates/times and speaker information.

IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION

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

We welcome webinar proposals and contributing speakers from the community. Please email benjamin.hu@bhulaw.com if you have a requested topic or if you would like to present in any area of immigration law to your fellow BAMC legal colleagues.

(Continued on page 15)

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(Continued from page 11)

LAW FIRM MANAGEMENT SECTION

Donna Rismiller, Co-Chair
Amy Strent, Co-Chair

MEETING DATES

May 21, 2026 Sept. 17, 2026
June 18, 2026 Oct. 15, 2026
July 16, 2026 Nov. 19, 2026
Aug. 20, 2026 Dec. 17, 2026
Meetings will be held at 8:00
a.m. via Zoom.

LAWYER ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

Bill Hewitt, Co-Chair
Alisha Jacobson, Co-Chair

MEETING DATES

May 13, 2026
Meetings will be held on the
2nd Wednesday of the month
at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

LEGAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

David Gavin, Co-Chair
Lydia Lawless, Co-Chair
Seth Zucker, Co-Chair

MEETING DATES

May 21, 2026 June 18, 2026
Meetings will be held at
4:30p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of
the month via Zoom.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Joshua R. Chazen, Chair

I request that all BAMC Section Chairs kindly designate liaisons to the Legislative Committee to ensure that the legislative requests of the various sections are addressed.

If there is appropriate support from BAMC, the Legislation Committee will approach members of the Maryland General Assembly and request that a bill addressing that issue be introduced.

Please contact me directly at jchazen@oag.state.md.us with the information of your section's liaison.

MENTOR/MENTEE COMMITTEE

Carlotta Woodward, Chair

Mentor-Mentee relationships often are the most influential professional associations we can have in our careers, with both mentor and mentee learning and benefiting from each other by providing invaluable advice on our work-related, and sometimes even our personal challenges and opportunities.

If you have practiced for more than seven years, please sign up to be a mentor. If you are looking for a mentor, please sign up as well. Mentees will learn from the best and the information and guidance can last a lifetime. Matched individuals will be notified so that you can make introductions.

Please complete the appropriate application (found on the Mentor/Mentee Committee page of the BAMC website).

NEW PRACTITIONER SECTION

Katelyn Holbrook, Co-Chair
Niall McMillan, Co-Chair

If you have any ideas for events, please feel free to reach out to us at:

keholbrook@lercheearly.com
niall.mcmillan@offitkurman.com

TAXATION LAW SECTION

Chaya Kundra, Chair

MEETING DATES

May 26, 2026
Meetings will be held at Noon on the 4th Tuesday of the month via Teams and in person at Kundra Tax Law Offices, located at 108 S Washington St., Rockville, MD 20850.

At our meeting on **May 26th**, our topic will be **The Future of Tax Practice: AI, Compliance Technology and Practitioner Ethics** and we will talk about IRS adoption of AI in enforcement; Tools for managing complex client data and Ethical lines when technology meets tax law.

The IRS' 2026 Dirty Dozen: 12 key scams to watch for...

This year's list includes abusive undistributed long-term capital gains claims and the continuation of increases in overstated or fabricated claims tied to Form 2439, Notice to Shareholder of Undistributed Long-Term Capital Gains. Also added to the list for this year is IRS impersonation by email and text, AI-enabled IRS impersonation by phone, and misleading tax advice on social media...

1. IRS impersonation by email and text (phishing + smishing).

Scammers send emails, direct messages (DMs), and texts that appear to be from the IRS, often using alarming language and QR codes that direct taxpayers to fake IRS websites to "verify" accounts, enter personal information, or claim refunds.

2. AI-enabled IRS impersonation by phone (robocalls, voice mimicry, spoofed caller ID).

Phone scams continue to evolve, including calls that use computer-generated tactics and spoofed caller ID to appear legitimate.

3. Fake charities. Fraudsters often exploit tragedies and disasters by creating fake charities to collect donations and personal information.

4. Misleading tax advice on social media. Viral "tax hacks" can push taxpayers to file returns with false information or claim credits they don't qualify for, leading to refund delays, audits, penalties, or worse.

5. Identity theft involving IRS Online Account access.

Taxpayers should create their account directly through irs.gov and not rely on unsolicited third parties offering assistance.

