



June Newsletter



Issue 6 | 2023 | The Bar Association of Frederick County, MD

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 24, 2023

BAFC Annual Picnic
Lewistown Social Hall
5-8p

DECEMBER 14, 2023

BAFC Annual Holiday Party
Union Mills Public House
5-8p

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The Bar Association of
Frederick County, MD, Inc.
PO Box 3099
Frederick MD 21705-3088
240-285-9660 phone
info@frederickbar.org
www.frederickbar.org

2023 OFFICERS

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Maegan Cooper

THE NEWSLETTER

The Bar Association of Frederick County, MD, Inc. newsletter is published monthly. Articles and information to be included in the newsletter must be submitted in written or electronic format by the 25th of the month preceding publication month.

Classified and display advertising are available at a modest cost. Go to www.frederickbar.org for information.

Additional information regarding lunch sponsorships are available at www.frederickbar.org.

President's Message

Summer is upon us, but events keep coming with the Bar Association of Frederick County: Tuesday, the 6th brings our next Bar Luncheon; Friday the 16th brings the annual baseball game at Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium with before game picnic hosted by McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC; and the Young Lawyers' Section's Summer Bash at the Fourth Dimension will be on June 29.

Thank you to everyone that assisted with and attended the Dinner with Judges and Magistrates on May 18. It was great to have this event return after four years. In addition to enjoying the company of fellow members of the Bench and Bar several members of the Bar Association were recognized for their dedication: Janice Rockwell received the James McSherry Memorial Award, William Poffenbarger received the W. Jerome Offutt Award, and Blaine Hoffman received the Gordon M. Cooley Pro Bono Service Award, posthumously.

At the time of its founding in 1923, the members of the Bar Association drafted and adopted a Constitution and Code of Ethics. By 1929 a bound copy of the Constitution, By-Laws, Minimum Fee Schedule, and Canons of Ethics, became available. Article II of the Constitution was entitled, "Object," and read: "The Association was formed to advance the science of jurisprudence, to promote reform in the law, to facilitate the administration of justice, to uphold the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, to encourage legal education and to cultivate a spirit of cordiality and brotherhood among the members of the Bar." These ideas are good to keep in mind as we go about our daily work.

Any member of the legal profession of Frederick County wanting to join the Bar Association could do so prior to March 31, 1923 by simply signing the Constitution and Code of Ethics and paying the admission fee of One Dollar. Following March 31, 1923, the process we still employ today was followed: nominations are made to the President and reported to the Executive Committee, which examines the nomination and makes a recommendation to the larger Association at the next regular meeting. The members of the Association then vote on the nomination.

I hope everyone has a great Summer – and do not forget to mark your calendars for August 24th for the annual Golf Tournament at Musket Ridge Golf Club and the Summer Picnic at the Lewistown Social Club.

Tim Price, President.



Member Spotlight

Denise Hicks Brown is a member of the **Heartly House Development Committee** and was asked to speak at their **Annual Heart to Heart Donor Appreciation Breakfast**. The theme of this year's breakfast was **Connect & Thrive** and Denise's remarks, both about her time at Heartly House and now as a trauma informed family law practitioner, highlighted the value of connecting with community and how the work of good advocates can allow victims to thrive and become survivors.



Section Updates

Young Lawyers Section

The Young Lawyers Section is hosting a **Summer Bash** at Fourth Dimension Fun Center on **June 29th at 5:30p.** Tickets are \$15 each with children 12 and under being free. Tickets include bowling, pizza, and a drink ticket. Registration can be found on our website and deadline to register is **June 22nd**.

For more information about the Young Lawyers Section, please contact them by email at bafcylys@gmail.com.



Family Law Section

Thank you to everyone that came out to the Family Law Section Meet & Greet with Frederick's new Family Services Administrator, Laura Hiser. on **Thursday, May 11th, at 5pm** at Frederick Social.

