



# The Anne Arundel County BARRISTER

The Newsletter of the Anne Arundel Bar Association

March – April 2018

## Dates to remember

MAY 16

**CLE: Trial Practice –  
The Child Witness**  
Anne Arundel  
Community College  
Arnold, MD  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MAY 17

**Estate Planning  
Committee Meeting**  
Severn Bank Building  
5:30 P.M.

JUNE 11

**AABA Annual Meeting**  
Circuit Court for Anne  
Arundel County  
Annapolis, MD  
5:00 p.m.

**President’s Reception**  
Annapolis, MD  
6:00 p.m.

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## Oh, What a Night!

I cannot express my thanks enough to all who attended the 2018 Barristers Ball at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. We had just under 200 attendees at this year’s formal event on March 24, and the ball raised over \$6,000 dollars for our designated charitable recipients: Warrior Canine Connection, which enlists recovering Warriors in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow veterans; Warrior Events, which enriches the lives of those wounded while serving and their family members by hosting monthly events to show appreciation for their sacrifices; and the Veterans Docket at the Anne Arundel County District Court, which delivers innovative solutions for veterans involved in the criminal justice system.

Attendance was highlighted by the presence of 16 AABA past presidents: Sara Arthur, Karen Cook, Jessica Daigle, Hon. Dick Duden, John Gardner, Greg Jimeno, Jonathan Kagan, Anne Leitess, Saul McCormick, Hon. Tim Meredith, Bill Mitchell, Hon. Danielle Mosley, Steve Oberg, Debbie Potter, Dave Putzi, Kevin Schaeffer, and President-elect Stacey Rice.



*AABA President Steve Wrobel and Barrister’s Ball Committee Co-Chairs Suzanne Burnett and Christine Pham welcome members and guests to the reception on the Flag Bridge at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.*

We were also honored to have eight current judges in attendance: From the Circuit Court, Hon. Mark Crooks, Hon. Glenn Klavans, Hon. Donna Schaeffer, and Hon. Cathy Vitale; from

### President’s Message by Steve Wrobel

*Continued on page 4*

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# Practice Notes...

Compiled by Hon. Philip Caroom

## Family law – affidavits of pat. & genetic testing:

Clarifying various precedents, the Court of Spec. Appeals holds “[Wh]en an alleged father signs an affidavit of parentage on the basis of a genuine but incorrect belief that he is the father of the children, and he later requests a genetic test to show whether in fact the father of the children, he is entitled to one. [Best interest of the child analysis is not involved in the decision to grant the test.] Then, if the test conclusively shows that he is not the father of the children, he no longer has the legal responsibilities that a father must have.” *Faison v. MCOSE ex re. Murray*, -- Md.App.—(12/4/17).

## Corporations – jurisdiction – Md.govt.filings:

A non-resident parent corporation is not subject to long-arm jurisdiction for class-action in Maryland based solely on its incorporation of a subsidiary or similar filing of instruments within Maryland. *Stisser v. SP Bankcorp*, --Md.App. – (11/29/17).

## Criminal procedure – discovery – co-defendant

**identification:** Facts - State’s theory of case was that only two perpetrators were on the scene; witness identified co-defendant as the “nonshooter.” Other evidence suggested defendant was the second perpetrator. Holding - “[A]s a general matter, Maryland Rule 4–263(d)(7)(B) does not, by its plain language and history, require the State to disclose during discovery a State’s witness’s pretrial identification of a co-defendant.... [But, there] may be cases, such as this one, in which... a pretrial identification of a co-defendant [circumstantially] constitutes relevant information regarding the pretrial identification of the defendant.” *Green v. State*, -- Md.—(10/20/17).