6. Abusive undistributed long-term capital gains claims.

Identified schemes involve overstated or fabricated Form 2439 claims, including claims tied to organizations that are not legitimate investment funds or real estate trusts.

7. Bogus "Self-Employment

Tax Credit" promotion. The IRS reminds taxpayers to rely on trusted sources and qualified tax professionals, instead of and not social media promotions, when determining eligibility for credits.

8. Ghost preparers. A "ghost" preparer prepares a return but refuses to sign it and/or refuses to include a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN).

9. Non-cash charitable contribution schemes. Some schemes involve inflated appraisals of donated property using syndicated conservation easements or art.

10. Overstated withholding schemes (fabricated wage/withholding data). Scammers encourage taxpayers to inflate withholding amounts (sometimes as "other withholding") to manufacture a larger refund by reporting little to no income on incorrect forms.

11. Spear-phishing and malware campaigns targeting tax professionals. Tax professionals and businesses remain targets of "new client" or "document request" emails that deliver malicious links or attachments to steal client data or access systems.

12. Aggressive or misleading Offer in Compromise marketing ("OIC mills"). While the OIC program may help eligible taxpayers resolve tax debt when full payment is not possible, "OIC mills" often overpromise results and charge high fees to taxpayers who don't qualify.

Protecting yourself & what to do if you get a suspicious message or call

- Don't click unexpected links or open unexpected attachments.
- Hang up.
- To report suspected IRS-related phishing emails or messages, send them to phishing@irs.gov and follow IRS reporting instructions.
- If you think your tax identity has been compromised, visit irs.gov/idtheft for steps to protect your account and recover.

Cyberattacks on Law Firms Are Rising Here's What's Driving It

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

Law firms have always been attractive targets for cyberattacks. That part is not new. What is new is the pace, scale, and success rate of those attacks.

According to a recent annual data security report highlighted by FindLaw, attacks on law firms are not only ongoing but also increasing. In some categories, incidents nearly doubled year over year, primarily driven by ransomware campaigns that show no signs of slowing down. The report clearly indicates that law firms are firmly in the crosshairs.

This is no longer solely a concern for the tech department; it has become a business risk and, more recently, a legal ethics issue as well.

THE ATTACK SURFACE IS EXPANDING

The FindLaw report explains how attackers gain access, and it's not usually very clever. Phishing remains one of the main ways breaches happen. Third-party vendors are also a big weak spot, involved in about a quarter of incidents. In other words, attackers aren't breaking down the front door. They're walking right in because someone clicked a link or a vendor relationship created a direct way in. This should change how companies view cybersecurity. It's not about just defending the perimeter. It's about human behavior, managing vendors, and internal controls.

RANSOMWARE HAS BECOME A BUSINESS MODEL

Once inside, attackers usually act openly by stealing data, encrypting systems, and demanding payment – sometimes all three. The report highlights how expensive this has become. Average ransom demands have risen above \$4 million, a significant jump from the previous

year, while actual payments are still averaging in the hundreds of thousands. Add in the costs of forensic investigations, downtime, regulatory notifications, and reputation damage, and the financial impact quickly adds up. This is no longer a random crime; it's a structured business model, with law firms being prime targets due to the data they hold and the urgency to regain access.

THE AI FACTOR MAKES IT WORSE

The report also notes that attackers are increasingly using artificial intelligence to scale and enhance the effectiveness of their campaigns. Phishing emails are more convincing, social engineering is more targeted, and attacks can be spread across organizations with minimal effort.

At the same time, companies are creating their own risks with what the report calls shadow AI. Employees using unauthorized AI tools might accidentally expose sensitive information or open new vulnerabilities in company systems. This results in a dual-risk environment, where AI is both a tool that attackers can exploit and a liability for the company when used without proper oversight.

As an example, don't ask AI how to open a port in an XYZ firewall running 123 version of the software. You've then potentially exposed a security technology used at your firm.

WHY THIS IS A LEGAL PROBLEM

Law firms are different from other businesses. They manage confidential client information, data, litigation strategies, and privileged communications. When that data is compromised, the fallout extends beyond just operational issues.

The report emphasizes the downstream implications, including breach-notification obligations, potential contractual breaches, and ethical duties related to confidentiality. Additionally, client expectations are rising. Clients expect their law firms to safeguard sensitive information. When that expectation is not met, the consequences go beyond financial loss. They can damage reputation and, in some cases, pose an existential threat.