For more information about the Family Law Section, please contact Carin Golze at Carin@WinikLaw.com.

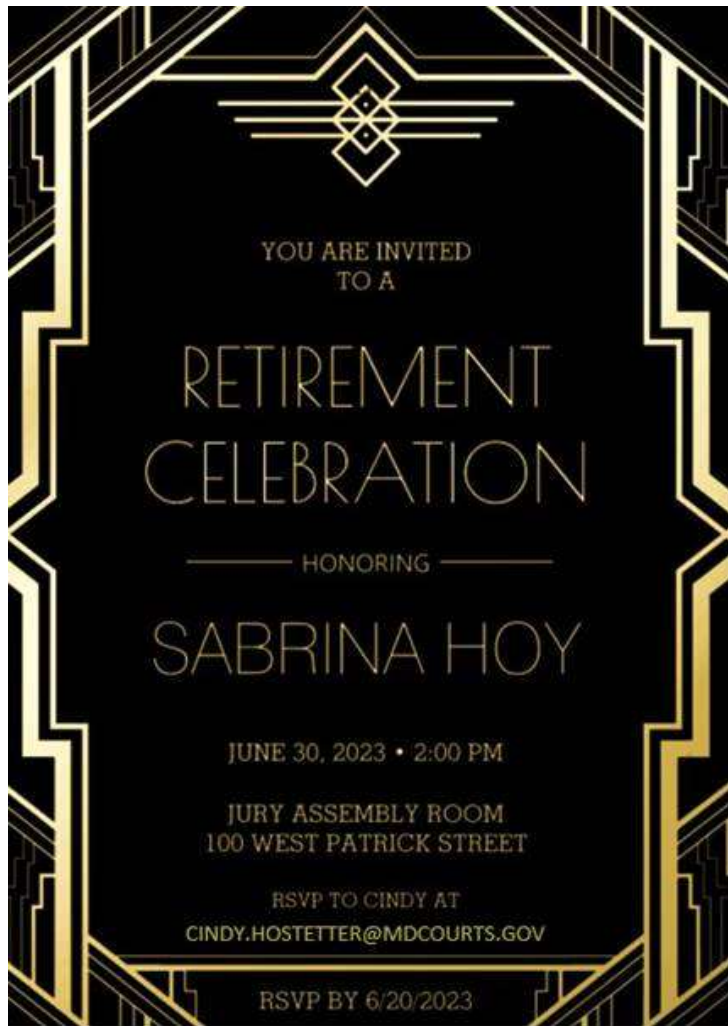


Dates to Remember

- **June 6, 12p: BAFC Monthly Luncheon Meeting.** Delaplaine Arts Center. Speakers: Maria Herrera, Spanish Speaking Community Center of Maryland and BAFC members Devin Luqman and Amanda Sentelle. Our sponsor will be Woodsboro Bank.
- **June 16, 7p: BAFC Friends & Family Night at the Frederick Keys.** Picnic hosted by McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC will start at 5pm. **Deadline to register June 1st!**
- **June 29, 5:30p: YLS Summer Bash.** Fourth Dimension Fun Center. **Deadline to register is June 22nd.**
- **August 1, 12p: BAFC Monthly Luncheon Meeting.** Delaplaine Arts Center. Speaker: Heartly House. Our sponsor is the McCammon Group.
- **August 24 BAFC Annual Golf Tournament.** Musket Ridge Golf Course. 9:30a start. Cost will be \$67 per golfer. *Registration coming soon!*
- **August 24, 5-8p: BAFC Annual Picnic.** Lewistown Social Hall. *Registration coming soon!*



From the Courthouse



WE INVITE YOU TO ADD YOUR
FAREWELL WISHES FOR SABRINA
TO OUR MESSAGE BOARD AT:

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/AFKzcXdq>



THE BOARD WILL REMAIN OPEN
UNTIL 5:00 PM ON FRI, JUNE 2, 2023



Please join the festivities on June 30 from 2:00 – 4:00 in the Jury Assembly Room to celebrate Sabrina’s well-deserved retirement after 31 years with the Judiciary!

