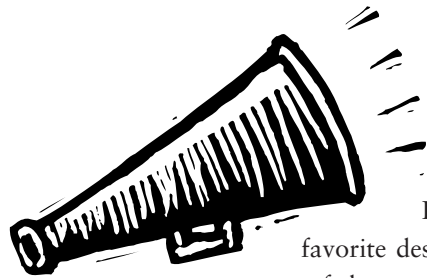


# THE ADVOCATE

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION—MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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## The ABA is Coming to Maryland

By Michelle Stawinski, Esq.

Frommers® is not alone in selecting Baltimore as a favorite destination. While Frommers® recently named Baltimore as one of the top 10 destinations to visit this summer, the ABA Young Lawyer's Division (ABA YLD) has selected Baltimore as the site for its October 2006 Conference. Baltimore can thank the diversity of its citizens and the plenitude of unique attractions for both honors. (We should also thank Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and Mayor Martin O'Malley for their efforts in highlighting all of the attributes that the city, the state, and attorneys in Maryland will contribute to a successful conference.) The ABA YLD is planning this Conference around a diversity theme, making Baltimore an excellent venue.

The ABA YLD holds three conferences each year. During each conference, approximately 15 hours of CLE courses are offered. Ethics is, of course, a topic of choice for one or two hours. Beyond that, the CLE courses center around a theme of importance to members. Currently, the ABA YLD is planning to provide CLE courses centered on the ways that members can diversify the profession by shaping the perceptions of individuals who are considering a legal career. For young Maryland lawyers, this is a great way to participate in dynamic CLE courses with top-notch instructors at rock-bottom prices. While the registration fee varies from conference to conference, the registration fee for the Miami Conference held in May, which included all of the CLE courses, was \$35.

But that's not all this Conference offers to MSBA members. This is an opportunity for us to meet attorneys from across the country and to make new friends. As with all bar conferences, there will be plenty of time to socialize and a plethora of organized events to attend. We will have receptions, hospitality suites, a dinner/dance, and planned excursions. Right now is a good time to mark your calendars for October 19–22, 2006, the tentative dates for the Conference. Of course, you will be hearing more about the event as it draws nearer.

The best part is that this is your chance to get in on the ground floor. While the planning committee, led by MSBA Young Lawyer's Section (MSBA YLS) Chair Ruth-Ann Bennett and Planning Committee Chair John J. Murphy, III, has been hard at work showing off our great state to get Baltimore named as the Conference site, we are just now beginning to plan the social events for the Conference. In order to make this the memorable conference that is expected, we will rely on both the diversity that Charm City is becoming known for, and the talents and generosity of members of the MSBA. The following Sub-committees are forming: Attendance, Fundraising, Publicity, Speakers, Family Activities,

*For young Maryland lawyers, this is a great way to participate in dynamic CLE courses with top-notch instructors at rock-bottom prices.*



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**THE ADVOCATE**  
**YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION**  
**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

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# From the Chair

Fellow Young Lawyers:

Now that the summer months are winding down, I am excited to announce the Young Lawyers' Section's ("YLS") plans for fall programming. I am confident that you will find something to spark your interest in all we have to offer.

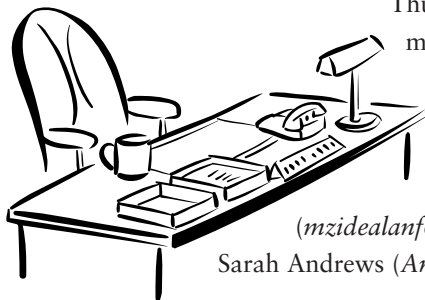
Our first open meeting of the year will be held in October at Westminster Hall in Baltimore. Thanks to our Resolutions Committee, the Section will present a discussion on the preservation of judicial independence in the wake of the Terri Schiavo case, the increasing violence against judges, and escalating criticism of the legal profession by not only the general American public, but by our legislators. This topic is of such importance that it has been recognized on a national level by Immediate Past President of the American Bar Association ("ABA") Robert Grey and, locally, by the current MSBA President, Michael Conroy. Additional details on this meeting will follow shortly. If you would like to assist with this program, please contact one of our Resolutions Co-Chairs, John Hooks ([jhooks@fandpnet.com](mailto:jhooks@fandpnet.com)) or Ace McBride (410-783-6379).