THE REAL ISSUE IS NOT TECHNOLOGY

It's easy to see this as just a technology problem. Upgrade the firewall. Add another security tool. Run another scan. But that misses the point.

The report emphasizes what many in the industry already understand. Most breaches are not caused by sophisticated attacks but by basic failures. These include unpatched systems, poor credential management, lack of user training, and weak vendor oversight.

These are governance failures, not technical limitations.

WHAT FIRMS SHOULD ACTUALLY BE DOING

If attacks are increasing and becoming more costly, responses cannot be incremental. Firms need to concentrate on fundamentals.

First, strengthen user awareness and phishing defenses. Your greatest vulnerability remains your people.

Second, strengthen vendor risk management. If a third party can access your systems, they are part of your security posture, whether you like it or not.

Third, implement a real incident response plan. Not just a document that sits on a shelf, but a proven process that can be executed under pressure.

Fourth, control the use of AI tools within the organization. Unauthorized experimentation with sensitive data isn't innovation; it's a risk.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Cyberattacks on law firms are here to stay. The report makes that clear. The real question isn't whether firms will be targeted, but whether they are prepared. The harsh truth is that many are not.

And when a breach occurs, it won't be blamed on the hacker. Instead, it will be blamed on the firm that didn't take the risk seriously enough.

That is no longer a technology failure; it's a leadership failure.

Michael C. Maschke is the President and Chief Executive Officer of 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.

Sharon D. Nelson is the co-founder of and consultant to 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 the co-founder of and consultant to Sensei Enterprises, Inc. He holds multiple technical certifications and is a nationally known digital forensics expert. He is a co-author of 18 books published by the American Bar Association. jsimek@senseient.com.

Why Successful Employers Understand That Empathy is Actually a Superpower

By Marc R. Engel, Esq.

“Empathy” has been defined in various ways including the following: “the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another.” *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*.

Empathy tends to get a “bad rap” in the workplace. Too often the term is used to deride employers as undisciplined, old fashioned, and “clueless” about things which, critics assert, are key to business success; namely, metrics, profit margins, and realization rates. In my experience, however, truly successful employers – ones that have established a lasting culture with engaged employees – understand that while business metrics undeniably have their place, there is no real substitute for employers and leaders who understand and practice authentic empathy.

As my friend and acclaimed business consultant and author, Dr. Alan Gregerman¹, has written about so eloquently, employees are increasingly seeking more from employment than simply a paycheck. They seek meaningful work, appreciation, grace, a sense of belonging, and work that provides a purpose.

So what, then, does empathy look like? To be sure, it is not the absence of workplace policies, procedures, and practices. But it is the consistent treatment and application of policies, procedures, and practices that have a clear and necessary purpose. Sound and effective policies and authentic empathy can co-exist in the workplace -- both concepts can (and should) be true at the same time.

At its core, empathy is a mindset – a commitment by leaders to view employees individually; and to manifest concern

not only about their career development, but also their personal well-being. The essence of the importance of empathy in the workplace was captured in a podcast which I heard years ago. A well-known corporate executive was asked about business success and, specifically, the most important attributes of business success. I fully expected that the executive would launch into a diatribe about business school virtues, emphasizing things like profitability and return on investment, and that the only things that really matter are those that can be quantified. Instead, I heard the leader say something that caused me to pull over to the side of the road. He described a meeting which he had with a long-time non-managerial employee at one of his companies who was on the verge of retiring. The executive asked the employee how he had enjoyed his time at the company. The employee responded by saying that the company kept his attention each and every time they issued him a paycheck over the past thirty years. He added that the company could have captured his heart and soul if it had inquired about his well-being, his family, whether he enjoyed his job, and whether there was anything more that the company could have done to make his experience better.

Examples of authentic empathy abound and are actually endless, and can include among other things the following:

- Meeting with employees at the outset of employment to learn about their professional career goals;
- Creating professional growth opportunities at work, and effectively communicating them to employees;

- Creating strong mentoring programs which include the input of employees;

- Providing opportunities (anonymous or otherwise) for employees to evaluate the organization without fear of retaliation;

- Training managers on effective communication strategies, including the best and most effective ways to communicate feedback to employees;

- Training managers on the real reasons – the “pushes” and “pulls” - that cause employees to quit.