## Criminal evidence – prescription as nonhearsay:

Facts - The State moved in limine to exclude defendant’s prescriptions for CDS, stating “These are copies of alleged prescriptions. They are not certified. The doctor is not present. There’s no certification or authenticity,” and the trial judge granted this motion. Holding - Valid prescriptions [may] provide the basis

of a statutory defense to the charges [as to] methadone, alprazolam, and oxycodone.” Therefore, the trial judge erred in excluding these as, with proper authentication, the prescriptions were not hearsay. *Young v. State*, -- Md.App.—(12/1/17).

**All bar association members are invited to contribute Practice Notes as to any legal points or information which might be useful to other attorneys. These should be sent to: Attn.- Hon. P. Caroom, Court House, c/o AABA, P.O. Box 161, Annapolis, Md. 21404, or by email to pcaroom@gmail.com.**

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## President's message, continued

the District Court, Hon. Dick Duden, Hon. Jonas Legum, and Hon. Danielle Mosley; and from the Court of Special Appeals, Hon. Tim Meredith. You can see some wonderful photos of our Barrister's Ball attendees on pages 11 - 14 of this issue.

The evening started with a reception on the Flag Bridge at the stadium. Guests were offered drinks as they exited the elevator and were able to get a great view of the stadium and the surrounding Annapolis area. As part of a special sponsorship opportunity this year, several organizations purchased sponsorships and had their message displayed on the stadium's jumbotron during the reception. Thank you to our sponsors: Council Baradel, Eagle Title, Frost & Associates, Gormley Jarashow Bowman, Hillman Brown & Darrow, Iliff Meredith Wildberger & Brennan, iNovex, Kagan Law Group, Law Office of Steven Wrobel, Liff & Walsh, Potter Burnett, Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, and Staples Law Group. Your generous donation will support the work of our designated charitable organizations.

After an hour on the Flag Bridge, guests returned to the "VADM William P. Lawrence 'N' Room" banquet hall for the presentation of colors by the United States Naval Academy Color Guard and the playing of the national anthem by a quartet from the Naval Academy Band. The participation by the Academy really brought home the military theme of this year's ball, and set just the right tone for the evening.

After a surf and turf dinner, guests had the opportunity to mingle with representatives from Warrior Canine Connection and Warrior Events, participate in the silent auction and watch a video presentation highlighting our members and member's relatives who served in the five branches of the U.S. military.

I want to publicly congratulate our Social Programs Division Co-Chairs Suzanne Burnett and Christine Pham for putting on such a spectacular event. The co-chairs delegated and relied heavily on their committee members to assure a successful event, and each of them deserves public thanks and recognition as well: Matt Bernhardt, Sarah Brown, Hon. Mark Crooks, Jim Crossan, Steven Hyatt, Kaitlyn Loughner, Mike Marinello, Hon. Danielle Mosley, and Jessica Praley. And of course, all the thanks in the world to Fran, Cara and Lisa, our own intrepid bar association staff, for their hard work

both before and during the ball. You all created an exceptional evening that will be long remembered by members of the bar association. Thank you.

Finally, the main purpose behind this year's event was to keep our country's military veterans in the forefront of everyone's thoughts. Over 2.6 million vets have returned from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. 1 in 6 of those returning vets struggle with addiction, and 1 in 5 has post traumatic stress disorder. We owe it to them to honor their service and do what we can to assist in their transition, such as supporting organizations like Warrior Canine Connection and Warrior Events. When those veterans do struggle, we must give them every opportunity to get their lives back on track by maintaining and expanding our county's Veterans Treatment Docket in the Anne Arundel County District Court, and one day establishing a similar treatment court in the Circuit Court. We owe those veterans that consideration.

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# Into the Stratosphere: Child Support Above the Guidelines

By Magistrates Charles J. Muskin and  
Timothy P. Thurtle

## The Underlying Purpose of the Guidelines

The General Assembly chose to create child support guidelines based on the Income Shares Model. This model rests upon the principle that “a child should receive the same proportion of parental income, and thereby enjoy the same standard of living, he or she would have experienced had the child’s parents remained together.” *Voishan v. Palmer*, 327 Md. 318, 322-23 (1992) (internal citations omitted).

