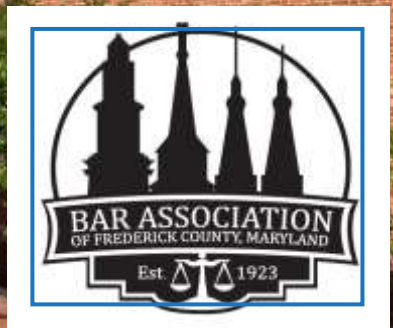




July Newsletter



Issue 7 | 2023 | The Bar Association of Frederick County, MD

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 24, 2023

Annual Golf Tournament
Musket Ridge Golf Club
Tee Times start at 9:30a

BAFC Annual Picnic
Lewistown Social Hall
5-8p

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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.

A Letter to the Membership

July 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Bar Association for Frederick County,

Dear Friends,

As you may know by now, I have decided to retire as of September 1, 2023. It has been my great honor to serve as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Frederick County since January 2004. It has been the happiest time of my career, but it is time for a new chapter in my life. This decision is not without mixed emotions.

Working with each of you has been an honor and a joy. I cannot tell you how much I admire your professionalism and your commitment to the important work we do. There is no finer bar association in the state.

I sincerely hope, however, that I will continue to serve the citizens of Maryland as a Senior Judge. Most of all, I hope I will continue to work with you here in Frederick County. You are truly friends, not just professional colleagues.

There are outstanding candidates among you to serve as the next judge for the Circuit Court for Frederick County. I look forward to greeting my successor and offering any assistance I may for the transition.

With sincere good wishes for each of you,

Terry Adams



LGBTQ+ LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC

This event provides an opportunity to meet for fifteen minutes, one-on-one with local volunteer attorneys who can answer their questions and provide legal information and advice about specific legal matters, at no cost to participants.

Receive assistance with LGBTQ+ issues, pro bono family law, estate planning, guardianship, name change, landlord-tenant, criminal law, and other civil legal matters.

July 13, 2023 - 5:30pm
The Frederick Center

322 West Patrick St, Frederick, MD 21701

Registration Required

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/56zpbtky> or scan the QR code to register.

The Frederick
Center
Embracing
Our LGBTQ+
Community



Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 24, 2023

- **Musket Ridge Golf Club** (3555 Brethren Church Rd., Myersville, MD 21773)
- **9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tee Times** (Please arrive early to hit range balls and find your cart assignment.)
- **\$67, Registration Deadline: August 17, 2023**
- **Registration limited to 32 players** (So register early!)
- **Includes greens fees, cart, range balls and prizes**

Players of all skill levels are encouraged to join. Players will be assigned to a team to safeguard that everyone will be a candidate for the Green Tees Award!

REGISTRATION: Can be completed through www.frederickbar.org



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Dates to Remember

- **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 is \$67 per golfer. Registration is open on the website and the **deadline to register is August 17th.**
- **August 24, 5-8p: BAFC Annual Picnic.** Lewistown Social Hall. Registration is open on the website and the **deadline to register is August 15th.**
- **September 5, 12p: BAFC Monthly Luncheon Meeting.** Delaplaine Arts Center. Speaker: Tim Maloney. Our sponsor is Planet Depos.
- **September 11, 9a: Opening Term of Court.** Circuit Courtroom 1.
- **September 14, 4:30-7p: Presentation on Professionalism and Civility.** Brewer's Alley.
- **December 14, 5-8p: BAFC Annual Holiday Party.** Union Mills Public House

Member Updates

Offit Kurman is very pleased to announce that **Noel Manalo** has joined the firm's Real Estate Law and Transactions and Land Use practice resident in the Frederick office.



Recent Events

BAFC Friends & Family Event at the Frederick Keys

By: Paul D. Rose, Jr., *BAFC Member*; *McNees, Wallace & Nurick, LLC*

We had another great time at the annual Frederick Keys game event on June 16th. This was the second year of serving Giant Eagle fried chicken instead of grilling hamburgers and hot dogs at the picnic. Everyone seems to love the chicken! We had a good turnout this year. It was particularly nice to see young children and family members at the event. One of the things that makes this event so special is that it is the only Bar Association event where families are invited. The baseball game was a high scoring affair, followed by fireworks and kids running the bases. Thank you to all the members who came to the event. I hope you had as much fun as I did!



MSBA Legal Summit

Another successful MSBA Legal Summit is in the books and there was a good showing from the Frederick County legal community. The Legal Summit was held for the second year at the Ocean City Convention Center from June 7 to June 9, 2023. The substantive part of the conference started at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday. Michael Steele, former Maryland Lt. Governor, former Chair of the RNC and a current MSNBC analyst gave the Keynote Presentation Wednesday. Many members attended the YLS Happy Hour at the 45th Street Taphouse and were able to mingle with other lawyers throughout the State while enjoying the view of the bayside. There was a welcome reception back at the Convention Center as well as the Access to Justice Fundraiser and Welcome Dinner at Dry Dock 28 which was more of a family event with pizza and drinks.

Thursday was a full day of classes, the “Afternoon at Seacrets,” Maryland Bar Foundation Meeting and new fellows’ induction (which included Magistrate Joanie Raymond being inducted) and the new MSBA President’s Reception where members welcomed incoming President, David P. Shapiro. Friday’s events included more classes, the new Judges’ reception and a Keynote Presentation by U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin. Friday also included a special presentation of PBRC Pro Bono award winners by Chief Justice Matthew J. Fader where our own Cristine Evans Lovetro received the Law Firm award for her firm.

