



January Newsletter



Issue 1 | 2024 | The Bar Association of Frederick County, MD

SAVE THE DATE

February 5, 2024

Opening Term of Court
Union Circuit Courtroom 1
9a

February 6, 2024

BAFC Annual Meeting
Delaplaine Arts Center
12p

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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

Happy New Year!

Having been born in deep Southwest Georgia and raised in an Atlanta suburb, I grew up with a number of Southern traditions. One of my favorites, is traditional food associated with New Year's: cornbread, black eyed peas, greens, and pork. The purpose or tradition is not necessarily hard to guess. Black-eyed peas can represent coins while greens (traditionally collard greens) represent paper money. However, black eyed peas also represent luck and prosperity, and legend has it black eyed peas were eaten on January 1, 1863, the day the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect. Peas were eaten in part because there was not much else available. Supposedly, the Northern troops did not think black eyed peas were worthy of being eaten. Of further interest, black-eyed peas are a traditional food, amongst some, for eating on Rosh Hashanah (the New Year).

Whether you guessed it or not, cornbread is gold, and also represents wealth. One of my grandmother's sisters put corn kernels in her New Year's cornbread, representing gold nuggets.

My favorite though is the pork. For a number of years, I understood pork was consumed, because a pig cannot look backwards and thus pork is to remind us to not be burdened by our faults and errors, but to look forward. This idea has some detractors. A different idea is that when pigs root, they are constantly moving forward, unlike chickens and turkeys who "scratch" backwards. Eating pork is thus to seek progress.

There are many dishes associated with pork and New Year's, like pork and sauerkraut or Hoppin' John, the latter of which is a more traditional Southern dish. We ate Hoppin' John in my family, but my grandparents were just as likely to put a big spoonful of lard in the peas and cook a pork roast separately. Today, I typically take an Italian slant on Hoppin' John, using Italian sausage as the pork ingredient and deleting the rice as it takes up too much room in my stomach.

No matter your culinary delight of the New Year, it does us good to take a few minutes, before moving forward, to take a look backward at the year that was: remember all the great things that happened in our lives; remember the family, friends, and loved ones who reminded us what makes living life great; remember those we may have lost to keep their memories alive; and to learn lessons from the year that will help us as we move forward into a new year. Here is hoping each of you move forward into the New Year with a great appreciation for those dear to you, an appreciation for your numerous blessings of 2023, and a fresh mind and determination for 2024.

Happy New Year!

Tim Price, President.



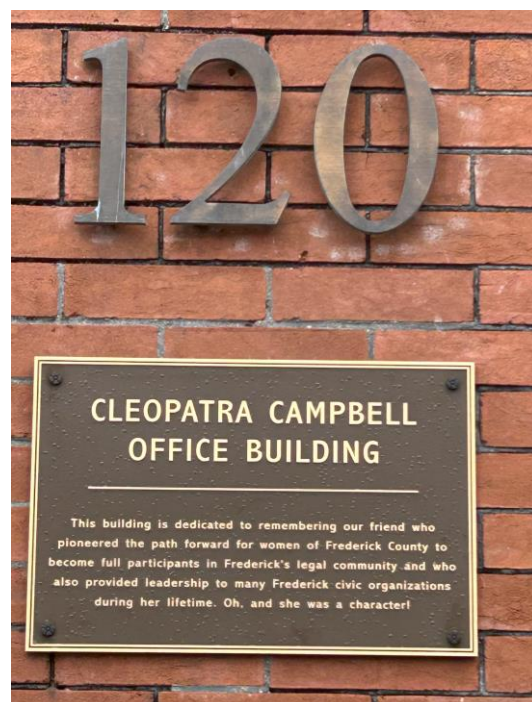
Member Updates

BAFC member, **Tom Slater**, is retiring effective **December 31, 2023**. **Slater & Slater, P.C.** are hosting an open house to celebrate Tom's retirement at their office at 129 W. Patrick St., Suite 9 from 5-8 pm on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. **All are welcome.** Congratulations Tom!



