



December Newsletter

Issue 12 | 2023 | The Bar Association of Frederick County, MD

SAVE THE DATE

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

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Past President

The Hon. Dino E. Flores, Jr.,
301-600-2005

ASSOCIATION OFFICE

Executive Director

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 - Thankful

My immediate family (wife Alison and three sons) has Thanksgiving Dinner with my wife's sister's family, and other neighbors or friends that may join from time to time. My sister-in-law's family lives only six doors away, so the commute is pretty short.

As many of you do, there is always some type of expression of being thankful. There is no requirement to participate, and clearly some people do not give a lot of thought to the exercise (I am thinking of my 14 year old nephew here), but this year, my sister-in-law bought a number of small "Thankful for You" cards. The invitation was to write why you are thankful for a specific person, a group, or maybe a couple like your mom and dad. My sons are 27, 27, and 24, while my sister-in-laws' children are 18, 14, 10, and 10, so as you can imagine the wide variety of the thoughts provided. However, from the thoughts of the youngest up through those of the parents, there were themes. Upon reflection, the themes are not surprising, but truly refreshing. All age groups noted individuals being fun, kind, understanding, supportive, loving, nice, great at giving hugs, and having a great sense of humor. Reading all of the notes led me to think more fully about my own blessings and reasons to be thankful, to see the world through younger eyes, and to come out the other side even more thankful.

Stepping outside the exercise, I want to say I am thankful for the members of this Bar Association, their support, camaraderie, willingness to volunteer, willingness to mentor, and the high level of professionalism demonstrated each day. I am also thankful for Maegan Cooper, the Bar Association's Executive Director. Maegan makes serving on the Executive Committee an enjoyable exercise. Her institutional knowledge and ability to stay one step ahead (okay, not so hard with me), helps this organization be the envy of many attorneys throughout the state.

Thinking back to the Thanksgiving exercise, I am thankful to be reminded that the best things in life are not things

Tim Price, President.



Member Updates

Recently, **N. Jay Malik** parted with the Montero Law Group and decided to hang a shingle, **opening Malik Law Firm LLC**. The practice concentrates on white-collar defense, business formation, and immigration. Mr. Malik can be reached at 202-670-3590. The firm's webpage is www.maliklawfirmllc.com.

On November 1st, **Magistrate Joanie Raymond** was on a panel at University of Baltimore Law School for the Family Law Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association. The program's title was "So, You Want to be a Family Law Attorney?". Thank you, Magistrate Raymond, for representing Frederick and encouraging the next generation of attorneys.



2024 Dues are due January 1st.

Many things can be done at once:

- Pay membership dues
- Pay section dues
- Pre-pay for 2024 lunches and receive a discount
- Donate to the CINA Holiday Drive and/or Justice for All Fund

Renew today at
www.frederickbar.org.



BAFC



Basket Auction to Benefit CINA

This Holiday Season we are asking for donations of baskets to be auctioned off at our Holiday Party. Read below for more.

- Submit a basket solo, with a colleague, or as a firm. Help from family & friends of BAFC members is encouraged.
- Baskets can be made, bought, or a combination.
- Baskets must fit one of the themes: Holiday, 1920s, Great Gatsby.
- When dropping off your basket please include a contents list and an approximate value. (This will help with bidding.)
- All baskets are due by Monday, December 11th at 5p at the Ethridge Quinn Kemp Rowan & Hartinger Office (100 N. Court Street, Downtown Frederick).
- Baskets will be auctioned off at the BAFC Holiday Party on December 14th, 5-8p at Union Mills Public House.
- Questions? Contact Maegan at info@frederickbar.org or 240-285-9660.



Benjamin J. Cardin Distinguished Service Award Winner

By: Magistrate Joanie Raymond Brubaker

On November 16, 2023, **Joanna Armentrout Shapiro** was honored with the **Benjamin J. Cardin Distinguished Service award** by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation. Joanna was nominated locally and a group of local lawyers traveled to historic Westminster Hall in Baltimore to watch Joanna receive her award. The Benjamin J. Cardin award is given to an outstanding public interest lawyer whose career has been dedicated to providing, promoting or managing civil legal services to low-income Marylanders. Past recipients from Frederick County are Nina Shore in 2019 and Blaine Hoffmann in 2016.

