



# NEWSLETTER

*August 2021*

## President's Message

By: Cristine Evans LoVetro, BAFC President

I had to tear myself away from the men's hammer throwing competition in order to write this article. I love the Olympics and watch as much as I can each year that they arrive. Not only am I amazed by the skill and dedication of the athletes, I am also inspired by the personal stories and each individual's desire to excel in the event in which they choose to compete. Despite the fact that I have followed the Olympics for years, I am frequently pleasantly surprised by events that I never knew existed. For example, did you all know that others engaged in the competitive throwing of hammers?

Despite the fact that many of us are far from exploring extreme athleticism at this point in our lives, most of us continue to engage in the behaviors that make the Olympics so compelling. Striving to be the best in our chosen area of practice, constantly learning and honing our skills, competing with others to prevail in the courtroom or at the negotiation table – yes, yes, and yes. All of this while simultaneously demonstrating professionalism with our competitors, respect for our judges, and sometimes having to just dust ourselves off and try again. I am proud to be a member of an organization where each individual strives to be victorious (however that may be defined), while simultaneously making positive contributions to our families and friends, our Bar Association, and the Frederick community.

I am excited that we are “opening up” and I am catching glimpses of our pre-pandemic world. All of us have been impacted greatly by COVID-19. Most of us have experienced the death of a loved one or suffered other significant losses. Some of us emerge on the other side of this era feeling changed and a little more cautious than we used to be. All of these are reasons why we need to gather (safely), spend some time together, and remind ourselves how fortunate we are to have one another.

This month marks our first in-person Bar Luncheon since March of 2020. As stated previously, masks will be required at the Delaplaine, the tables (seating only six people) will be spread apart, the doors to the patio will be opened to ventilate the room, and boxed lunches will be served. Some people are not yet comfortable being touched by others – please ask before reaching out. The Executive Committee will continue to abide by safety measures at our events depending upon CDC guidelines and state/county restrictions. If you are concerned about attending an event, please let a member of the Executive Committee know how we can make you more comfortable. We want to see you!

Come to the Delaplaine to celebrate Judge Bill Nicklas on August 12th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Not only is it Judge Nicklas' birthday, it is his official retirement date! As someone who has long-admired Judge Nicklas, I have been telling myself that his retirement is but a milestone in his career and that we will continue to see him frequently – both on the bench and at Bar functions. That being said, his party will be fun, casual, and everyone is welcome. No RSVP required – just stop by, enjoy some good food and drink, and share a smile.

We will not be holding our regular Bar Luncheon at the Delaplaine in September. Instead, we will hold our Annual Picnic and Golf Tournament on September 9th. Marshall Horman is planning the golf tournament and the Picnic Planning Committee is busily working out all the details. Please mark your calendars to come out and enjoy great food and fellowship.

Last month I congratulated Magistrate Joanie Raymond for receiving an award from the Department of Juvenile Services. I did not realize at the time that congratulations are also in order for Laura Wilt, from the State's Attorney's Office, who was also honored by the Department of Juvenile Services for her contributions throughout the pandemic. Our thanks and admiration to both Laura and Magistrate Raymond for their important work!

Frank Goldstein has announced a change in leadership for the Business Law Section. After many years as the Section Chairperson, Frank has decided to pass the role to Rebekah Lusk. Thank you, Frank, for your dedication throughout the years and your positive contribution to the Bar Association of Frederick County!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Bar Luncheon on August 3rd. Jason Lando, Chief of the Frederick City Police Department, will be sharing his policing philosophies and some of the plans for the future of the Department. It is sure to be both an interesting meeting and a welcomed reunification for all of us. For now, I have to go catch up with some dressage. For those of you not following the Olympics, that involves horses dancing to music better than I can. Mesmerizing!

We're on Facebook! Follow us at [The Bar Association of Frederick County, MD](#) for updates, reminders, photos, and announcements.

**You are cordially invited to a  
Retirement Reception for  
Judge William R. Nicklas, Jr.  
On Thursday, August 12th  
at the Delaplaine Arts Center**

# From 4:30 – 6:30 pm

## Please stop by to wish Bill well.

*Hosted by Marcy Nicklas, Deb Campbell, and the Bar Association of Frederick County*



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### Member Updates

Last month we highlighted that Magistrate Joanie Raymond was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Juvenile Services. We later learned that BAFC member **Laura Wilt**, Frederick County State's Attorney's Office, was also recognized with a **Certificate of Appreciation** for her **outstanding effort and contributions throughout the COVID-19 pandemic**.

Laura is pictured at right receiving her certificate along with Magistrate Joanie Raymond. In the middle is Heather Hibbard, Western Maryland Regional Intake Director for the Department of Juvenile Services.