- Conducting meaningful employee exit surveys to learn why employees leave (and, in turn, obtain actionable feedback that can improve retention);

- “Walking the talk”. That is, insisting that managers act in a manner which aligns with the organization’s communicated core values;

- Treating “younger” employees, who are trying hard to navigate the work world, with grace and appropriate patience; and

- Treating “older” employees with the respect they deserve, and valuing and celebrating the wisdom, experience, and other attributes they bring to the workplace.

Inspired leaders of successful organizations understand that empathy in the workplace is not an unaffordable, amorphous luxury, but rather an es-

sential “superpower” -- one that distinguishes them in ways big and small; results in improved hiring; enhances and fortifies retention; mitigates litigation risk; and, ultimately, translates to the bottom line.

Marc R. Engel is a shareholder at Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chartered where he is a member of the firm’s Employment and Labor Group and Litigation Group. Among other things, Marc works with clients on establishing best practices for hiring, performance management, preventing and handling employment separations, improving retention, and avoiding employment and litigation claims. He can be reached at (301) 657-0184 and by email at mrengel@lerchearly.com. For more information about the firm, please visit our website at www.lerchearly.com. **This article is not intended to provide legal advice, including legal advice as to any specific matter.**

¹Dr. Alan Gregerman is an acclaimed author, speaker, consultant, entrepreneur, and consultant. His best-selling books include *Surrounded by Geniuses*; *The Necessity of Strangers*; and *Lessons from the Sandbox*. More information about Alan and his company, Venture Works, can be found at www.venture-works.com and www.alangregerman.com. Alan can also be reached directly by sending him an email at innovate@venture-works.com.

If you have an open position at your firm, you can view resumes or post an ad to the Career Center section of our BAMC website at jobs.barmont.org/.

PRO BONO PROGRAM

By Debbie Craven,
Program Coordinator

As we step into May 2026, the demand for pro bono legal expertise has never been higher, particularly as new regulatory shifts begin to take hold. Whether you are a seasoned partner or a rising associate, your unique skill set can bridge the justice gap for those navigating an increasingly complex legal landscape.

We know your schedule is demanding, which is why we've designed volunteer roles that fit into your life, not the other way around. Whether you prefer the fast pace of a brief advice clinic or the deep dive of full representation, there's an opportunity here that aligns with your expertise and your calendar. You'll never go in alone, as we provide all the training and resources necessary to ensure you feel confident and supported. Even a few hours of your time can change the trajectory of someone's life.

Pro bono work provides a meaningful path for professional and personal growth. Do you have a passion to help others? Many of our volunteers find that these cases provide the most fulfilling moments of their year, offering a renewed sense of purpose that carries back into their regular practice. It's more than just service; it's a chance to grow, collaborate, and remember exactly why you became a lawyer.

To learn more about current opportunities or to get involved, please contact the Pro Bono Program today. Together, we can make justice accessible for all.

The most recent sessions for the Rita Rosenkrantz Family Law Training is now available. For information about the sessions held on November 12 and 19, 2025, please use the following link: <https://barmont.org/store/viewproduct.aspx?id=26666901>.

The Pro Bono Resource Center (PBRC) also offers FREE LEGAL TRAINING to attorneys in exchange for a pro bono commitment in several areas. Custody, Guardianship & Obtain-

Cheers to our Volunteers! We extend our heartfelt thanks to the outstanding attorneys who generously contributed their time, dedication, and expertise through March.

Adkins, Brian
Alapati, Nanda
Bedoya, Emily
Canto, Jose+
Chimah, Bernadette+
DeNobile, Kathleen+
Faerberg, David
Jeffers, Matthew
Koh, Debra+*
Koh Friedman, Patricia+
Lewis, John

Njogu, Regina
O'Grady, Max
Price, Daryl+
Rausch, Colette*
Razaghi, Kiyanoush*
Terenzini, Eden+
Thabit, Yahya+
Umeh, Kaosy+
Walker, Beatrice+
Washington, Juan+

*Accepted more than one case
+Supervising Attorney

ing SIJS (Special Immigration Juvenile Status), Bankruptcy, and Immigration Legal Triage, and Estate Planning Basics for Low-Income Clients. These are just a few trainings offered. Check the PBRC website, www.probonomd.org, for details.

