



# NEWSLETTER

January 2018

## Executive Director's Message

By: Meredith Lawler

A warm farewell and thank you from your current Executive Director! It has been a pleasure to be your Executive Director over the past year, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to meet and work with so many hard-working, generous, and kind people. Because just about every email I've sent you includes a bullet list (I love bullet lists), here is a list of my favorite memories from my time at the Bar:

- Free lunch at every monthly meeting. Those mini cupcakes just make any day a great day.
- Carrying a giant plastic water jug stuffed with cash through downtown Frederick (from the very successful School Supply Drive vegetable sale) and having to use a hacksaw to get the money out. I almost lost a finger that day. I don't remember seeing "occasional hacksaw use" in my original job description, but I am a problem-solver.
- Seeing how quickly the Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner volunteer slots filled up. It was a really awesome feeling to see that. You guys are the best. So quick to give of your time for others.
- All the visually nice, round numbers in donations you consistently provided. \$2,500 for the CINA kids ... \$13,800 for school supplies ... \$1,500 for Camp Jamie ... various anonymous donations for Bar events ... so many more examples. These impactful acts of generosity by our lawyers strengthen our community in tangible ways, and I love that.
- An Executive Committee dedicated to the success and betterment of this Bar, and so kind to a new ED learning the ropes. Thank you to Lorraine Prete, Marshall Hornan, Magistrate Joanie Raymond, Janice Rockwell, Jennifer Rankin, Cris LoVetro, and Judge Dino Flores for your support and friendship.

The Bar Association has so much to look forward to in 2018! Service opportunities, social events, CLE offerings, the 10-year BAFC composite photo for the Courthouse wall, engaging speakers, new speciality sections – these are the strengths that set this Bar apart. I encourage you to attend at least one extra Bar event, monthly luncheon, or section meeting this year; you won't be disappointed.

We are also excited to strengthen our ties with the MSBA and other local bars this year under the new leadership of MSBA Executive Director, Victor Velazquez. I highly recommend you join Victor and his MSBA colleagues (and members of our own Executive Committee) next Thursday, January 25, at La Paz from 5:00-7:00 p.m. to meet Victor and hear about his vision for MSBA. Our new BAFC Executive Director, Maegan Cooper, will be there as well. You are in good hands!

Thank you again, and best wishes to all of you for a fulfilling and happy 2018, both personally and professionally. Keep up the amazing work!

Meredith

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[BAFC Website](#)

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**Bar Association of Frederick County Leadership**

**2017-2018 Executive Committee**



Pictured (L to R):

Cristine LoVetro: Asst. Secretary  
Magistrate Joanie Raymond: Treasurer  
The Hon. Dino Flores: Asst. Treasurer  
Lorraine Prete: President  
Marshall Horman: President Elect  
Janice Rockwell: Secretary  
Jennifer Rankin: Past President

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## Feature Article

### A New Maryland Ruling on Development Rights and Responsibility Agreements: Score Another Round for the Developer

By: Anne-Herbert Rollins

The Maryland Court of Appeals recently heard and decided a case involving Development Rights and Responsibility Agreements. In my first blog post on this topic, “Development Rights and Responsibility Agreements: The Give and Take of Development.” I discussed the purposes of and requirements for a Development Rights and Responsibility Agreement (“DRRA”) between a land developer and the local government having jurisdiction over the property. In my subsequent blog post, “Two Recent Maryland Rulings on Development Rights and Responsibility Agreements.” I discussed two decisions by the Maryland Court of Special Appeals regarding the interpretation and enforcement of a DRRA. One of those cases was subsequently appealed to Maryland’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, and a decision was recently issued which reversed and remanded the lower appellate court’s ruling.

As a bit of a refresher, under Maryland case law, the rights of a land developer do not “vest” until there is some evidence of visible, lawful construction on the property. So until some visible construction exists, changes could be enacted to the local laws which may affect the property, even if the developer has already expended considerable amounts of time and money on the development in ways that may not be visible but involve actual construction, such as architectural design or title review. The Maryland legislature adopted the use of DRRA’s to provide greater certainty to both the land developer and the local government for the development of a property by way of the contractual rights and responsibilities set forth in the DRRA.