Walter C. (Clay) Martz II, a lifelong Frederick resident, has been a practicing attorney since he obtained his J.D. from the University of Richmond, J.D. and was admitted to the Bar in 1978. He joined the Maryland Tax Court in 1980. He served as Chief Judge of the Maryland Tax Court as appointed by the Governor. Tax Court judges are appointed for 6-year terms and Clay's current tax court term was to expire in 2026; however, **Clay recently retired** prior to the end of his recent term. He was honored upon his retirement and **the Maryland Tax Court has named a courtroom in his honor**. There will now be a Martz Courtroom at the Maryland State Tax Court. Please congratulate Clay on this great and well-deserved honor when you next see him.

On Monday, December 18th several members of the bar association along with family and friends of **The Honorable Cleopatra Campbell** attended a **plaque dedication**. You may recall that Judge Campbell owned and practiced law in the building located at **120 W. Church St., Frederick**. Mr. Harry Rosenstock, the current owner, generously arranged for a plaque dedicated to her memory to be placed on the building. If you get the chance, please go by and see it for yourself!



Section and Committee Update

Elder, Disability and Guardianship Law Section

The next **Elder, Disability, and Guardianship Law Section Meeting** will be on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 12:00p**, at JoJo's Restaurant. Gabriela Vasco, Realtor, Realty Advantage, will be speaking about selling homes in guardianship cases. Gabriela also happens to be Robert McCarty's paralegal so she is very experienced in guardianship cases.

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

- **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.
- **January 9, 12p: Elder, Disability and Guardianship Law Section Meeting.** JoJo's Restaurant. Speaker: Gabriela Vasco, Realty Advantage.
- **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.*

Recent Events

BAFC Annual Holiday Party

By: Magistrate Julie Minner, BAFC Secretary and Holiday Committee Member

The Bar Association held its annual holiday party on December 14th at Union Mills on Carroll Creek. The Roaring Twenties was this year's theme and many people enjoyed dressing up in their favorite flapper dresses and fedoras! Mary Beth Kaslick and Lorraine Prete (as usual!) won the prize for the best costume as Aunt Mame and her best gangster friend.

We had another great year raising funds for the CINA kids. Gift baskets donated by our local firms and attorneys were auctioned and raffled off. Sister Theresa Mary, aka Judge Adams, encouraged all the auction bidders. The highest selling basket was the Ethridge, Quinn, Kemp, Rowan & Hartinger's Celtic Christmas Basket at \$1500. The most popular raffle item seemed to be Flynn & Clarke's Frederick Holiday Basket which included an original holiday Yemi painting and a Downtown Frederick gift card. **In total, we raised over \$6200 for CINA this year!**

Thank you to everyone who attended and donated and made this a great night. And, a special thank you to the party planners: April Dixon, Janice Rockwell, Mary Beth Kaslick, Mimi Teehan, Julie Minner and Maegan Cooper!





Article of Interest

BAFC PRACTITIONERS OF THE BAR: Judge Robert Clapp, Jr.