Click on the link below to add to Sabrina’s Kudoboard – you can add content until Friday, June 2 at 5:00 pm. Add photos, memories, your well wishes...

We will present Sabrina with a printed book of the Kudoboard memories on June 30.

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/AFKzcXdq>

Recent Events

Law Day

After a 4-year hiatus, Law Day was back in our Frederick Senior Centers on May 1, 2023. With the coordination help of Maryland Legal Aid, 48 seniors were served across 4 centers (Brunswick, Emmitsburg, Frederick and Urbana). Sixteen attorneys from Maryland Legal Aid and the BAFC helped participating seniors create Advance Medical Directives, ensuring that their wishes will be carried out in the event of disability.

We'd like to send a **THANK YOU** to the following BAFC attorneys who volunteered their time: *Elizabeth Stup, Tom Lynch, Detric Kemp, Lorraine Prete, Patrick McLister, Stephen Slater, Tim Price, Carin Golze, Sean O'Keefe, Cris LoVetro, and Peter Fitzpatrick.*

A special **THANK YOU** to BAFC members and Maryland Legal Aid Attorneys **Michele Hansen and Nina Shore** who helped coordinate the effort.

The courthouse also celebrated Law Day for the first time since 2019 by inviting career and technology center and Frederick County public school students to hear remarks from judges and BAFC officers as well as sit in on live court proceedings. **Thank you to BAFC President Tim Price, President-Elect Carla Clarke, and our local Frederick County judges from the circuit and district courts** who participated in the day's events. Also, special thank you to **Magistrate Joanie Raymond** for organizing the event and, of course, taking photos.



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Andrew Jezic

- Top 10 MD Lawyers, Superlawyers, 2022 and 2023
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Published West co-author, *Maryland Law of Confessions*
- Dozens of acquittals in felony jury trials

David Moyse

- Washingtonian Best Lawyers, 2017-2022
- Superlawyers Best Lawyers, Maryland, 2014-2023
- Chair, Montgomery County Criminal Law Section
- Handled 50+ jury trials

Tamara Jezic

- Washingtonian Best Lawyers, 2015-2022
- Harvard Law School
- Lectured around the U.S. on asylum law to immigration lawyers
- Several precedent-setting 4th Circuit wins

Himedes Chicas

- Washingtonian Best Lawyers, 2017-2022
- Maryland Federal Public Defender's on-call expert consultant
- Several precedent-setting BIA and Fourth Circuit decisions

*Each case is different; prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

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MSBA Connections Event in Frederick

Thank you to all those that came out to the MSBA Connections Event on May 8th at Brewer's Alley. It was fun to get together and network with MSBA leaders as well as potential BAFC members.



Registration Ends June 1st!



Jessica Markham
Attorney at Law



Leslie Miller
Attorney at Law

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A Bar Association of Frederick County Special Event



**BAFC Friends & Family
Night at the Frederick Keys**

Friday, June 16th

*Game starts at 7p.m.

*5p.m. Pre-game picnic sponsored by



McNees

Plus **FIREWORKS** after the game!



Dinner with the Judges and Magistrates

On the evening of May 18th over 100 BAFC members, their guests and judges from surrounding counties as well as a few from the Appellate Court of Maryland gathered for an evening of laughter and good conversation.

The event opened with appetizers and drinks and then a welcome from BAFC President Tim Price. President Price explained that the evening's tables were named for the decades since we've been founded, starting with the 1920s. (This created much laughter amongst the judges and magistrates in attendance who were assigned tables. Some thought maybe the table they were seated was the decade they were born, the decade they graduated law school or the decade they became a judge. Thank you to Mimi Teahan for coming up with this suggestion that set the mood for the evening!)