As the name implies however, a DRRA contains both rights as well as responsibilities. The Maryland Court of Special Appeals previously issued two decisions interpreting the impacts of a DRRA. Both cases related to the same property, located in Frederick County, and the same DRRA. The opinions were issued just weeks apart, and demonstrated the two sides of a DRRA, with a focus both on the rights under such agreements as well as the related responsibilities.

[\[READ MORE HERE\]](#)

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## Member Announcements

**Movahed & Fisher Law, LLC** is an immigration law firm practicing out of Frederick, Maryland. The firm was founded in 2017 in response to the growing need for immigration legal services in the Frederick community. Our practice areas include: asylum, deportation defense, family-based visas, and many other immigrant-based petitions. Located off the Golden Mile, we service a diverse clientele from Latin American, Europe, Africa, and Asia. **Sara Movahed** ([sm@movahedfisher.com](mailto:sm@movahedfisher.com)) and **Calvin Fisher** ([ogf@movahedfisher.com](mailto:ogf@movahedfisher.com)) can be reached at 301-694-6400.

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As of January 1, **Horman Nichols, LLC** will be relocating to 5310 Buckeystown Pike, Suite 301, Frederick, MD 21704. They can be reached at their new telephone number, 301-663-8101, or via their existing email addresses (Marshall Horman: [mhorman@hormannichols.com](mailto:mhorman@hormannichols.com); Andrew Nichols: [anichols@hormannichols.com](mailto:anichols@hormannichols.com); Russell Horman: [rhorman@hormannichols.com](mailto:rhorman@hormannichols.com)) and website: [www.hormannichols.com](http://www.hormannichols.com).

I would like to thank all members of the Young Lawyers Section of the Bar. The 2017 YLS Mentorship Award meant more to me than any other recognition I have received as a lawyer. Not only was I moved emotionally beyond words, I am honored to have worked with so many outstanding young lawyers.

**David Littrell**

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

**Frederick County legal office staff and support teams:** Are you interested in joining a local monthly group of your peers for training, mentoring, and networking opportunities here in Frederick? Please contact Anne Wolf, Paralegal, at [awolf@lusk-law.com](mailto:awolf@lusk-law.com) for information regarding the first meeting.

## Prime Downtown Location ♦ Office Condo for Sale



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### Upcoming Bar Association Events

#### Annual Meeting – Monday, January 22

Join us for our Annual Meeting at 4:00 p.m. in Circuit Courtroom #1 as we install our new Executive Committee and review the numerous happenings of 2017.

#### MSBA Meet & Greet with New MSBA ED – Thursday, January 25

Come to La Paz (second floor) from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25 to meet Victor Velazquez, MSBA's new Executive Director, and enjoy a happy hour with your MSBA and BAFC colleagues! Victor will say a few words about his plans and vision for MSBA and how our organizations can continue to work and grow together in 2018. This is a great opportunity to connect with our state-level bar association, especially for our young lawyers (the MSBA YLS chair will be there as well!).

The event is free for MSBA and BAFC members; see flyer below for RSVP details.



**Thursday, January 25, 2018 | 5 - 7 PM**

La Paz Mexican Restaurant  
51 South Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701

Open Bar and Heavy Appetizers.  
Free to MSBA and Frederick County Bar Members.

**Please RSVP to [Theresa@msba.org](mailto:Theresa@msba.org)**

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## Opening Term of Court – Monday, February 5

A note to new BAFC members and/or any members who have not yet signed the Lawyer's Book:

Our next Opening Term of Court will take place on **February 5 at 9:00 a.m. in Circuit Court 1**. At this time, you will have the opportunity to participate in Frederick County's time-honored ceremony by signing the Lawyer's Book, a tradition that dates back to 1946. Please email Maegan Cooper at [info@frederickbar.org](mailto:info@frederickbar.org) if you are a member who has not signed the book and would like to sign. Please plan to bring a member of the Bar Association of Frederick County who can introduce you to your colleagues at the Bar and Bench. You will need to know your Bar admit date for the book as well.

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## Section Updates

### Young Lawyers Section

The November monthly meeting will be held on **January 23, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.** at Pistarro's.

For more information about the YLS, please e-mail Kyle Kane at [kkane@statesattorney.us](mailto:kkane@statesattorney.us).