Joanna, assisted by Dave Pantzer, created the Maryland Custody and Divorce Client Notebook – an organizational device for litigants to use, ideally with the help of an attorney (or attorneys) from a self-help center, a legal help organization, or a private law firm. The Notebook also provides a step-by-step guide to court procedure so the litigant can help their lawyer and keep costs down. Joanna worked tirelessly developing and running the Frederick County Family Law Self Help Center. She met regularly with litigants, giving them tasks to complete while helping them find a lo-bono or limited scope lawyer. She worked with local lawyers to try to do some of the heavy lifting of discovery and issue development with litigants. The Notebook was developed to keep litigants organized. If a litigant proved unable to secure representation, Joanna prepared litigants to present their own case to the Court. The entire process empowered litigants and helped them control their cases. Other Self Help centers were trained on and began using the Notebook system, which developed into a physical case management tool that helps attorneys and clients work together to narrow the issues in a case, helps the client to record facts and gather information, and helps an attorney deliver limited scope service within a standardized framework.

When the pandemic shut down the courthouse, Joanna shifted seamlessly to a virtual clinic, “meeting” with litigants over zoom or similar platforms. Just since the pandemic, Joanna and her assistant, Eva Street, handled 21,000 text messages, and 17,000 zoom calls just between the two of them, providing invaluable advice and assistance to those who would otherwise not be assisted. Joanna did the work of several attorneys throughout her tenure at the Family Self Help Center.



Section and Committee Update

Elder, Disability and Guardianship Law Section

The next **Elder, Disability, and Guardianship Law Section Meeting** will be on **Thursday, December 7th at Noon** at Brewer's Alley. Michael Powell, Esquire will be joining to speak about being an Orphans' Court Judge. He will share what brought him to run for Frederick County's Orphans' Court and what common, fixable problems he has seen during his term thus far.

For more information about the Elder, Disability and Guardianship Law Section contact the chair, Lorraine M. B. Prete at lprete@kandplawfirm.com.

Family Law Section

The next **Family Law Section's** will be **IN PERSON On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at noon in Circuit Courtroom #1**. Judge Sandy will be discussing best practices when 1) filing for ex-parte relief and 2) filing for a best interest attorney. The new changes to the grounds for divorce portions of the Family Law Statute are in full effect now.

The **Family Law Section's Holiday Party** will be on **Thursday, December 21st at 5pm**. Location: TBD. As always, food, drink, and merriment will be provided.

For more information about the Family Law Section, please contact Carin Golze.

Young Lawyers Section

It is that time of year again! The **Young Lawyers Section** is partnering with FCPS to sponsor an area family for the holidays (mother and daughter this year). Below is a link to a sign-up which includes needs and clothing sizes. Please drop off your unwrapped gift items (or gift cards) on or before **December 13, 2023** to Powell, LLC, 19 N. Court Street, Suite 201, Frederick, Maryland 21701. If you would like to make a cash contribution toward a mountain bike for the daughter, please contact Clark Adams (cadams@powell-llc.com).

The gift sign-up can be found here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAAA928A5FAC70-46165607-2023>.

For more information on the Young Lawyers Section, contact a YLS board member at bafcyys@gmail.com.

Pro Bono Committee

The Frederick Center will host free legal clinics quarterly that will offer brief advice to the LGBTQ+ community. Upcoming Clinic Dates for **2024** are: **January 11, April 11, July 11, and October 10**. If you would like to volunteer for future clinics, please contact Trevor Addie-Carter at taddiecarter@hormannichols.com.

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Dates to Remember

- **December 5, 12p: BAFC Monthly Luncheon Meeting.** Delaplaine Arts Center. Our speaker will be Will Smith, Chair of the Judiciary Committee. Our sponsor is ACNB.
- **December 7, 12p: Elder, Disability, and Guardianship Law Section Meeting.** Brewer's Alley. Speaker: Michael Powell, Orphans' Court Judge.
- **December 11, 5p: Deadline for CINA Basket Auction.** *See flyer on page 4.*
- **December 13, 12p: Family Law Section Meeting.** Circuit Courtroom 1.
- **December 13: YLS Gift Drive deadline.** *See details on page 6.*
- **December 14, 5-8p: BAFC Annual Holiday Party.** Union Mills Public House. *RSVP due December 7th.*
- **December 21, 5p: Family Law Section Holiday Party.** Location: TBD.
- **January 2, 12p: BAFC Monthly Luncheon Meeting.** Delaplaine Arts Center. Our speaker will be Frederick City Mayor, Michael O'Connor. Our sponsor will be Norberg Wealth Management.
- **February 5, 9a: Opening Term of Court.** Circuit Courtroom 1.
- **February 6, 12p: BAFC Annual Meeting.** Delaplaine Arts Center. We will have a judges panel from our Frederick County courts. Our sponsor will be Planet Depos. *Watch your email on how to submit questions.*