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 with a cap of 35 hours per case. (\$4,200.00). **You must have a minimum of 18 months of family law experience.**

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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

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND (APABA-MD)

Marianne Hendricks,
Board of Directors

Last chance to join us for our **Annual Gala** — All In for the Next Generation! This awesome casino night is scheduled for May 13, 2026 at VisArts in Rockville. For more details and to register, please visit www.apaba-md.com/store/p/2026-gala-1-w5nnp-5kbc5.

Visit apaba-md.com/ for more information about our organization and events.

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE BAR ASSOCIATION, Montgomery County Committee

Raynna Anyangwe, Co-Chair
Sara Furlow, 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, May 2, 2026** at 9:30 a.m. at the BAMC building. For more information, you may contact either Co-Chair, Raynna Nkwanyuo Anyangwe or Sara E. Furlow 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 on **May 21, 2026** at 6:30 p.m. at Vista Gardens Community Room, 10401 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway, Bowie, MD 20720. This will be the Association's Annual Meeting and elections will be held. For more information, you may contact President Emeka Onwezi at president@bournebar.org.

J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's New Admittees Reception will take place on **Saturday, May 16, 2026** at 2:00 p.m. All attorneys newly admitted to the Maryland Bar are encouraged to attend. Register on Eventbrite for location information.

J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's Men Who Cook will take place on **Saturday, May 23, 2026** at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Register on Eventbrite for location information.

J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's Juneteenth Celebration will take place on **Friday, June 19, 2026** at 2:00 p.m. This event is free for dues paying members and \$40 for non-members. Register on Eventbrite for location information.

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



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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

New Year, New Office, New Beginnings...

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- 5 reserved parking spaces
- Onsite building management
- Secure building with alarm system
- Individual heating and A/C units
- Plenty of windows offering great natural light
- Complimentary use of the BAMC Boardroom and Lower Level Classroom and Conference Room
- Close to shopping and dining at Rockville Town Square

For More Information:
Wanda A. Calvin Claiborne, Executive Director
Wanda@BarAssociationMC.org

The deadline for the newsletter is always the 3rd Friday of the month for the following months' issue.

WANTED

~

SPANISH SPEAKING ATTORNEYS FOR THE BAMC LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

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



BA MC
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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS, VISIT

barmont.org/events/event_list.asp

RENT/LEASE

GAITHERSBURG — For sale or lease, Law Office Building with 14 space parking lot on corner of S. Frederick Ave (Rte. 355) and Summit Ave. For more information: Allenlawfirm@aol.com or Loopnet/Costar website.

ROCKVILLE — 401 North Washington Street, Suite 500, Rockville, MD 20850 -- Great group of collegial attorneys in great suite. Class A building with gym, bike storage and newly refurbished lobby with large meeting spaces available at no additional cost. Up to 5 bright, windowed attorney offices and up to 3 paralegal/secretarial bays in attractive, fully equipped modern 15 Attorney law office suite. Perfect for solos or small firms desiring big firm amenities. Furnishings available if needed. Rent includes use of 3 conference rooms plus the large building lobby meeting spaces; law library; waiting room for clients; kitchen; high-speed Internet; and, networked high-volume copier/printer/scanner/fax machines. Free outdoor parking for your clients; \$50 fee for monthly indoor garage parking—including 10 free electric plug-in stations for EVs. Short walking distance to courthouses and Metro. We will consider fee sharing "Of Counsel" arrangements in lieu of rent. We will also consider "virtual office" arrangements as well if you do not need a physical office of your own every day but just need a mailing address and access to conference rooms for client meetings and depositions, etc. Contact Barry at 301-251-6200.

ROCKVILLE — Professional office in Jackson Place South Office Park, in front of Montgomery College on Route 355. One or two offices or an entire suite is available. Use of conference room and wi-fi. Perfect for small firm or solo practice. CPA-Tax Attorney across the hall for professional networking. Contact Alan Zipp, (301) 340-0084, 932 Hungerford Drive, Suite 13, Rockville, MD 20850.

ROCKVILLE — Two windowed offices for rent at reasonable rates situated in a small building located at 216 North Adams Street, just blocks away from Circuit and District Courts in Rockville. The office space includes the use of large reception area, conference room and kitchen, as well as access to copier, fax and internet. Use of telephones is also an option. More than adequate free parking available. Call Ben Klopman at 301-424-0677 or email at baklaw@aol.com.