Throughout the year the Public Service Committee, headed by Co-Chairs Linda Springrose and Marnell Cooper, will be hard at work enlightening our young people on the importance of the jury system by initiating the We the Jury Program ("WJP") across the state. WJP was first introduced as a public service project by Barrett Watson, former Chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Division, to increase awareness of high school students across the nation as to the importance of the jury system and their participation as a juror when called to serve. The project consists of a curriculum guide and a video for mock trial purposes (one civil and one criminal trial). WJP is designed to be run by a high school teacher, with assistance by local lawyers in conducting voir dire and the mock trial process, as well as to address any questions the participants may encounter. This project is a great way for you to make a major impact on the lives of our youth, but with a minimal time commitment—the attorneys' involvement may be as little as one morning spent in a local classroom. To get involved, please contact Linda ([lspringrose@fandpnet.com](mailto:lspringrose@fandpnet.com)) or Marnell ([mcooper@maclaw.us](mailto:mcooper@maclaw.us)) or 410-332-4656).

The YLS Membership Committee will continue its popular "Thirsty Thursdays" happy hours. These events provide our members with an opportunity to meet other attorneys for networking, fun, and friendships, and is a wonderful way to learn more about the Section and its leadership. For more information please contact our Co-Chairs, Marla Zide ([mzidealanformanlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:mzidealanformanlaw@yahoo.com)) or 410-766-7630) and Sarah Andrews ([Andrews@cbklaw.com](mailto:Andrews@cbklaw.com)) or 410-268-6600).



*Ruth-Ann Bennett,  
Chair-Elect*



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## HOUSE BILL 327

By Andrea N. Padley, Esq.

Have you ever heard of those people who didn't know they wanted to be attorneys until half way through law school? Well, I am one of those people.

In college, I was a psychology major working part-time at a low-income day care center. On my first day of work, I met my soon-to-be best friend, who had also started that day. She was the mother of a beautiful ten-month-old daughter, who was perfect in every way, except one—she was born with only one arm.

During the course of our friendship, I learned that my friend's boyfriend was physically abusive towards her, and had actually beaten her during her pregnancy. This guy was unbelievable! He blew up at her over the most trivial things. I remember one instance, in particular, when we went to her house after work one evening. As we were feeding her daughter, her boyfriend called demanding that she bring a specific pair of pants to him at the gym. There was absolutely nothing special about these pants; he simply wanted them. He had just finished playing basketball and wanted to wear this one particular pair of pants. I watched as she ran around the house, frantically searching for his pants, as if the world would end if she didn't find them. I could hear him yelling at her over the phone, and it was then that I realized just how much she feared him.

I spent the entire friendship trying to talk her out of the relationship. I was constantly teaming up with her

family, pleading with her to leave him. I even asked her to move to Maryland with me, so that he would be unable to find her. But she was so afraid of what he was capable of doing to her if she left and he found her, that she stayed.

When I moved to Baltimore for law school, I tried to stay in touch with her, but her boyfriend didn't make it easy. He hated me for trying to instill strength in her. Little did I know, when she spent time with me, she became rebellious and defiant with him, which,

*I met with Senator Sharon Grosfeld's Legislative Aide, Marie White...[and] pitched my idea. It was short, simple, and sweet—I wanted the definition of abuse in the domestic violence statute to be modified to include stalking and harassment.*

in turn, caused him to be even more abusive. He tried to control her every move, and when I called to talk to her, he refused and hung up on me. Luckily, I had another friend at the day care center who kept me informed on how my friend and her daughter were doing.

During the Thanksgiving holiday of my first year of law school, I received a call that my friend had been seriously injured by her boyfriend. As it turned out, she had left him a few weeks earlier, but was allowing him visitation with their daughter. On the day after Thanksgiving, when she took her daughter over to his parents' house to

see him, he forced her into the passenger seat of her car with a box cutter. During the struggle, he sliced her wrist and repeatedly slammed her head into the car window—all in front of their two-year-old daughter, who was strapped into her car seat. Because she had left him only weeks before, and seriously feared for her safety, she had kept the location of her new residence a secret. So, he forced her to take him there, where she and her daughter were held captive for over an hour. Given her experience with this man, she sweetly asked him to run to the convenience store down the street and buy her some aspirin for her aching head, which he did. While he was gone, she called 911 from a cell phone her uncle had given her two days prior, and when her boyfriend returned, he was greeted by several police officers from two counties.

When I received the call, I was devastated. I felt as though I'd somehow let her down for leaving her there with him. But, my mother explained to me that even though my friend wouldn't accept the help I had offered her, plenty of other abuse victims would. That day, I realized that I was in the perfect position, as a future lawyer, to help others. So, that's exactly what I decided to do.

Last fall, after taking the Bar Exam, I became aware of a domestic violence case in which the Petitioner was denied a protective order because stalking was not considered abuse in Maryland's

*continued on page 4*

## House Bill 327

*continued from page 3*

domestic violence statute, and there was no history of physical violence between her and the Respondent.