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Now that the written comment period has closed on the final report and recommendation of the Workgroup to Study Mandatory Continuing Legal Education ("MCLE") in Maryland, the Court will hold an online forum to receive brief, verbal comments on the report and the recommendation. The forum will take place on **Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.** and will be live streamed on the Court's [webpage](#).

Anyone wishing to make a verbal comment regarding the recommendation to implement mandatory CLE should, no later than close of business on **December 11**, send an email to at CLEfeedback@mdcourts.gov requesting information on how to join the online forum.

For information on the report and recommendations, please go to www.mdcourts.gov/lawyers/cle.



Recent Events

Annual BAFC Thanksgiving Dinner with the Salvation Army

Thank You to all who donated and volunteered for the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner with the Salvation Army on November 21st. Together we packed up or served **575 meals** for the residents of Frederick. Major Angela English expressed her heartfelt thanks to the bar association for making this event happen year after year. Thank You to Marshall Horman for always organizing and assisting in this long-standing tradition.



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Civics and Law Academy

By: Magistrate Joanie Raymond Brubaker

93 youth from across Maryland traveled to attend this year's Civics and Law Academy held on November 11, 2023 at Frederick High School. Students attended not only from all 10 Frederick County High Schools, but also Carroll, St. Mary's, Prince George's, Carroll, Charles, Howard and Washington Counties. As in prior years, there was a Civics track and a Mock Trial track. The Civics/Law sessions included Chelsea Kadish's Issues of Speech; Unplugged- Legal issues surround internet use presented by Teresa Bean; Criminal Law Practice & Processes, an interactive session with ASA Michael Moore, Frederick Chief of Police Jason Lando and former OPD Alex Hutt where students learned real life lessons; and Careers in law learning about alternative legal paths with FCPS' Michelle Dauksha, Hood's Maura Page, P&P Lisa Wilson and David Brooks, MA-LCADC.



Mock Trial sessions included: Bookending your Case - Opening Statement led by attorneys Detric Kemp and Devin Luqman; Bookending your Case - Closing Statement with attorneys Ian Bartman and Paul Flynn; the Art of the Cross Examination presented by lawyers Trevor Addie-Carter and Jacob Craven; and Constructing Direct Examination with counsel Richard Winters and Will Sasse. This event is co-sponsored annually by Frederick County Public Schools and the Bar Association of Frederick County. The event was planned by Colleen Bernard, EdD, Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Specialist, Magistrate Joanie Raymond Brubaker, Judge Theresa M. Adams, Michelle Dauksha, Ian Bartman, and Teresa Bean. Presenters and planners donated hours of time planning for and participating in the sessions to benefit mock trial students sharpening their skills and students who want to learn more about the law and becoming more involved in civics, government and law.



Judge Solt's Retirement

The Bar Association of Frederick County was honored to assist in celebrating with colleagues, friends, and family members of the Honorable Julie Stevenson Solt on her retirement from Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court of Frederick County. Over 150 guests gathered at Union Mills Public House on November 9th to celebrate, Bar Association President, Tim Price, presented a certificate to Judge Solt commemorating a donation made by numerous members of the BAFC to the Frederick County Drug Treatment Court that was made in her honor and of which she was a founding member. Many of her former law clerks were present and played a special video for the crowd. A favorite moment was when Judge Theresa Adams gifted her a blown-up photo from their earlier “working girl” days. Thank you to all who attended and helped celebrate Judge Solt’s 25 years on the bench,



INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Networking Group

If you are interested in joining a local networking group to build your practice, the local LeTip Chapter has several open categories for Lawyer members. The group was established in 2016, has 27 current members, and pass about \$1 Mil in business within the group annually.

See the flyer below about an upcoming event below. Anyone interested is welcome to attend! If you have questions about the group or the event, contact BAFC member, Laura Duncan at (240) 409-6108 or



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.