A seated dinner was served and crab cakes were even more popular than the planning committee imagined, with over half the attendees choosing this as their main dish. After dishes had been cleared and any leftovers were packaged up, dessert was served. This was when the 2023 BAFC Annual Awards were presented (see next article to find out who won!). The introductions to the awards were as unique as the individuals receiving them and the in-person presentation really added to the celebratory atmosphere of the event that everyone has been longing for since the last time we held the dinner in October of 2019.

We look forward to continuing this tradition in the **Fall of 2024**. Keep an eye out and save the date!





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BAFC Annual Awards

With the return of the annual Judges Dinner it only seemed fitting that we used the event to return to the in-person presentation of the BAFC Annual Awards. Read below to find out more about the members recognized.

Magistrate Julie Minner opened the award presentation by presenting the **W. Jerome Offutt Award** to **Bill Poffenbarger**. This award recognizes a member who has contributed to the advancement of professionalism and civility in the practice of law in Frederick County. “Poff”, as he is known, has maintained a criminal law practice in Frederick for over 30 years. A practice like his, and the respect he enjoys, does not happen without maintaining the respect of the people he represents, the court, prosecutors, law enforcement and other attorneys. He unfailingly reciprocates respect for all involved in the process and has distinguished himself over these many years as knowing the law cold. He is not stingy about sharing his knowledge and answering everyone’s questions; he shares his knowledge with anyone who asks. Some fun personal facts that Magistrate Minner shared with the audience: getting beat up pretty badly by a bull has not kept him from coming to court, he once caught a bat with his bare hands on the third floor of the courthouse and walked it outside and released it, and he has never once worn a winter coat to court.



April Dixon presented the **James McSherry Memorial Award** to **Janice Rockwell**. This award recognizes a member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Bar Association of Frederick County. Janice’s seemingly endless energy and desire to bring entertainment to events gave new life to the Holiday Party in 2018 by introducing the karaoke contest. Janice served as BAFC President during the height of the pandemic. She managed to think outside the box in continuing to bring our membership together. Despite the inability to meet in person, she kept a sense of joy and inclusivity in the face of the pandemic. The virtual holiday party and the community service gleaning activity at First Fruit Farms are just two examples of the many engaging events she helped coordinate during the pandemic. Janice’s service to the Bar did not end after her tenure on the executive committee. She continues to prioritize the bar association by attending monthly luncheons, networking and educational events, including the Young Lawyer events, and serving on committees.



The award presentations concluded with Jennifer Dayton presenting the **Gordon M. Cooley Pro Bono Service Award** to **Blaine Hoffmann**, posthumously. Jennifer was honored to present the award to Blaine’s parents, Ken and Anne Hoffmann, who were in attendance. In her presentation, Jennifer shared the memory of when her friend “Baltimore Blaine” told her he was thinking of moving to Frederick. Growing up in Frederick, Jennifer shared that she decided this was exactly what her hometown needed. Blaine began his work as Legal Director with Heartly House in April of 2007. His work went beyond protective orders and custody hearings. Blaine always took a holistic approach in assisting clients, making sure they had what they needed to be safe and thriving even after their work with Heartly House was concluded. Blaine was respected by the Frederick Judiciary, courthouse staff, and Bar Association. As one nominee stated through legal services to survivors and their children, Blaine dedicated his life to the betterment of his community.