**Reminder: Pro Bono Reporting Hours due September 10th**

All attorneys authorized to practice law in Maryland must file an annual Pro Bono Legal Service Report of their pro bono services hours by September 10 each year, even if they did not provide pro bono services, using

the Attorney Information System (AIS). For instructions on how to file Pro Bono and IOLTA reports, please visit the judiciary's website at <https://www.mdcourts.gov/lawyers/ais>. At this site, attorneys can also retrieve their personal ID numbers, find a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the reporting process, and find a copy of the pro bono rules. Please email any questions or comments to [reporting@probonomd.org](mailto:reporting@probonomd.org).

*Tip: We recommend that you schedule a recurring appointment on your own personal calendar for July 10, and make sure it automatically renews just like a birthday or a holiday; that way you'll be giving yourself two months' notice to get into compliance with all four annual requirements, and won't be dependent on any communications from the Court.*

## Section Updates

### Family Law Section

The **Family Law Section** has scheduled the following meetings:

- **Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at Noon:** Informal meeting over lunch. Location TBD.
- **Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 5pm via Zoom:** Jane Wettach, Esq. with the Coalition for Responsible Home Education will be speaking on the topic of homeschooling and will be providing tips on how to navigate potential issues that could come up when a family is involved in homeschooling.
- **Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 5pm via Zoom:** Paul Berman, Ph.D. Rebecca Snyder, Ph.D., Lisa Fishberg, Esq., and Erin Kopelman, Esq., will present the results of a more than a yearlong workgroup project regarding the use of Brief Focused Assessments in contested custody cases. They will discuss 10 proposed processes and the methodologies for Brief Focused Assessments that you can apply to cases to avoid the need for a full custody evaluation when one is not needed or appropriate.

For more information about the Family Law Section, please contact Carin Golze at [Carin@WinikLaw.com](mailto:Carin@WinikLaw.com).



# SALOMON

**CHRIS BROOKS**  
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
[CBROOKS@CRCSALOMON.COM](mailto:CBROOKS@CRCSALOMON.COM)  
C: 703-403-2659  
O: 410-821-4888

LOCAL - NATIONAL - GLOBAL

### Young Lawyers Section

The **Young Lawyers Section** will have a **Happy Hour** on **August 19** from **5-7 p** at Olde Mother Brewing Co.,

The **Young Lawyers Section** will be coordinating **volunteers for BrewFest** at



Milkhouse Brewery at Stillpoint Farm on **Saturday, September 11th**. Please watch your email for the signup sheet. We will need volunteers for shifts from 9am until 7pm. In return for volunteering a donation is made to Camp Jamie (Hospice of Frederick County).

For more information about the Young Lawyers Section, please contact April Dixon (Inskeep) or email [bafcyys@gmail.com](mailto:bafcyys@gmail.com).

### **Business Law Section**

The **Business Law Section** has a change in the point of contact for members. **Rebekah Lusk** is the **new section chair**, taking the reigns from Frank Goldstein. Rebekah can be reached at [rlusk@lusk-law.com](mailto:rlusk@lusk-law.com).

## **2021: 10th Anniversary Justice for All Fund Grants**

Give online today at:

<https://www.frederickcountygives.org/Giving-Your-Way/Explore-Funds?fn=Bar+Association+of+Frederick+County+Justice+for+All+Fund>

Donations can also be made by writing a check to **The Community Foundation of Frederick County** with the notation "**Justice For All Fund**". Mail donation to 312 E. Church St., Frederick, MD 21701.

### **Opportunities to Serve**

#### **CALLING ALL ATTORNEYS**

Frederick County Government has been awarded a grant through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to facilitate legal representation to families facing eviction from their homes. The County is partnering with Legal Aid and Housing Frederick. For those who do not qualify for free representation through the Legal Aid Bureau, a new referral and stipend legal representation program has been created. These families will have household income below 80% of the median household income in Frederick County making it difficult to pay for an attorney and keep up with other expenses.

Participating attorneys will be paid a flat fee of either \$400 for limited scope services or \$800 for full scope services depending on the household's needs.

The process is simple: all that is needed is to provide your contact information to Mary Ellen Mitchell, CEO of Housing Frederick, the organization administering the grant in conjunction with Frederick County Government. Mary Ellen's contact information is: [ceo@housingfrederick.org](mailto:ceo@housingfrederick.org) and phone is 301.524.5040. Participating attorneys will be referred cases based on when their names are added to the list of attorneys. Once all attorneys have been referred a case, they will receive a second referral until all have received two, and so on. Participating attorneys may decline a case as schedules require and also as ethical conflicts are present. A simple report as to the result of the referred case, on a form to be provided, will be required and will result in payment of your fee for the concluded case.