### Family Law Section

The next Family Law Section meeting will be **January 22, 12:00 p.m.** at Nido's Restaurant. Mary Drawbaugh will discuss the intersection of criminal and family law.

For more information about the Family Law Section,

## ANTIETAM TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.



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### Business Law Section

The Business Law Section will meet on **January 18 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.** at Lusk Law, LLC. Drew Murphy will discuss cases related to the new tax code.

If you would like to be included on the Business Law Section email list or would like more information about the Business Law Section, please contact Frank Goldstein at [frankr@frgoldlaw.com](mailto:frankr@frgoldlaw.com).

## The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral

### Hon. John H. Tisdale (Ret.)

Retired Judge, Circuit Court for Frederick County

The Honorable John Tisdale has served his community admirably for over forty years as an advocate, jurist, board member, and volunteer. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he enjoyed a successful career in private law practice, providing counsel in a variety of civil and family law disputes. A proven leader, Judge Tisdale has served as President of the Frederick County Bar Association, Director of Frederick Memorial Hospital, Chair of the Board of Directors for Frederick Community College, and as a Commander in the United States Naval Reserve. He was recognized by the Maryland State Bar Association with the presentation of the Anselm Sodaro Civility Award and served as Chair of the Maryland Judicial Ethics Committee for five years. Judge Tisdale now brings his distinguished record of accomplishment and service to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation and arbitration needs of lawyers and litigants throughout Maryland and beyond.



### *Dispute Resolution and Prevention*

For a complete list of our services and Neutrals throughout MD, DC, and VA, call (888) 343-0922 or visit [www.McCammonGroup.com](http://www.McCammonGroup.com)

## General Announcements and Updates

### Free Legal Resources for 2018

We periodically get requests for legal assistance or advice at the Bar Association; we have started a list of free legal resources to provide as a response to these requests. If you know of additional free legal resources we can include, please email Maegan Cooper at [info@frederickbar.org](mailto:info@frederickbar.org). Thank you!

## **Free Local Legal Services 2018**

### **Legal Resources**

- Maryland Courts Self Help Center: [Live Chat](#) or call 410-260-1392 between 8:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Family Law Hotline: 800-845-8550
- Legal Forms Line: 800-818-9888
- Lawyer Referral: 800-649-1090
- Legal Aid: 301-694-7414 or 800-999-8904
- [Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service \(MVLS\)](#): 800-510-0050

### **Self-Help Law Clinic**

The Self-help Law Clinic is located on the Lower Level of the Frederick County Courthouse and is available to income-eligible litigants on a first-come-first-served basis. It is open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You must sign in by 12:00 p.m. to be served. For Spanish speaking litigants, the Clinic is open on the third Wednesday of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### **Heartly House**

We provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse who are either residents of Frederick County or have an open court case in Frederick County. We provide the following legal services (free of charge):

- Our on-site attorneys represent clients at Protective Order and Peace Order hearings in District and Circuit Court
- Our attorneys also represent a limited number of clients in family law matters in Circuit Court (income eligibility guidelines apply for family law representation)
- Our victim advocates provide accompaniment and support for civil and criminal proceedings
- Advocates provide safety planning, advocacy, referrals, support, hospital accompaniments and information on courthouse protocol.

Our legal department can be reached through our Hotline: 301-662-8800.

## Frederick County Courthouse Services

Here is the link to the Circuit Court webpage that includes information on Ordering Transcripts, Drug Court, all Family Services, Mediation, and general information, etc.: <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/2027/Courts>

### Family Law for the People Free Seminar

Held on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

usually held at the C. Burr Artz Public Library, 110 East Patrick Street \*

“Family Law for the People: Understanding the Law and Court Process” is a free informational seminar for individuals interested in learning about common family law issues and court procedures. Featuring experienced family attorneys, the seminar will cover topics including:

- Child custody and support
- Divorce
- Starting a case
- Trial process and procedures
- Finding and working with an attorney
- Alternatives to trial.

Family Law for the People was developed by the Department of Family Administration of the Administrative Office of the Courts – Programs, the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association, and the People’s Law Library of Maryland.

The seminar is for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice.

\* To confirm time and location, contact Lynn Macpherson at [blmacpherson@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:blmacpherson@frederickcountymd.gov) or 301-600-2023 or go to the County website <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/5708/Family-Services-Program#Self-Help>.