The purpose of the guidelines is: “(1) to remedy a shortfall in the level of awards that do not reflect the actual costs of raising children[;] (2) to improve the consistency, and therefore, the equity of child support awards [;] (3) to improve the efficiency of court processes for adjudicating child support.”

*Reichert v. Hornbeck*, 210 Md.App. 282, 315 (2013), quoting *Voishan*, *supra*, 327 Md. at 322.

## The Underlying Purpose Applies to Above-Guidelines Cases

In cases such as this one, ... calculation of child support falls within the chancellor’s sound discretion. The chancellor will “examine the needs of the child in light of the parents’ resources and determine the amount of support necessary to ensure that the child’s standard of living does not suffer because of the parents’ separation.”

*Maness v. Sawyer*, 180 Md.App. 295, 319-20 (2008); quoting *Chimes v. Michael*, 131 Md.App. 271, 288- 90 (2000).

## The Factors

In *Voishan*, the Court emphasized that, although “the legislature specifically rejected the request for more explicit formulae for incomes above the schedule, the general principles from which the schedule was derived should not be ignored.” *Id.* at 328, 609 A.2d 319. The Court’s careful review of the legislative intent and pre-guideline cases emphasized several significant considerations that circumscribe and guide the trial judge’s discretion. These considerations include:

- 1) the purpose of the Income Shares Model underlying the guidelines, i.e., maintain the children at the same standard of living they would have enjoyed absent the parties’ divorce;
- 2) the financial circumstances of each party;
- 3) each party’s station in life;
- 4) the age and physical condition of the parties;
- 5) the costs of educating the child;

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- 6) the need for consistency of support awards;
- 7) the maximum in the schedule is the minimum for combined incomes above the schedule;
- 8) the results of extrapolation from the schedule.

*Bagley v. Bagley*, 98 Md.App. 18, 37 (1993), cert. denied, 334 Md. 18 (1994).

**Step One – Determine the Parties’ Income**

Even in a case in which the statutory schedule of basic child support obligations does not apply, the trial court must ascertain each parent’s “actual income.” *Walker v. Grow*, 170 Md.App. 255, 267 (2006); *Reichert v. Hornbeck*, 210 Md.App. 282, 316 (2013). From a practical point of view, the court cannot first determine whether the case is an “above-the-guidelines” matter until after the parties’ income is actually determined.

**Step Two – Determine the Presumptive Minimum Support from the Top-of-the-Chart**

Many cases state that the guidelines do not apply to above-the-guidelines cases. See, e.g., *Frankel*

*v. Frankel*, 165 Md.App. 553, 586 (2005), cert. dismissed, 393 Md. 241 (2006) (“This Court has explained that, when the parents’ combined monthly income exceeds \$10,000, the [child support] Guidelines do not apply.”). This is not entirely true.

In *Voishan* the court stated the guidelines “establish a rebuttable presumption that the maximum support award under the schedule is the minimum which should be awarded in cases above the sched-

**Trainor, Billman, Bennett & Milko, LLP, is proud to announce that Thomas DeGennaro joined the firm as a family law associate attorney.** Prior to joining Trainor, Billman, Bennett & Milko, LLP, Thomas served as a judicial law clerk to Judge Paul F. Harris, Jr. and Judge Donna M. Schaeffer, both of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court. Thomas graduated from the University of Baltimore School of Law in May 2015 and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in December 2015. In his free time, Thomas enjoys spending time with his wife, Athena, and their two dogs, Hera and Cali, at their home in Crownsville.