ROCKVILLE — Up to 3 spacious window offices for rent in newly-built-out suite on top floor of 6-floor office building next to the Rockville Metro. 2 conference rooms in our suite and other much larger ones free to use in the building. Full kitchen and spacious client waiting area. Free indoor garage parking. Free use of exercise room and showers in the building. Short walk to Circuit and District Courts. Call 301-251-1600 or email christine@bienstocklegal.com.

SILVER SPRING — Small office available in White Oak area of Silver Spring — 2 Window Offices; Conference Room; Reception Area; A Bathroom. \$1,500.00 per month, Includes Heating and Air Conditioning. Contact: Robert E. Richards at 301-593-6220 or bobrichards@rrands.com.

ATTORNEY OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANT BAR COUNSEL II — The Office of Bar Counsel is seeking applicants for an Assistant Bar Counsel II. This attorney reviews and analyzes complaints; directs the investigations of allegations of professional misconduct or incapacity; presents complaints to Peer Review Panels; represents the Commission at trial in Circuit Courts throughout the State and before the Supreme Court of Maryland; and performs other duties as directed by Bar Counsel. The position carries a substantial caseload and

state-wide travel is required. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of five years of legal experience in the Maryland Bar. This position requires trial experience and the ability to present evidence and examine witnesses effectively, excellent legal writing skills, and knowledge of Maryland civil procedure and discovery rules. Salary Range: \$110,078 to \$129,946. Medical and retirement benefits. Email cover letter, resume, recent writing sample, and a list of three references to nancyarocque@agc.maryland.gov by close of business on Friday, May 8, 2026. The Attorney Grievance Commission is an equal opportunity employer, committed to diversity in the workplace.

ASSOCIATE — Family Law — Roberts Family Law, LLC is an emerging family law firm that is committed to its employees' career development and happiness. We are seeking a smart, hard-working, and self-motivated attorney who will enjoy working on high-level, complex family law matters and who thrives in a team environment. The firm's practice includes representation of clients in all aspect of family law cases involving divorce, custody, property, support, post-judgment issues, adoptions, and domestic violence matters. We employ a multi-faceted approach to resolve issues, including traditional negotiation and litigation, mediation, collaborative law, and arbitration. Our office is located in Rockville, MD, but this is a hybrid position that allows for remote work. Compensation is commensurate with experience. Benefits include health insurance and 401(k). An ideal applicant should be barred in Maryland and have at least two years of practice in the area of family law.

ASSOCIATE — Trusts and Estates — Hamelburg Law, LLC, a small, collegial law firm located in the Woodmont Triangle area of Bethesda, Maryland is seeking an associate with at least 4-5 years of experience in

trusts and estates. We are looking for someone with a level of expertise to handle sophisticated estate planning, oversee administration of trusts, and lead probate proceedings from initial filing to final distribution. Candidates must have empathy and patience as you will be working with people at their most vulnerable. In addition to trusts and estates, our firm has a broad mix of business law and commercial real estate matters; experience in one or both of those areas would be a plus. You also must be licensed in Maryland. The position is in-office, and full-time or part-time would be possible, depending on the candidate. Please email your resume and cover letter to Debbie@HamelburgLawLLC.com with "Associate Position" followed by your full name in the "Subject" line on the email. To learn more about our firm visit <https://hamelburglawllc.com/>. Inquiries will be kept confidential.

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

WELCOME NEW BAMC MEMBERS

Jason B. Abbott

1301 McCormick Dr., 4th Floor
Largo, MD 20774
jabbott29@gmail.com

A. Steven Bagheri

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
sbagheri@shulmanrogers.com

Alexander Castelli

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
acastelli@shulmanrogers.com

Daniel Connors

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
dconnors@shulmanrogers.com

Seth Diamond

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
sdiamond@shulmanrogers.com

Vikki Farrah

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
vfarrah@shulmanrogers.com

Kali Fields

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
kfields@shulmanrogers.com

Preston Heck

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
pheck@shulmanrogers.com

Teal Hinga

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
thinga@shulmanrogers.com

Nancy Kuhn

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
nkuhn@shulmanrogers.com

Brynn Reese

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
breese@shulmanrogers.com

Alejandra Rojas

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
arojas@shulmanrogers.com

Kimberly Skiba-Rokosky

12505 Park Potomac Ave., 6th Floor
Potomac, MD 20854
krokosky@shulmanrogers.com

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Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Center3
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Steno 9
<https://steno.com/>

SCAMS ARE ON THE RISE...