I found this to be an absurdity for several reasons. First, stalking is a lot more common than most people think. In fact, over one million women and 370,000 men are stalked in this country each year. Second, 59 percent of female victims, and 30 percent of male victims are stalked by their current or former intimate partner. This is incredibly important, given that, in Maryland, the type of protection for which a victim is eligible depends on his or her relationship to the Respondent.

Put very simply, most people in an intimate relationship are only eligible for a protective order, while people not eligible for a protective order are eligible for a peace order. Why is this distinction important? you ask. It is crucial because peace orders provide more protection than protective orders. So, what we have here is less protection for those people who actually need more, i.e., individuals married to each other, living together, or with children in common—individuals who have the most contact with each other, and, in turn, who have the most potential for conflict.

This loophole in the system infuriated me, so I made it my mission to do something about it. I began talking to everyone I knew, telling them what I had discovered. As you can imagine, most people didn't really know what I was talking about, nor did they care after I had explained it to them. But one Saturday morning, while running my mouth on the elliptical machine at

the gym, I met Matt Mossberg, a lobbyist/former Delegate who said he could put me in contact with a Senator who just might like to take the issue to the Legislature!

*This loophole in the system infuriated me, so I made it my mission to do something about it.*

Shortly thereafter, I met with Senator Sharon Grosfeld's Legislative Aide, Marie White, to whom I pitched my idea. It was short, simple, and sweet—I wanted the definition of abuse in the domestic violence statute to be modified to include stalking and harassment. As my good luck would have it, the Family Violence Council



**Top: Marie White, Legislative Aide; Andrea N. Padley; Lou Oertly, President of the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence. Bottom: Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele, Senate President Mike Miller, Gov. Robert Ehrlich, House Speaker Mike Busch**

was holding a Legislative Action Team meeting the very next day, and Ms. White invited me to attend as her guest. I did, and I spoke to the group about the problem I saw with Maryland's protective order statute.

The Legislative Action Team was an incredible group, with lots of energy and insightful ideas. Its members represent the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the

District Court Commissioners, the House of Ruth, the Baltimore Jewish Council, and the Maryland League of Women Voters, among other groups.

To my delight, Senator Grosfeld and Delegate Dumais, both Democrats from Montgomery County, cross-filed bills last legislative session, proposing the addition of criminal stalking to the definition of abuse in Family Law §4-501.

The rest is history, really. On May 10, 2005, my smile couldn't have been any bigger as Governor Ehrlich signed House Bill 327, adding criminal stalking to the domestic violence statute's definition of abuse. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and unrelenting advocacy of Senator Grosfeld, Delegate Dumais, Marie White, Attorney General J. Joseph Curran, Jr., the members of the Legislative Action Team, and everyone else who took the time to support a cause they believed in.

And so, even though I didn't have any desire to become an attorney when I began law school, I can definitely say I've found my calling. It just goes to show the extent that your personal experiences in life can drive you. If I had never met my friend five years ago, I may never have realized just how much I can make a difference in other people's lives. ❖

*Andrea N. Padley is a staff attorney at the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Domestic Violence Legal Services, and a 2004 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law.*

**Young Lawyers in Action is a new column highlighting young lawyers contributions to the Legal Profession. If you are a young lawyer in action and would like to contribute an article, please contact Elizabeth Morris at [YLSAdvocate@MSBA.Org](mailto:YLSAdvocate@MSBA.Org).**

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## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

*Stephanie Cohen &  
Samantha Bishop, Co-Chairs*

The Activities Committee is looking for YLS members to assist in putting together the section's biggest even of the year—Novemberfest. This year Novemberfest will take place on Saturday November 12, 2005 at the Maryland Historical Society. The date is fast approaching and the Committee needs help planning the event, soliciting silent auction donations, soliciting sponsorships, and setting up on the day of the event. If you are interested in helping out the Activities Committee, please contact Stephanie Cohen at [scohen@gfrlaw.com](mailto:scohen@gfrlaw.com).

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS' REPORT

*Jan Berlage*

On June 18, 2005, immediately following the MSBA annual business meeting, the MSBA Board of Governors held its first meeting of the year. The meeting took place at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland. All four young lawyer representatives, Ruth-Ann Bennett, Alice Chong, Hughie Hunt and Jan Berlage, were in attendance.

The first order of business was to approve nominations to the MSBA Executive Committee, which included two Young Lawyers representatives, Ruth-Ann Bennett and Hughie Hunt. The Executive Committee slate was approved unanimously.

Next, the Board voted William C. Hudson, 2nd District, Debra G. Schubert, 8th District, and Charles L. Fuller, 10th District, on to the Board to fill three vacancies. The Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer and President-Elect read their respective reports into the record. Board liaison appoints were distributed, including the following liaison appointments to



young lawyer representatives:

Ruth-Ann Bennett—Professionalism Standing Committee; Alice Chong—Consumer Bankruptcy Committee and Budget & Finance Standing Committee; Hughie Hunt—Young Lawyers Committee and Estate & Trust Law Committee; and Jan Berlage—Taxation Committee and Law Related Education Special Committee.