Additional grants, being administered by the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, are available to pay up to 12 months in back rent, up to 3

months in future rent, to pay past due utilities and past due internet service fees. These available funds can reduce the amount of time required to represent families as the thought is that collection of rent, and not eviction, is the goal of landlords. These monies can be great assistance in resolving matters quickly and can be accessed by going to [www.RCEHN.org](http://www.RCEHN.org).

Our bar has a reputation for assisting those in need and our community has a big heart for those in need. Our hope is that we will have more than enough participants to provide for all those seeking assistance in the face of potential eviction. Please reach out to Mary Ellen today.

This project is being supported in whole or in part by Federal Award Number ERA2-0302 awarded to Frederick County Government by the U.S. Treasury.

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## **BAFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gleaning Event**

The BAFC seeks volunteers to help harvest fruits and vegetables for food banks, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other food providers throughout Maryland on **Saturday, October 16, 2021 from 9-11:30a.**

**THIS IS A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT** organized by the BAFC YLS. Volunteers will meet at First Fruits Farm, Inc., located at 20431 Middletown Road, Freeland, MD 21053 at 8:45am. There will be plenty of space and jobs to allow for social distancing. With a mid-October gleaning date, the BAFC will likely help harvest cabbage, greens, turnips or potatoes, apples, and/or pumpkins!

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please go to [Liability Waiver](#) to sign-up and fill out the liability waiver for each person attending. Please email [bafcylys@gmail.com](mailto:bafcylys@gmail.com) with any questions. The BAFC encourages participants to wear their yellow BAFC Quarantine 2020 t-shirt if you have one! To learn more about this project and organization, check out <https://www.firstfruitsfarm.org/>.

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***COVID-19 created a health, economic and civil justice crisis. As attorneys, YOU can help abate that crisis.***



The Maryland Attorney General, Maryland Judiciary, Maryland State Bar Association and Maryland Access to Justice Commission are proud to join forces to deliver an urgent call to action for pro bono. We strongly urge every attorney in Maryland to take at least one pro bono case or provide a designated number of pro bono service hours over the next year to help in the areas with the most acute need, namely housing, consumer, public benefits or family law.

**Please sign up now to answer the call.**

All pro bono providers in Maryland are taking part in the call to action and the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) is helping implement the call. PBRC will match you with the pro bono organizations across the state that are poised to help you get connected to remote or in-person opportunities; train in

your area of interest; and receive the support you need to successfully help Marylanders with their civil legal cases at a time they need it the most. Answer the call now!

[Sign Up Here!](#)

BAFC Website

## 2021-22 BAFC Executive Committee



2021 BAFC Executive Committee (Top to Bottom): Cristine Evans LoVetro (President), The Honorable Dino Flores (President Elect), Tim Price (Treasurer), Carla Clarke (Secretary), Mimi Teahan (Assistant Secretary), Magistrate Julie Minner (Assistant Treasurer), and Janice Rockwell (Past President)

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## RECENT EVENTS

### Young Lawyer/Family Law Joint Happy Hour and School Supply Drive

By: April Dixon, YLS President

The BAFC has once again outdone themselves! The YLS is pleased to announce that BAFC members donated over 150 school supplies at the joint Family Law and YLS happy hour on July 15, 2021, at Idiom Brewing Co. The evening was filled with over 30 BAFC members socializing, delicious Boxcar burgers, craft beers, and the generosity of our members donating school supply items to



support children in Frederick County. On August 4, 2021, the donations will be picked up at the Law Offices of Conklyn & Kemp to "Stuff the Bus." The donations include backpacks, notebooks, crayons, markers, binders, rulers, glue sticks- you name it, BAFC thought of it. If you wish to donate by August 3rd, please contact Denise Hicks Brown directly at [Denise@conklynlawfirm.com](mailto:Denise@conklynlawfirm.com).



## FROM THE COURTHOUSE

### REMINDER

If someone is not vaccinated they **MUST** wear a mask in the courthouse including in the courtroom.

At the door, persons are asked about vaccination, symptoms in the last 7 days, positive test in the last 10 days, being around anyone with known or suspected COVID in the last 7 days.

If they are not vaccinated, they must wear a mask while in the building.

We expect counsel to talk to their clients and be sure **BEFORE THAT MASK COMES OFF IN A COURTROOM** that the client is vaccinated.

We had an unmasked unvaccinated individual in the small hearing room for over 3 hours one day last week and just learned that person tested positive for COVID. Now everyone in that hearing room is being tested and may have to quarantine if they are positive.

We need counsels' assistance in assuring this does not happen. Thank you.

**Thank you for supporting  
the Justice For All Fund last month:**



## Events

- **August 3, 12p: Monthly Luncheon Meeting** Delaplaine Arts Center. Our speaker will be Frederick City Police Chief Jason Lando.
- **August 12, 4:30-6:30p: Judge Nicklas' Retirement Party.** Delaplaine Arts Center.
- **August 19, 5-7p: Young Lawyers Section Happy Hour.** Olde Mother Brewing Co.
- **August 24, 12p: Family Law Section Informal Meeting.** Location TBD.