Members attending agreed there were more and better classes offered this year and enjoyed the opportunity to spend social time with each other. If you missed this year’s Legal Summit, put it on your calendar now for next year – June 5-7, 2024.





Pro Bono Resource Center 2023 Awards

Cristine (Cris) Evans LoVetro is a 2023 recipient of the **Law Firm Pro Bono Service Award**, recognizing innovative approaches to the delivery of free legal services and the encouragement of participation by the greatest number of attorneys relative to that firm's size.

Being a tireless advocate for the underserved, Ms. LoVetro worked as a paralegal with the Legal Aid Bureau before even graduating from law school. After law school, she continued to be a staunch advocate for pro bono services in private practice. Continuing her commitment to Maryland Legal Aid, Cris continues to regularly take on pro bono cases for Maryland Legal Aid and other legal services providers. She served as the Co-chair of the Frederick County Bar Association's pro bono committee, where she was instrumental in planning and executing a Wills clinic at Frederick County Community College in 2019. She has remained a long-time member of the local Pro Bono Committee, and any time there is a pro bono event or volunteer activity, you can guarantee that Cris LoVetro will be somewhere in their midst. In recognition of her efforts locally, she received the Gordon Cooley Award for pro bono service from the Bar Association in 2015.



Ms. LoVetro's contributions to the legal community extend beyond her work with the Bar Association of Frederick County. Cris currently serves as the Chair of the Frederick County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board and has served on the Hospice of Frederick County's Planned Gifts Committee. She has helped sponsor the dinner for the annual Rollins & Grossnickle Memorial Hospice auction. In addition, Ms. LoVetro is a dedicated volunteer who has served on The Frederick Center's legal services committee, bringing legal services to the LGBTQ+ community and volunteering at their legal clinics. Cris has given of her time, speaking on elder law issues at many functions and events at locations such as Hood College, Frederick Health Hospice and some of the County's Senior Centers. She was the driving force behind Law Day for many years, organizing lawyers throughout the county's many senior centers to provide services to seniors at no cost each year.

Larry Finegan is the recipient of the 2023 **Lee A. Caplan Award**, given to a solo or small firm practitioner who has rendered pro bono service over many years.

Mr. Finegan (Larry) is a quiet champion for pro bono work. Larry has been silently doing pro bono work for more than 35 years. He never advertises the pro bono work he is doing behind the scenes. Unlike other lawyers that announce when they come before the court that they are representing someone pro bono, Larry never says a word. He does not want a litigant thinking they are somehow less because they cannot afford their legal representation.

Larry firmly believes in training the next generation and instilling in them the concept of giving back. He has judged the high school mock trial program each year since inception. He has volunteered as an instructor for our local mediation update panel. He has served on the fee dispute panel and the Bar Fee Committee. He has done work for Eyler's Valley Chapel and the Fort Ritchie Community Center, all pro bono. Larry is also a volunteer mediator for the District Court of Maryland and is also on our court registry of Circuit Court mediators who will take cases at a reduced hourly rate and sometimes even for nothing.



Larry's wife, Joan, secretly helped estimate his pro bono hours when he was being nominated for this award. In reviewing only 8 years of records, 665 hours were calculated. Because he does it quietly and without recognition, his service could easily go unnoticed. It should not go unrecognized as Larry is clearly the epitome of this award.



Articles of Interest

TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

By: Al Frederick, *BAFC Member; Eccleston & Wolf, P.C.*

In difficult economic times, lawyers often become a favorite target for lawsuits. When the “good times are rolling,” in times of prosperity, suits against lawyers generally diminish in both frequency and severity. The opposite is also true.

One does not need a crystal ball to determine why suits increase in frequency and severity in difficult economic times. Putative Plaintiffs become desperate and some lawyers who otherwise would be unwilling to do so accept marginal cases and prosecute matters that otherwise would not be brought during more solid economic times.

Lawyers can take a number of steps in order to minimize their exposure during these difficult economic times. First, lawyers can and should carefully screen prospective matters and clients.

One ought never to be the third or fourth lawyer a client has engaged to prosecute a matter. Certainly, anyone can make an error and engage someone with whom they are not compatible. But two or three times suggests a difficult client with unrealistic expectations.

One ought not to accept an engagement where the client’s objective cannot be legally obtained. For example, someone out for vengeance or an apology. As lawyers we can seek reasonable monetary or injunctive civil relief where justified by the facts and the law, but we should never be in the business of vendetta or punishment.

One ought never to ignore unrealistic expectations from a client. If the prospective client expresses the view that the matter for which she is seeking advice is ‘worth unlimited dollars,’ she is going to be unhappy with any reasonable result.

One ought not to dabble in areas of the law where one is unfamiliar without the aid of another attorney with experience in the field. The rule is amplified in difficult economic times. There is always a learning curve, and sometimes that curve is painful to endure.

If the proposed engagement involves an area of the law with which the lawyer is not familiar and comfortable, it is best to either associate the matter with one who is familiar, refer the matter to a colleague who is familiar, or decline the matter altogether. Teaming up with another attorney may reduce your fee in a case but enhance your versatility and ability to handle a broader range of cases moving forward.

For lawyers who are involved in business transactions, it is important to use their Retainer Agreements to minimize client expectations as to what the role of the lawyer might be. For example, the Retainer Agreement is a good place to explain to the client exactly what a lawyer does in a transactional matter.

The lawyer does not engage in the exercise of business judgment, that is left for the client. The lawyer’s job is to draft a document that clearly sets forth the intention of the parties and their agreement as well as supporting documents that allow the agreement to go into effect. The lawyer’s job is not to guarantee that the business transaction is going to be successful and to that end cannot be held responsible if it is not.



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>

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