The following announcements were made:

1. Leadership Academy Welcoming Reception, Westminster Hall, July 13, 2005 at 6 pm; and
2. MSBA Annual Crab Feast, July 23, 2005, Jefferson Patterson Park, St. Leonard, Maryland.

The schedule for this year's Board meetings was approved. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Maryland.

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## DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE

*Gus Themelis &  
I. DeAndrei Drummond, Co-Chairs*

During the 2005 Annual Conference, Kenyetta Osman, from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided an overview

of the organization's emergency services available to victims in presidentially declared disaster areas. This event, presented as part of the Disaster Relief Committee's annual training, provided excellent insight into the various programs offered by FEMA.

FEMA provides a host of services starting with its Voluntary Agency Coordination, which oversees 28 national agencies who comprise the frontline of local responders in the event of a disaster. In addition, FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) provides shelters, mobile homes, and travel trailers for those in immediate need. Through IHP, disaster victims are also afforded medical, dental and funeral expenses, as well as gain access to grants for the repair of primary residences when insurance is not available. The Small Business Administration also partners with FEMA to provide low-interest loans and disaster unemployment assistance for those in financial need as a result of the emergency.

Another service organized through FEMA is the Disaster Legal Services Program. Through the American Bar Association and FEMA, Maryland's Young Lawyers Section maintains a disaster relief committee to assist emergency victims with a host of legal services ranging from insurance claims, landlord/tenant disputes, home repair contracts, and consumer protection matters, to name a few areas.

The Young Lawyers Section's Disaster Relief Committee was last active following the tornados which struck southern Maryland two years ago. Typically, the organization's toll-free hotline records victims' questions and the cases are then referred to a volunteer lawyer depending upon the person's specific needs. Approximately eighty (80) lawyers serve as volunteers and, at times, Committee members go on-site to

*continued on page 6*

# Subpoenaing Medical Records The Rules Have Changed (2005 Md. Laws Ch. 503)

By Martha Ann Knutson, Esq.

Effective July 1, 2005, there were changes to the Health General article, specifically sections 4-306(b)(6) and 4-307. The good news is that the changes create one process for all subpoenas seeking medical records, and eliminate the current special procedures for subpoenas seeking mental health records.

The changes were the work of the State Council on Medical Privacy and Confidentiality which proposed them to provide greater notice to patients regarding disclosures of their medical information, and to make it easier for Maryland health care providers to respond to subpoenas and other forms of compulsory process while meeting the requirements of both the Maryland Medical Records Act and the federal HIPAA privacy regulations. The federal HIPAA provisions require that a record holder receive a written "assurance" from counsel that the "time for objecting" to the subpoena has passed, and either the patient raised no objections or the requested disclosure is in keeping with the resolution of those

objections before complying with a subpoena. Of course, under the Maryland Rules there is no set time period for "objecting" to a subpoena. For subpoenas seeking medical records that has now changed.

*To determine how best to comply with the new requirements, counsel are encouraged to carefully review the new changes. The text of the enrolled bill—SB 690—is available at the General Assembly website, <http://mlis.state.md.us/>.*

As of July 1, 2005, when subpoenaing medical records, issuing counsel must do the following:

- 1) Send a Statutory Patient Subpoena Notice Form (the form is in the new statute), a copy of the subpoena and a copy of Health General §4-306 to the "person in interest" (usually the patient or his/her counsel) via certified mail,

- 2) Wait 30 days for a response,
- 3) If there is no objection, send the subpoena, a copy of Health General §4-306, and a written "assurance" letter to the record holder stating one of the following:
  - a) 30 days have passed with no objections being raised; or
  - b) Any objections have been resolved and the requested disclosure is in compliance with that resolution.

Per the statutory Notice, "objections" are to be raised by filing a motion for protective order or motion to quash the subpoena.

To determine how best to comply with the new requirements, counsel are encouraged to carefully review the new changes. The text of the enrolled bill—SB 690—is available at the General Assembly website, <http://mlis.state.md.us/>. The Statutory Patient Subpoena Notice Form is enclosed in this issue as an insert. ♦

*Martha Ann Knutson is General Counsel/LCO at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center.*

## What We Do, And How to Join Us

*continued from page 5*

FEMA's Disaster Relief Centers in the heart of an emergency area.