Articles of Interest

BAFC PRACTITIONERS OF THE BAR: Mary Ann Stepler

An occasional series of profiles of former Frederick County attorneys

By: Tom Slater, BAFC Historian

I first heard the name Mary Ann Stepler in 1980 when I was serving as an intern in Fred Bower's office on Church Street. I started teaching in Frederick County in 1966 and, after about ten years of teaching, I decided to go to law school. Fred and I had both been elected to the Democratic State Central Committee in 1974 and 1978 (he was first elected in 1970) and had become good friends, and I discovered that I could earn three credits at the University of Baltimore by interning in a lawyer's office. Fred graciously allowed me to intern for him (at no pay) during the summer of 1980. Fred was also president of the Bar Association of Frederick County at that time and District Court Judge William Wenner had just been appointed to the Circuit Court, leaving a vacancy in the District Court. William Wenner had been appointed to succeed Byron Thompson on the District Court. As was customary then and continues to be the practice, a survey was made of Frederick County attorneys to determine whom they thought should be appointed to fill the vacancy. Fred asked me to tabulate the results of the survey. William Haugh came out on top, closely followed by Mary Ann Stepler, far ahead of others including Mary Storm and Cleopatra Campbell. Fred sent me over to the courthouse (now City Hall) to meet with the lawyers on the local judicial selection committee to report to them the results of the survey. My recollection is that they were some of the "old bulls" of the bar. I don't clearly remember all who were on the committee, but Ed Nikirk, Manny Weinberg, and Jerry Offutt come to mind. Well, they really did not like that a school teacher had tabulated the results and insisted that the surveys be sent to the accounting firm associated with Donald Linton so that the results could be tabulated by a CPA. Of course Linton's firm sent to the BAFC a hefty bill for their work and, no surprise, the results were the same as my calculations. I discovered during that process that Mary Ann Stepler was well-respected by her peers. She was subsequently appointed by Governor Hughes to the District Court. It was time. She was the first female to be appointed to the bench west of Montgomery County.

Mary Ann was born in York, Pennsylvania, attended Waynesboro, Pennsylvania public schools, and received a BA degree from American University in 1967. When she was twenty years old, she married Howard Stepler, a lawyer in Frederick County. Howard and Mary Ann were the parents of two boys, Howard III and Robert. In 1974, she graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law, cum laude. For the seven years after graduating from American University and before being admitted to the bar, Mary Ann worked as a reporter for the Morning Herald in Hagerstown and the Montgomery Sentinel. After she was admitted to the bar, she started the practice of law with Howard, and Stepler and Stepler was formed. She discovered that she enjoyed and was proficient at litigation. Apparently, State's Attorney Robert Rothenhoefer appreciated her litigation skills because he hired her to be a part-time Assistant State's Attorney for Frederick County in 1974. She eventually became the Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the State's Attorney's office in 1977 and served in that capacity until appointed to the District Court in 1980.



Her time on the District Court was not without controversy. The District Court was created by an amendment to the Maryland Constitution and came into existence on July 5, 1971. Governor Mandel appointed the first two judges to serve on the District Court in Frederick County, Byron W. Thompson and Stanley Y. Bennett. Thompson was a seasoned attorney who had previously been an appointed trial magistrate in Frederick County. Bennett, like Thompson, had also been a trial magistrate. He had been appointed as a trial magistrate in 1960, the same year he was admitted to the bar when he was 25 years old. That appointment and his appointment to the District Court in 1971 raised some eyebrows in the legal community, and it was thought that the appointments had much to do with the fact that his father, Alton Y. Bennett, also a lawyer and at one time a trial magistrate, was the undisputed leader of the Democratic Party in Frederick County, with influence in the Maryland political community.

When District Court Judge Wenner was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1980, there was some friction between Wenner and his fellow District Court Judge Bennett. Bennett had sought the Circuit Court appointment and Wenner had indicated that he would defer to Bennett as to the appointment, but when Bennett did not get the recommendation of the Trial Courts Judicial Selection Committee, Wenner put his name in for the position and was appointed. Subsequently in 1982, when Wenner ran for election to a 15 year term on the Circuit Court, Bennett filed in both party primaries to run against Wenner. A hotly-contested primary election battle ensued.