An occasional series of profiles of former Frederick County attorneys

By: Tom Slater, BAFC Historian

When I decided to research Judge Robert E. Clapp, Jr., I discovered that he was a perfect example of the blend of the intellectual with the practical. Not many Frederick County attorneys graduated from Harvard Law School and argued cases before the Supreme Court of the United States as Robert Clapp did. Born in Kannapolis, North Carolina, Robert Clapp attended schools in Frederick, received an undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University in 1930 and was a 1933 summa cum laude graduate of Harvard law School. He married Josephine Routzahn from Middletown, and they had four boys, two of whom (Jim and John) followed in their father's footsteps into the practice of law. He practiced law with Clinton McSherry, the father of Jim McSherry. Later he was partners with Reese Shoemaker. As was frequently the case in Frederick County in the 1930s and 1940s, the young Robert Clapp became involved in Frederick City and Frederick County politics. In 1938 he was elected to serve in the Maryland House of Delegates, but only served one year before he joined the Maryland Attorney General's office under Maryland Attorney General William Walsh from Cumberland. Later he volunteered to serve in the Army during World War II as a captain in the Judge Advocates Corp. After the war, Clapp again returned to the Maryland Attorney General's office, under Maryland's Attorney Generals William Curran and Hall Hammond. While with the Attorney General's office Clapp was Special Assistant Attorney General for the State Roads Commission and helped draft legislation to fund the rebuilding of state roads and the construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, including the financing and sale of bonds to build the bridge. Until 1954 the Clapp family lived on Lindbergh Avenue and Rockwell Terrace in Frederick but just after their two youngest boys (Jim and John) were born, the Clapps purchased the Thomas farm on Araby Road, which is now part of the Monocacy Battlefield and is used as an office for the National Park Service. Judge Clapp lived in that house until his death in 1997.

While with the Maryland Attorney General's office, Robert Clapp represented the State of Maryland before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Betts v. Brady*. Betts requested that an attorney be appointed for him because he was indigent. The trial court denied Betts's request and Betts was subsequently convicted of robbery in the Carroll County Circuit Court. The Supreme Court, in a 6-3 vote, upheld Betts' conviction with Justices Black, Douglas, and Murphy dissenting. This decision was eventually overruled by the Supreme Court in 1963 in *Gideon v. Wainwright*.

In 1964, Governor Milliard J. Tawes appointed Robert Clapp to the Circuit Court for Frederick County. In 1966 Clapp was unopposed for election to a 15-year term on the Circuit Court. He served until 1980, when, at age 70, he was required to retire. When he retired, he was chief judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Probably the most famous case that Judge Clapp presided over was the murder trial of Samuel Veney, who was accused of murdering a Baltimore police sergeant on Christmas Day in 1964 after Veney and his brother had robbed a liquor store on Christmas Eve. A change of venue was granted, and the case was transferred to Frederick County. Frederick State's Attorney, Robert Rothenhoefer, was the prosecutor. After a lengthy jury trial, Veney was convicted of assault with intent to murder, robbery with a dangerous and deadly weapon, and assault and battery in the first degree and sentenced to death by Judge Clapp. Veney's conviction was affirmed on appeal by the Court of Appeals of Maryland in 1968.

Judge Clapp had the reputation of being strict but fair and was known for his knowledge of the law. He was rumored to be considered for appointment to the Court of Appeals or as Chief Judge of the Maryland District Court system when it was established in 1971, but he expressed his desire to remain in Frederick and spend time with his family. Jim and John Clapp recounted that their father never brought his work home and that he was a devoted father who loved to play



(continued from page 7)

tennis, was a voracious reader of history and enjoyed traveling, especially after retiring from the bench. He served on the Frederick City Board of Zoning Appeals and the Frederick County Board of Appeals. He was Commander of the Francis Scott Key Post 11, American Legion, and on the Boards of Trustees of Hood College, Federated Charities, and C. Burr Artz Library. Jim Clapp recalls that it was his father who swore him in as a member of the Bar. Robert Clapp also served as president of the Frederick County Bar Association, vice president of the Maryland State Bar Association, was a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and member of the National Conference of Trial Judges and the Rule Day Club of Baltimore. After retiring from the bench, Judge Clapp was “of counsel” to the law firm of Shoemaker, Horman and Clapp and was proud of his advocacy for the building of the “new” courthouse at the corner of Patrick and Court Street. At Clapp’s retirement party, attorney Thomas Nikirk called Judge Clapp “one of the finest legal minds in the state,” and Senator Charles McMathias said he was “one of the ornaments to the bar and bench” and thanked Judge Clapp for “elevating the public’s view of the law.” Fred Bower thanked Judge Clapp for “his learning process given the young attorneys and for being there when needed.”



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.



Jessica Markham
Attorney at Law



Leslie Miller
Attorney at Law

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