Committee Chair Constantine "Gus" Themelis, is in the process of updating the list of volunteer attorneys. If you are interested in joining this Committee and volunteering your services in the event of an area disaster, please contact Gus at [Constantine.Themelis.ntte@StateFarm.com](mailto:Constantine.Themelis.ntte@StateFarm.com) and provide your contact information and practice areas. Additional

information regarding FEMA's programs, including disaster legal services, can be found at their website, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

*Scott Nelson &  
Claude de Vastey, Co-Chairs*

The Education Committee is excited to announce the recent addition of Claude de Vastey, Esquire as the new co-chair of the committee replacing Alice Chong, Esquire who was recently selected to represent the Young

Lawyers Section on the Maryland Board of Governors. Last year, the Education Committee put on a number of programs, including How to Draft a Will, Alternative Career Paths in the Law, and Navigating Low Cost Internet Legal Research. This year the Education Committee is planning a program on A Hundred Plus Pointers for New Lawyers on Adjusting to Your Job and we are currently investigating a presentation on How to Make your New Practice Successful and Financially Profitable. In addition,

*continued on page 10*

The Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC) is a private, non-profit law firm that serves Maryland residents with disabilities. There are approximately 700,000 Marylanders with disabilities, and without the participation of the private bar we could not come close to serving their needs. How can you help? You can volunteer your services through the Maryland Disability Law Center's special education *pro bono* attorney referral program, or the Medicaid Fair Hearing *pro bono* attorney project.

Federal and state laws promise every child with a disability a "free and appropriate public education," which includes specialized academic instruction and supports and services needed for a child to benefit from his or her education. Unfortunately, school systems do not always keep this promise and many families are unaware of their children's rights. Consequently, children with disabilities are often suspended at disproportionate rates, withdraw from school, and or are socially promoted without the opportunity to develop the skills to live as independently as possible. This is where the help of a lawyer can make a world of difference in the life of a child. Through MDLC's special education *pro bono* attorney program, clients whom MDLC cannot represent are matched with attorneys who are willing to provide free legal representation.

Many of the *pro bono* special education and school disciplinary cases are resolved after a few phone calls or letters. Others may require attendance at meetings, while some may result in a due process hearing before an administrative law judge. All cases are screened for merit and low-income eligibility consistent with the Maryland Legal Services Corporation guidelines. Volunteers have the opportunity to designate geographic preference and choose between special education cases

## Come Partner with Us!

By Elizabeth Fischer, Esq. and  
Lauren Kallins, Esq.

and school discipline cases involving students with disabilities. For more information about MDLC's special education *pro bono* attorney referral program, please contact Lauren Kallins at (410) 727-6352, ext. 238, or [laurenk@mdlcbalto.org](mailto:laurenk@mdlcbalto.org).

MDLC also encourages involvement in our Medicaid Fair Hearing *pro bono* attorney project, representing children who have been denied medical or mental health services by

*The objectives of this program include to further understanding of the law, court procedures and the legal system. It also increases proficiency in basic life skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and reasoning.*



Medicaid. Low-income children with disabilities on Medicaid are legally entitled to a wide range of essential healthcare services under the federal Medicaid Act's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program (EPSDT). Families, however, are often unaware that the right to such services exist, cannot access or are denied services, and may be forced to place children in institutions or out-of-home placements (which sometimes require parents to relinquish their parental rights of custody) to access to the care their children need.

In representing a child to access essential medical services, some cases

are resolved with a few phone calls, and others will require filing for and conducting Medicaid Fair Hearings (many of which settle quickly). Again, MDLC screens all cases for merit. For more information on the Medicaid Fair Hearing *pro bono* attorney project, please contact Cathy Surace at (410) 727-6352, ext. 262, or [cathys@mdlcbalto.org](mailto:cathys@mdlcbalto.org).

MDLC provides free training, materials, and ongoing assistance to volunteer attorneys accepting *pro bono* case. Although cases typically do not last more than a few months, the results can have a lifelong impact on the life of a child.

Designated as the Protection and Advocacy System for Maryland, MDLC's mission is to ensure that children and adults with physical or mental disability are afforded the full rights and entitlements accorded to them by state and federal law. These rights include the right to self-determination, the right to be free from harm, the right to be provided with due process, and the right to be included in community life with opportunities and choices. We fulfill our mission by individual case representation, class action litigation, coalition work, legislative advocacy, and partnerships with the private bar.

MDLC also provides various types of other services including, but not limited to: information and referrals to callers about different legal topics; technical assistance to other attorneys who help persons with disabilities; investigations of complaints that persons with disabilities are abused, neglected, or mistreated; case advocacy for persons with disabilities to obtain certain services; and public education and training. For more information about MDLC, please see our website: [www.mdlcbalto.org](http://www.mdlcbalto.org). ❖

Elizabeth Fischer, Staff Attorney, and  
Lauren Kallins, Staff Attorney/Pro Bono  
Coordinator.