In April of 1982, Judge Stepler found Randy Marion Demaris guilty of a traffic offense. According to the Maryland Court of Appeals (In re Formal Inquiry Concerning Judge Stanley Y. Bennett, Misc. Judicial Disabilities No. 1, Sept. Term 1984 Court of Appeals of Maryland November 26, 1984) shortly after Demaris was found guilty, Marion “Pus” Rice asked Judge Bennett to look into a traffic conviction that his grandson (Randy Marion Demaris) had incurred. “Pus” Rice was known as a strong supporter of Alton Bennett and his son, Stanley. In June 1982, Judge Stepler was informed that an Exception Report to her disposition in the Demaris case had been filed with her signature on it despite the fact that she had not filed nor signed such a report. Judge Stepler reported this event, and eventually a grand jury was called into special session. The Attorney Grievance Commission conducted an investigation, and Judge Bennett was removed from the bench, and he lost his license to practice law. Before all of this controversy was concluded but after some rumors were circulating, Wenner handily defeated Bennett in both the Republican (4,116 to 2,273) and Democratic (6,695 to 4,177) primary elections.

In 1986 Judge Stepler again replaced Judge Wenner when he was appointed to the Court of Special Appeals and she was appointed by Governor Hughes to the Circuit Court for Frederick County. She served on the Circuit Court until she retired on September 30, 2003. In 1988 Jim Respass challenged her election to a 15-year term on the Circuit Court but Judge Stepler defeated Respass in the Republican primary (5,373 to 1,170) and the Democratic primary (8,113 to 1,388)

In order to understand more about Judge Stepler, I have talked to some of her closest friends and associates, who shall remain nameless. Universally, they remember her for her kindness, her love of jewelry, her skill as a trial attorney, her ability to settle cases, and her deficiencies behind the wheel of a car. Those who worked with her remember her kindness. When hearing that some young children did not have many toys to play with, she brought some of her children’s old toys for the parent to have. When she sentenced convicted criminals to long sentences she did it with such kindness in her voice that sometimes they thanked her. It was said that her husband, Howard, when she told him that she was putting her name in to be a judge, objected because he wanted her to handle the firm’s trial work. She loved her jewelry, especially glimmering bracelets and was always impeccably dressed. When she was a trial attorney, she remarked that she sometimes wore shiny jewelry to get the attention of the jury. One time, her boys buried most of her jewelry when they were playing pirates and she was in a panic. When she was in the Circuit Court, “steplerizing” became a noun. To be steplerized was to be strongly encouraged to settle a case. I was in the Circuit Court judge’s chambers one time when I overheard Judge Stepler offer to an assistant State’s Attorney and a public



defender to decide the disposition of a juvenile matter by drawing straws. Judge Dwyer also overheard the conversation and said “Mary Ann you can’t do that,” and she said “Oh, I was just kidding.” But was she? During one of the MSBA annual meetings in Ocean City, Mary Ann decided to sign up for the members’ golf tournament although she had never played golf before. I was in a foursome with Jan Ambrose, Judge Stepler, and my teenage son, Mark. Stepler was “dressed to the nines” in a brand new golf outfit and had brand-new golf equipment. As Jan said many years later, “It was a hoot!” I doubt if Mary Ann ever played golf again. Judge Stepler was a night-owl and often stayed up until early morning, which consequently often caused her to be sleepy in the afternoon. Occasionally she would nod off while on the bench in the afternoon. She instructed her clerks that if they ever noticed her nodding off, they should bring her a soda with lots of caffeine. There are stories about her driving ability, or lack thereof. She apparently had trouble with speed, curves and paying attention to the road while talking to her passengers. Back when the District Court held remote hearings in Thurmont and Brunswick, Judge Stepler would insist on driving her clerks and bailiff’s to either Brunswick or Thurmont and the clerks and bailiffs would fight one another to see who could get the back seat so they would not have to ride up front with Judge Stepler because it was too scary. Unbeknownst to a lot of lawyers, Judge Stepler had lots of out-of-court interests, including collecting vintage buttons, glassware, antiques, pop-up books and “Alice in Wonderland” books. She also was an accomplished musician and artist who played violin with the Greenspring Valley Orchestra from Stevenson University. In addition, she was known for her great sense of humor. Mary Ann Stepler was a role model for young female attorneys in Frederick County and many attorneys, male and female, have fond memories of her. She died on December 11, 2014 at the age of 72. Howard Stepler predeceased her on October 9, 2006.