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## Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) Upcoming Trainings

All upcoming trainings through February are below, with registration links.

January 18, 12:00-1:30 p.m.—Third Thursday Webinar: Basic Steps Attorneys Can Take to Avoid Probate—Training is free, no pro bono commitment.

February 13, 12:00-1:30 p.m.—Tax Topic Tuesday: Innocent Spouse and Other Relief from Marital Tax Troubles—training is free, no pro bono commitment.

February 15, 12:00-1:30 p.m.—Third Thursday Webinar: Divorce and Custody Litigation – From Start to Finish—training is free, no pro bono commitment.

February 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.—Nuts & Bolts of Collections: IRS and MD—Training is free but participants are asked for a pro bono commitment of taking a tax collections case within 6 months. This will be an in person training at the Annapolis office of Frost & Associates, 888 Bestgate Road, Suite 400.

To check for new trainings and events, please visit our Events Calendar, where you’ll find upcoming attorney trainings, brief advice clinics, and other MVLS events.

One last thing—our March Madness benefit at M&T Bank Stadium is coming up on March 22, and it’s always a great time. Early bird tickets are on sale until February 8 and are priced at a 30% discount!

As always, people can contact Ellyn Riedl at 443-451-4079 or [eriedl@mvlslaw.org](mailto:eriedl@mvlslaw.org) with any questions.

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# Attorney Grievance Committee – Deputy Bar Counsel Opening

## Deputy Bar Counsel, Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland

The Office of Bar Counsel is seeking applicants for a second Deputy Bar Counsel. The Deputy supports Bar Counsel in performing the duties set forth in Maryland Rule 19-703(b). Responsibilities include: handling an independent case list; assisting Bar Counsel and Deputy Bar Counsel in hiring, training and managing all staff members; overseeing the screening and investigation of complaints alleging professional misconduct or incapacity; supervising the prosecutions of disciplinary or remedial proceedings and other court actions; and managing the day to day operations of the Office of Bar Counsel.

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of eight years' legal experience, including substantial trial and/or appellate experience; the demonstrated ability to lead and manage a litigation team; and outstanding written and oral advocacy skills. Maryland Bar required.

Salary range \$101,000-\$114,000. Benefits include medical insurance and retirement benefits. Email cover letter, resume and writing sample to [lydia.lawless@agc.maryland.gov](mailto:lydia.lawless@agc.maryland.gov). Resume must be received by close of business February 9, 2018. E.O.E.

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## Calendar

### January/Early February Events

- Thursday, January 18, 12:00-1:00 pm: **Business Law Section meeting**, Lusk Law, LLC.
- Monday, January 22, 12:00 pm: **Family Law Section meeting**, Nido's Restaurant.
- Monday, January 22, 4:00 pm: **Annual Meeting**, Circuit Court #1.
- Tuesday, January 23, 12:00-1:00 p.m.: **YLS meeting**, Plstarro's.
- Thursday, January 25, 5:00-7:00 p.m.: **MSBA Meet & Greet with the New ED**, La Paz (second floor). RSVP to Theresa Michael at [theresa@msba.org](mailto:theresa@msba.org).
- Monday, February 5, 9:00 a.m.: **Opening Term of Court**, Circuit Court #1.
- Tuesday, February 6, 12:00-1:00 pm: **Monthly Meeting and Luncheon**, The Delaplaine Arts Center. Pre-purchase lunch [HERE](#).



## Classified Ads

### LEASE

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### Associate Attorney Position Available

The Law Offices of Shipe & Bush are seeking to add an additional associate attorney. We are a small established firm located in Urbana. The ideal candidate will have 2+ years of experience in family law in addition to at least one additional area of law and be willing to travel to surrounding counties. If you are looking for a change of environment, more flexibility, or would like to join a small firm, please email resume to [kshipe@shipebushlaw.com](mailto:kshipe@shipebushlaw.com) or [lbush@shipebushlaw.com](mailto:lbush@shipebushlaw.com).

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## Sponsor Spotlight

*Our lunch sponsors who opt for placing an annual ad in our newsletter will also receive space to highlight their services to Bar members.*

### **Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance**

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STAY CONNECTED



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