### 3RD CIRCUIT

#### HARFORD COUNTY

*Lawrence F. Kreis, Jr., Circuit Representative*

The Harford County Bar Association recently hosted a family friendly night out at the Aberdeen Iron Bird's Game. The event was well attended and the Association is considering making it an annual event. The Annual HCBA Crab Feast is set for this September at Rockfield Manor. This is always one of the best events sponsored by the HCBA and we expect this year to be no different. The HCBA continues to put on lunchtime educational seminars with the most recent topic being Real Property and the Land Records. If you would like additional information about these and other events please contact Lawrence Kreis at (410) 879-2222.

### 4TH CIRCUIT

#### HOWARD COUNTY

*Claude de Vastey, Circuit Representative*

The YLS of the Howard County Bar Association would like to welcome

to the Circuit Court bench the Honorable Louis A. Becker and the Honorable Richard S. Bernhardt. This year's YLS chair is Ned Curry, assistant state's attorney for Howard County. Ned is looking forward to heading the section and asks anyone that is interested in getting involved or if you have any ideas for activities, to contact him at [ecurry74@hotmail.com](mailto:ecurry74@hotmail.com). The first event for the year will be the opening bar luncheon September 29, 2005 at That's Amore in Columbia. Our guest speakers will be Carol P. Waldhauser, Assistant Director of the MSBA Lawyers Assistance Program and Mark Muffoletto, Esquire Co-Chair of the HCBA Lawyers Assistance Program.

### 5TH CIRCUIT

#### ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

*Marla Zide, Circuit Representative*

Anne Arundel County has started a new Kickball League. Games are on Tuesday evenings and will run through October. If you are interested in joining a team, please feel free to contact me. We are all excited about this year as we welcomed Ted Staples as the new Anne Arundel County Bar President. Ted has some great events planned for the year and the young members of the Bar Association are getting geared up to be involved. The Young Lawyers Section also congratulates Karen Cook, past President for a great year.

The AABA Annual Crab Feast and Pre-Crab Feast Golf Tournament is being held on September 23rd.

### 6TH CIRCUIT

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

*Bradford S. Bernstein, Circuit Representative*

Congratulations to the Honorable Patrick Woodward on his elevation to the Court of Special Appeals. It is a very well deserved appointment.

Congratulations to Montgomery County's Mike Conroy on taking the reins of the Maryland State Bar Association. Mr. Conroy is a former President of the Montgomery County Bar Association and currently practices at Pasternack & Fidis, P.C.

It is now time to make your reservation for the Annual Golf and Tennis Charity Classic that will take place on October 10, 2005 at Argyle Country Club. This is the one fund raiser of the year to benefit the Pro Bono Program, High School Mock Trials, Juvenile Justice Initiatives and Law School for the Public. If you do not play golf or tennis, please join us for the very popular Silent Auction and wonderful buffet dinner.

The Montgomery County Bar Association Red Cross Blood Drive is taking place on October 28, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Please call 301-762-8376 to set up an appointment. By agreeing to give blood, you are demonstrating your dedication to the well-being of our community by ensuring that blood is available for each person whose life depends on its availability.

The New Practitioners' Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association invites all Judges and attorneys to a reception in honor of the new admittees to the Maryland Bar. The reception will take place in the Circuit Court Atrium on September 15, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. Please RSVP to either Lade Akinbolaji at 301-657-8805 or Marjorie DiLima at 301-251-0100.

### 7TH CIRCUIT

#### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

*Youshea Berry, Circuit Representative*

As the summer is slowing winding down, the local and minority bar associations in Prince George's County are quickly warming up and hosting a hot

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schedule of exciting networking and planning meetings.

The Prince George's County Bar Association will be inviting various bar associations in the county to its next meeting for its "Joint Membership Meeting." The event will be held at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt on Tuesday, September 13th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Additionally, mark your calendars for a boat cruise on Wednesday, October 26th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., when the Prince George's County Bar Association will hold its membership meeting aboard the Catherine Marie-Watermark Cruise. The boat departs promptly at 6:00 p.m. from Annapolis, Maryland. For

more information about this event and additional information on the Prince George's County Bar Association's upcoming events, visit the bar's website at [www.pgcba.com](http://www.pgcba.com) or contact the bar president Todd K. Pounds at [tpounds@alexander-cleaver.com](mailto:tpounds@alexander-cleaver.com).

The Prince George's Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland held its annual Spring Celebration on May 25, 2005. Judge Cathy Serrette hosted this year's event and Pamela White was the event's guest speaker.

The Chapter is also hosting a Women's Bar Association "Tea" on Sunday, September 25th from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt Marriott. The theme is "Sisters in Law." For more information, please contact the

bar's vice president Jennifer Muskus at [Muskuslaw@erols.com](mailto:Muskuslaw@erols.com).