HELP WANTED

Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Attorney’s Office is currently seeking an Assistant / Senior Assistant County Attorney. This professional position will assist in providing legal advice and representation to Frederick County officials and employees and County boards, commissions, divisions and agencies. As needed, this position will represent the County in litigation in which the County is a party or in which the County is involved including civil code enforcement. There is considerable contact with high-level County officials for the purpose of providing legal services and advice. Direction may be given to support staff; supervision is received from the County Attorney. Additional information may be found at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/frederickmd/jobs/4024628/assistant-senior-assistant-county-attorney>

Entry Level Personal Injury Attorney and Law Clerk Positions

Firm with excellent reputation in personal injury and workers’ compensation, is seeking candidates to help grow litigation and appellate departments. With offices in Montgomery, Baltimore and Frederick Counties, we are open to entry level attorneys, recent graduates, or 3rd Year law students. We have full-time and part-time positions depending on license status in Maryland. Strong writing skills are a MUST. Looking for team players who are driven and want to make a difference in their communities. Position will provide a substantial amount of hands-on litigation experience. Please submit cover letter, resume and writing sample to: Human Resources, 481 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 300, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 or email recruiting@bsglaw.com. EOE



Family Law Attorney Wanted

Paré & Associates, LLC is currently seeking an **Associate Attorney - Family Law**. The ideal candidate will have a **minimum of 2 years of family law experience** – including divorce, child custody, alimony, and protective orders. Main office located in Germantown. Hybrid remote work available. Pay commensurate with experience plus bonus and full benefits. Email resumes and cover letter to frontdesk@alicelaw.com. No phone calls please.

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Are You Looking for a Paralegal?

If you are in need of a paralegal, Dr. Tracy Parker, Program Manager for Frederick Community College's Paralegal Program, may be able to help. You can reach Dr. Parker at : 301-624-2819, TParker@frederick.edu. To find out more about FCC's Paralegal program visit:

<https://www.frederick.edu/programs/business/paralegal.aspx>

Willing to Take a Pro Bono Case?

The Pro Bono Resource Center has a website called Statewide Opportunities (www.probonomd.org/statewide-opportunities) that shows users a database of pro bono service opportunities, trainings, public interest jobs, etc. around the state. The database can be filtered by county, as well as by specific types of opportunities. For example if you [click here](#), you will see only those opportunities that exist in Frederick County, OR that are statewide, remote, or online

Requesting Article Submissions

Maryland's premier journal of legal scholarship, the University of Baltimore *Law Forum*, invites the submission of unsolicited manuscripts for its Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 issues of Volume 54. Submissions may include previously unpublished articles, essays, case notes, or comments concerning any aspect of Maryland law or legal issues impacting Maryland.

The University of Baltimore *Law Forum* intends to publish "Articles" typically around 20-25 pages and long-form "Essays" ranging between 8-12 pages, but submissions of all kinds are welcome and encouraged. For our Fall publication, Issue I, we seek abstract submissions by **June 16, 2023**.

All electronic submissions may be submitted directly to ublforum@ubalt.edu.

Submissions should include the following:

1. An abstract of the Article or Essay.
2. Current curriculum vitae with author contact information.
3. If available, a manuscript containing proper footnotes that comply with the standards set forth in The Bluebook (21st Edition).

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. You may send us an email at anastacia.topaltzas@ubalt.edu or yakira.greenn@ubalt.edu. We look forward to reviewing submissions from Frederick County Bar Association members.