## Save the Date

o **September 7: NO BAFC LUNCHEON** due to Picnic on the 9th (see below).

o **September 9: BAFC Annual Picnic and Golf Tournament.** Watch your email for details!

o **September 11: BrewFest at Milkhouse Brewery at Stillpoint Farm.** The Young Lawyers Section and other BAFC members will be volunteering their time and, in return, a donation is made to Camp Jamie (Hospice of Frederick County). Watch your email for sign-up shifts in the coming months!

o **September 13: Opening Term of Court.** Watch your email for details!

o **September 22, 5pm via Zoom: Family Law Section meeting.** Speaker: Jane Wettach, Esq. with the Coalition for Responsible Home Education.

o **October 16, 9-11:30a BAFC 2nd Annual Gleaning Event.** First Fruits Farm, Freeland, MD.

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<b>Lending Guidance For:</b>	<b>Offering:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complex Divorce Situations</li><li>• Complicated Estate Transactions</li><li>• Bankruptcy Situations</li><li>• Comprehensive Credit Rescoring</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 30+ years mortgage lending experience</li><li>• Professional staff/environment</li><li>• One client at-a-time approach</li><li>• Local downtown office and ability to meet in person (we are not a call center)</li></ul>

**Tidewater Mortgage Services, Inc.**  
129 W. Patrick Street, Suite 8 • Frederick, MD 21701

**Office: 301-620-1999**  
**Josh Ambush: 240-813-8449**

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**o October 20, 5pm via Zoom: Family Law Section meeting.** Speakers: Paul Berman, Ph.D. Rebecca Snyder, Ph.D., Lisa Fishberg, Esq., and Erin Kopelman, Esq. See "Section Updates" in this newsletter for more details.

[Full Calendar of Events](#)

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## Mediation Services Available

The **Law Offices of Richard P. Bricken** is offering *fee reduced services for voluntary mediations* of all legal matters with **free consultation screening** and discretionary terms of the service provider.

For situations in which all parties in dispute wish to avail themselves of this opportunity, please call [301-694-5850](tel:301-694-5850).

## Sponsorship Opportunity

### **Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera's Retirement Celebration & Gala September 9, 2021 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM**

Chief Judge Barbera retires from the bench this fall, after a lifetime of public service and judicial leadership. She has worked tirelessly during her tenure to increase the courts' efficiency, promote racial justice in the civil and criminal justice system, and most recently, expertly navigate and lead us through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic in Maryland courts.

On September 9, 2021, the Maryland State Bar Association will host a dinner gala at the College Park Marriott to celebrate the notable achievements and retirement of Chief Judge Barbera. The event includes an outdoor cocktail hour, dinner and presentations in a ventilated ballroom, and outdoor dessert bar.

The MSBA is looking for sponsors for the celebration. There are a variety of sponsorship levels ranging from \$500-\$5000. Funds would cover a variety of expenses associated with the event including an offset for ticket pricing for courthouse staff, public interest and government attorneys, and paralegals, event costs for the gala, marketing, print materials, video production, gifts, and staff support. Any donations will be through the Maryland Bar Foundation. Any sponsorship funds remaining after the cost of the celebration will be donated to a law-related charitable organization.

If you would like to sponsor the celebration, please contact Shaoli Katana at the MSBA at [shaoli@msba.org](mailto:shaoli@msba.org).

## Article Request

*The University of Baltimore Law Forum* ("Law Forum") is currently accepting articles for our Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 publication.

*Law Forum* in the **only** law journal in the country that focuses solely on issues

in Maryland and provides both practitioners and the community with information on the changes in Maryland law. We are hoping this year that members of the Bar Association of Frederick County will participate in this year's publication.

Article proposals may be submitted to the *Law Forum* Articles Editors, Erin Winkelmeyer and Craig Snyder, at [ublawforumarticles@outlook.com](mailto:ublawforumarticles@outlook.com) by **Friday, August 13, 2021 for Fall 2021** publication and/or **Friday, December 10, 2021 for Spring 2022 publication**. Articles are continuously accepted. The Fall topic is gerrymandering; however, we are accepting articles across *all practice areas* for our Spring publication.

All proposals should include a half to one-page abstract and contact information, including phone number.

## Willing to Take a Pro Bono Case?

The Pro Bono Resource Center has a website called Statewide Opportunities ([www.probonomd.org/statewide-opportunities](http://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.

P.O. Box 3088, Frederick, MD 21705-3088 | [info@frederickbar.org](mailto:info@frederickbar.org) | [www.frederickbar.org](http://www.frederickbar.org)

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