The J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association hosted its "New Admittees' Reception" honoring new admittees to the Maryland Bar on Saturday, August 13th. This annual event offered freshly minted Maryland attorneys an opportunity to meet and network with members of the judiciary and experienced practitioners in a relaxed atmosphere. For additional information on the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association's upcoming events, visit the bar's website at [www.bournebar.org](http://www.bournebar.org) or contact bar president William Snoddy at [wasnoddy@hotmail.com](mailto:wasnoddy@hotmail.com). ❖

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## What We Do, And How to Join Us

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based upon such positive responses to the "Nuts & Bolts" programs of the past we are looking into some similar presentations for the not too distant future. The Education Committee is committed to providing programs to the Young Lawyers Section, which you feel would be beneficial and if you have some ideas for programs, or if you are interested in putting on a program you feel would be of benefit to the Young Lawyers Section, please contact Scott Nelson at [nelsons@mcwilson.com](mailto:nelsons@mcwilson.com).

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### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Sarah Andrews &  
Marla Zide, Co-Chairs*

The Membership Committee is excited to start with the now infamous Thirsty Thursdays September 23rd in Fells Point. We will be welcoming first year law students, Baltimore City 2005-2006 Law Clerks, and the newly Baltimore City admittees. In October there we be a happy hour in Howard

County. The location will be announced at a later date. In November we are looking forward to heading across the beltway to Montgomery County and having a get together with folks at a bar in the Bethesda area. December we will be back in our State's capitol to congratulate the newest members of the Maryland State Bar Association in Annapolis, Maryland.

If you are interested in more information about the Happy Hours or if you are interested in assisting to host a Thirsty Thursday, please contact either Marla or Sarah via email. Looking forward to a new year and having our largest and most active membership ever.

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### PRO BONO COMMITTEE

*Michelle E. Stawinski &  
Emil Wang, Co-Chairs*

Last year, the *Pro Bono* Committee hosted a number of Road Show Clinics. These Clinics were such a hit that the Committee will again this year be hosting Road Shows throughout the state.

Our goal this year is to host six Clinics – one in each of the following areas: Baltimore City/Baltimore County; Cecil, Harford, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties; Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties; Anne Arundel, Carroll, Howard, and Montgomery Counties; and Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington Counties. At this time, the exact schedule has not been set, but we anticipate that we will hold one each month beginning in September (taking December and January off, of course). Keep an eye on this column for information on how you can get in on the pro bono action.

If you have suggestions for sites in which each of these Road Show Clinics can be held or would like to assist us in organizing a Road Show in your area, please contact either Michelle Stawinski at (410) 752-6000 or Emil Wang at (240) 276-0160. ❖

# Annual Meeting Wrap Up

The MSBA's Annual Meeting was held at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, June 15-18, 2005. Young Lawyers in attendance participated in numerous educational seminars and social events. The Annual Meeting's first social event was the crab



feast, where Young Lawyers and their families had the opportunity to socialize with colleagues while enjoying crabs and a beautiful waterfront view.

The Young Lawyers section hosted several different programs including the annual disaster relief training, where the section's Disaster Relief Committee and a FEMA representative educated attendees about the invaluable services provided by our section members. The speaker provided information to volunteers interested in providing legal services to victims of federally declared or major transportation disasters in Maryland. If you are interested in learning more about the services provided by the disaster relief committee, please



contact the committee co-chairs, Gus Themelis and I. DeAndrei Drummond. The section also hosted a judicial nominations program where members from the bench and the MSBA's Judicial

Appointments Committee discussed the judicial nominations process and shared valuable insights from their own experiences. All YLS sponsored events were well attended.

In addition to the programs, the section hosted An Afternoon at Seacrets, a social event at which attendees were served lunch on Seacrets beach. The section had its annual business meeting on Thursday afternoon, where members had an opportunity to learn more ways to become involved. At the annual Presidents reception that evening, MSBA members welcomed the incoming President, J. Michael Conroy, Jr., and bid farewell to outgoing President



Cornelius Helfrich. Young lawyers had the opportunity to mingle and network with MSBA members, their families, and judges.

Friday morning's weather was sunny and beautiful for the participants of the Annual YLS Sun Run, sponsored by the Daily Record. The runners chose between the 5K and 10K run and had fun while they exercised. Men's 5K winner was Evan Beard with a finishing time of 19.34. The Women's 5K winner was Brooke Murphy with a finishing time of 24.13. The Men and Women's 10K winners were William Moore and Julie Rubin with finishing times of 44.55 and 51.23 respectively. The YLS would like to congratulate all of the winners for their achievements, and thank all those who came out for the race.