- REMINDER -

Leadership and Staff will never send emails (or call) asking you to purchase gift cards, confirm your credit card number or for other odd requests.

For more information on how you can recognize and protect yourself from phishing scams, click to visit the Federal Trade Commission website

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-avoid-phishing-scams>

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CLE Programs Available to Fit Your Schedule!

Click to view the current CLE video catalog:
<https://barmont.org/page/CLESeminarRecordings>

requirement, and references to christine@bienstocklegal.com.

ATTORNEYS — The Maryland Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has various openings

for attorneys. Please visit us at <https://mdagcareers.ttcportals.com/search/category/attorneys/jobs> for the complete list of openings.

Helping Opportunities

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 Brooke Sisson at brooke.sisson@mdcourts.gov.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the newsletter is always the 3rd Friday of the month for the following months' issue.

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

STATE'S ATTORNEY OFFICE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT SCHEDULE: MAY 2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	4	5	6	7	8
RV-411	CR Salamin/Toscano (T-Warren)	CR Johnson/Wallace		CR Boyer (backup Saballos Prado)/Pappas	CR Toscano (T-Warren)/Saballos Prado
RV-412				MHC – Mooney	CLOSED
RV-413	Tr. – Boyer (backup Tripp)	AM Tr. – Pappas		Tr. – Toscano (T-Warren)	Tr. – Wallace
RV-414	Tr. – Wallace	AM Tr. – Salamin		CLOSED	
RV-612	CLOSED	Comp – Mooney DUI PM – Warren		CLOSED	DV – Jones/Varunok
SS-301	Tr. - Wage	AM Tr. – Risch		AM/PM Tr. – Flanagan	
SS-402	CR Risch/Pappas	CR Saballos Prado/Wage		CR Risch/Salamin	CR Flanagan/Wage
8:30 Dkt	Adcock	Halmi (T-Tripp)	Adcock	Halmi (T-Adcock)	Halmi (T-Adcock)
WEEK 2	11	12	13	14	15
RV-411	CR Mikkelsen/Wallace	CR Johnson/Risch		CR Wallace/Saballos Prado	CR Pappas/Warren
RV-412				MHC – Mooney	CLOSED
RV-413	Tr. – Salamin	AM Tr. – Toscano (T-Rogers)		Tr. – Warren	Tr. – Mikkelsen
RV-414	Tr. – Pappas	AM Tr. – Saballos Prado		CLOSED	
RV-514					Expungements – Halmi (T-Tripp)
RV-612	CLOSED	Comp – Mooney DUI PM – Tucker		CLOSED	DV – Jones/Varunok
SS-301	Tr. - Boyer	AM Tr. – Burman		AM/PM Tr. – Wage	
SS-402	CR Burman/Tucker	CR Boyer/Wage		CR Flanagan/Toscano (T-Rogers)	CR Boyer/Salamin
8:30 Dkt	Halmi (T-Tripp)	Adcock	Halmi (T-Tripp)	Halmi (T-Tripp)	Adcock
WEEK 3	18	19	20	21	22
RV-411	CR Mikkelsen/Rogers	CR Tucker/Pappas		CR Saballos Prado/Tucker	CR Salamin/Mikkelsen
RV-412				MHC – Mooney	CLOSED
RV-413	Tr. – Risch	CLOSED		Tr. – Wallace	Tr. – Boyer
RV-414	CLOSED	AM Tr. – Boyer		CLOSED	
RV-612	CLOSED	Comp – Mooney DUI PM – Warren		CLOSED	DV – Jones/Varunok
SS-301	Tr. - Wage	AM Tr. – Flanagan		AM/PM Tr. – Burman	
SS-402	CR Burman/Flanagan	CR Salamin/Toscano		CR Wage/Risch	CR Toscano/Pappas
8:30 Dkt	Adcock	Halmi	Warren	Warren	Warren
WEEK 4	25	26	27	28	29
RV-411		CR Tucker/Mikkelsen		CR Saballos Prado/Rogers	CR Pappas/Risch
RV-412				MHC – Mooney	CLOSED
RV-413		AM Tr. – Toscano		Tr. – Wallace	Tr. – Tucker
RV-414		AM Tr. – Pappas		CLOSED	
RV-612	HOLIDAY MEMORIAL DAY	Comp – Mooney DUI PM – Warren		CLOSED	DV – Jones/Varunok
SS-301		AM Tr. – Risch		AM/PM Tr. – Mikkelsen	
SS-402		CR Burman/Wage		CR Boyer/Salamin	CR Toscano/Wage
8:30 Dkt		Adcock	Halmi	Adcock	Adcock