The MSBA YLS Section Council would like to thank those who attended the Annual Meeting, and we look forward to seeing even more members next year! ♦

## From the Chair

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Finally, if you only participate in one event this year, mark your calendar to attend the MSBA's only charitable event—Novemberfest on November 12, 2005 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Maryland Historical Society, home of the Star Spangled Banner. This annual gala is the perfect way to celebrate the start of the holiday season while also donating to a worthy cause. All proceeds from Novemberfest will benefit the Living Classroom Foundation. More details on our signature event will follow from Activities Co-Chairs Samantha Bishop and Stephanie Cohen. If you would like to pledge a monetary donation, offer an item for auction, or volunteer, please contact Samantha ([Samantha@bish-op@atradius.com](mailto:Samantha@bish-op@atradius.com) or 410-246-5593) or Stephanie ([scohen@gflaw.com](mailto:scohen@gflaw.com) or 410-576-4176).

These activities are only a few of the ways you can become involved in the YLS, and reap the benefits of membership. Volunteering and participating in bar functions is rewarding on many levels, whether you commit to a substantive committee, or simply take part as an attendee—without the consistent support of our members, the YLS would not have become the largest and most active Section of the MSBA.

I look forward to meeting you soon!

Kindest regards,  
Ruth-Ann Bennett  
Chair

*Ruth-Ann Bennett is a litigation associate with the law firm of Franklin & Prokopik, P.C. and, is the Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association Young Lawyers' Section. In addition, YLS Section Council members would like to congratulate Ms. Bennett on receiving the American Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division Star of the Year award. Ms. Bennett's dedication and hard work was recognized in front of the entire assembly at the ABA Conference in Chicago.*

**The ABA is  
Coming to Maryland**

*continued from page 1*

Welcome Reception, Thursday and Saturday Socials, Friday dinner/dance, and After Hours & Hospitality. If you are interested in serving on any one of these committees, please fill out the volunteer form and return it to John Murphy as soon as possible.

There are other ways you can help in addition to serving on a sub-committee. We must also raise funds to ensure that the registration fee remains minimal while providing a host of enticing activities for our guests. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in donations. If you are interested in helping out, please fill out and return the volunteer/sponsor form below. With your help, we can make the October 2006 ABA YLD Conference an exceptional event that highlights not only what Maryland has to offer, but also that Maryland attorneys are among the very best in the nation. ❖

*Michelle Stawinski is an attorney at Boulard & Brush, LLC and is Chair of the YLS Publications subcommittee for the ABA Conference and Co-Chair of the YLS Pro Bono Committee.*



In support of the  
**Living Classroom Foundation**

**Saturday, November 12, 2005**  
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

**Maryland Historical Society**  
**Home of the Star Spangled Banner**  
201 West Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21201  
(Corner of Park Ave)

**Casino Games ♥ Auction ♣ Music ♦ Food ♠ Fun**

Tickets: \$65/pers. before Oct. 1st  
\$70/pers. after Oct. 1st

Purchase tickets by Oct. 28 by sending payment to:  
MSBA, 520 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201  
Attn: Judy Larrimore  
Or order tickets online at [www.msba.org](http://www.msba.org)

## VOLUNTEER/SPONSOR FORM

**Please check all that apply:**

- I am a member of the MSBA YLS.
- I am interested in making a donation/sponsoring a social event. Please contact me regarding levels of sponsorship.
- I am interested in volunteering to assist with planning an event. Please contact me so that I may participate in a planning subcommittee.
- I am interested in volunteering during the Conference. (You will be contacted next year concerning the details.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to:** Nicole Earl-Hernandez, *Director of Administration*  
Maryland State Bar Association, Inc., 520 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201


**THE ADVOCATE**

Section of Young Lawyers  
Maryland State Bar  
Association, Inc.  
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Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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## Calendar of Events

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- September 13th:** Prince George's Co. Bar Assoc. Joint Membership Meeting @ Martin's Crosswinds
  - September 15th:** Montgomery Co. Bar Assoc. new admittee reception @ the circuit court atrium
  - September 23rd:** Anne Arundel Co. Bar Assoc. annual crab feast and pre-crab golf tournament
  - September 25th:** Prince George's Co. Women's Bar Assoc. Tea @ the Greenbelt Marriott
  - September 29th:** Howard Co. Bar Association opening Bar Luncheon @That's Amore
  - October 10th:** Montgomery Co. Bar Assoc. Annual Golf & Tennis Charity Classic @ Argyle Country Club
  - October 26th:** Prince George's Co. Bar Assoc. membership meeting on the Catherine Marie-Watermark Cruise
  - October 28th:** Montgomery Co. Bar Assoc. Red Cross Blood Drive