4/27/26

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

Circuit Court

2026		Criminal	Civil	Duty	Motions	Family	FamDuty	General	CINA	Juvenile	Admin	Drug Court	MH Court	EAP Duty
	May													
5/4/26	4th-10th	Fogleman CM McCullough PT	Berry Burrell Hessler McGuckian	McAuliffe	Ayres	Chernosky Cho Leibowitz McQueen Schweitzer Smith Dietrich Del Pino	Dumais	Acosta Dwyer Lease Maloney	Fairfax	Cummins	<i>Bonifant</i>	Rupp	Ryon	Lease
5/11/26	11th-17th	Acosta CM Lease PT	Ayres Berry Hessler McGuckian	Burrell	Chernosky	Cho Dumais	McCullough	Dwyer Fogleman Maloney	Smith	Cummins	<i>Bonifant</i>	GRAD	Fogleman	District
5/18/26	18th-24th	Lease CM Fogleman PT	Ayres Berry Burrell Hessler McGuckian	5/18-5/21-Maloney 5/22-Leibowitz	McCullough	Chernosky Dumais Leibowitz McAuliffe McQueen Schweitzer Smith Del Pino Cho	Dietrich 5/18-5/19-McAuliffe	Acosta Dwyer Maloney	Fairfax	Cummins	<i>Bonifant</i>	Dwyer	Ryon	Deitrich
5/25/26	25th-31st Hol. 5/25	Dwyer CM Fogleman PT	Berry Burrell Hessler McGuckian	Maloney	Fairfax	Chernosky Cho Dumais Leibowitz McAuliffe McQueen Schweitzer Dietrich Del Pino	Ayres 5/28-Leibowitz	Acosta Lease McCullough	Smith	Cummins	<i>Bonifant</i>	McAuliffe	Fogleman	McQueen

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

-NOTICE-

The District Court Judges' schedule is no longer being included in the newsletter.

DID YOU MISS A PREVIOUS CLE?



View Available Seminar Recordings:

<https://barmont.org/page/CLESeminarRecordings>

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 Balqees at 301-340-2534 for information | **ZOOM** - Remotely

MAY				JUNE			
13	5:30PM	Zoom	Bar Foundation CLE Committee Meeting	3	8:00AM	Zoom	Circuit Court Bench Bar Committee Meeting
	5:30PM	Zoom	Lawyer Assistance Committee Meeting	4	6:00PM		~ Bar Leaders Dinner ~
15	10:00AM	CLR	Judicial Selections Panel Committee (Applicant Interviews & Finalization Meeting) - District Court	10	5:30PM	Zoom	Bar Foundation CLE Committee Meeting ~ MSBA 2026 Legal Summit & Annual Meeting ~
18	5:00PM	Zoom	Budget Committee Meeting	10-12			
19	Noon	Zoom	ADR-Collaborative Law Section Meeting	11	5:30PM	CLE	CLE: Immigration Law
	5:30PM	CLE	CLE: Collateral Consequences & Defense Strategies for Military-Connected Clients	17	8:00AM	Zoom	District Court Bench Bar Committee Meeting
20	8:00AM	Zoom	District Court Bench Bar Committee Meeting	18	8:00AM	Zoom	Law Firm Management Section Meeting
21	8:00AM	Zoom	Law Firm Management Section Meeting		4:30PM	Zoom	Legal Ethics Committee Meeting
	9:00AM	CLR	Judicial Selections Panel Committee (Applicant Interviews & Finalization Meeting) - Appellate Court (At Large)				
	4:30PM	Zoom	Legal Ethics Committee Meeting				
25		~ Holiday	~ BAMC/BFMC Offices Closed ~				
26	Noon	C/S	Taxation Law Section Meeting				

LEGAL SUMMIT
MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
JUNE 10-12, 2026 · OCEAN CITY, MD

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<https://web.cvent.com/event/10c6ae07-1d5a-40ad-b75a-d4041c13b991/summary>

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Use the BAMC Member Discount Code for a **\$50.00 Discount - BAMC26**

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.