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ule.” *Supra*, 327 Md. at 331-332; *Otley v. Otley*, 147 Md.App. 540, 561 (2002). In other words, the support figure at “the top of the chart” is a presumptively minimum figure for the total support obligation of the parents. It is presumed that a family earning more than \$15,000 per month spends at least as much on the children as a family earning exactly that figure. So, for example, parents making more than \$15,000 per month with one child are presumed to spend at least \$1,942 per month on the child as basic support. See Fam.Law §12-204(e). That figure is then used as the “basic child support” figure on the guidelines worksheet (line 4). The remainder of the worksheet is completed as normal – whether sole or shared custody – and the resulting figure is the presumptive *minimum* child support obligation. Of course, this figure is *presumptively* correct and subject to deviation pursuant to Fam.Law §12-202(a)(2).

### Step Three – Determine the Needs of This Child

In cases such as this one, where the guidelines do not apply, calculation of child support falls within the chancellor’s sound discretion. The chancellor will

“examine the needs of the child in light of the parents’ resources and determine the amount of support necessary to ensure that the child’s standard of living does not suffer because of the parents’ separation.”

*Maness v. Sawyer*, 180 Md.App. 295, 320 (2008); quoting *Chimes v. Michael*, 131 Md.App. 271, 290 (2000) (Thieme J.); see Md.Rule 9-202(f) (requiring a “long form” financial statement to be filed with the pleadings). The court first determines the actual total cost of raising this child from the parties’ financial statements and testimony. This cost is then apportioned between the parties, based on their income, with credit for costs directly incurred.

An example will be helpful. The parents have one child. Father earns \$15,000 per month and Mother earns \$5,000 per month. Father incurs direct monthly expenses of \$1,000 for the child and Mother incurs direct monthly expenses of \$2,000, resulting in total monthly child related expenses of \$3,000. Father is responsible for 75% of that expense (based on the parents’ income), or \$2,250. He pays \$1,000 directly and should be required to pay the difference, \$1,250, to Mother. Working backwards verifies this number. Mother pays \$2,000 directly



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but is responsible for only 25% of the total, or \$750. She is paying \$1,250 in excess of her proportional share. Notice that the custodial arrangement of the parties is wholly irrelevant in this calculation except to the extent that it affects the direct costs incurred by each party for the child.

#### Step Four – Determine the Child Support Award

There is a general belief that courts have almost unfettered discretion in determining the child support award in above-the-guidelines cases. This is based, in part, on appellate decisions which say that the court may use “any rational method that promotes the general objective of the child support Guidelines and considers the particular facts of the case before it.” *Frankel v. Frankel*, 165 Md.App. 553, 587 (2005), quoting *Malin v. Mininberg*, 153 Md.App. 358, 410-11 (2003). However, *Voishan* and *Bagley* make it clear that ignoring the listed factors can lead one into “prime reversal territory.”

In many cases the parties simply present a guidelines worksheet with extrapolated figures. But, while “extrapolation from the schedule may

act as a ‘guide,’” *Voishan*, 327 Md. at 329 (emphasis added), it is not intended as a substitute for determining the actual needs of the child in the case before the court. Still, in many cases the parties simply fail to present any meaningful evidence regarding the actual needs of the child. Considering that the party seeking child support has the burden of proof, see *Shenk v. Shenk*, 159 Md.App. 548, 554 (2004), when there is no evidence of need there is an argument that the presumptive minimum child support obligation is the appropriate award.

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# Estates and Trusts Matters

By Fred Franke, Jr.

In mid-December, the federal “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” passed by a simple majority vote. In order to make the deficit numbers pass the “Byrd Rule” test, most of the individual and estate tax provisions “sunset” after 2025. Generally, business tax changes are permanent (to the degree any policy is permanent).

The most dramatic estate tax change was a provision to double the basic federal exclusion amount to an estimated \$11.18 million per individual (well over \$22 million per couple). This dramatically reduces the number of individuals exposed to a federal estate tax. This increase, however, will sunset after 2025. This change, and the potential planning considerations stemming from the sunset, will only impact a small percentage of the population. The current federal exclusion amount is \$5 million (indexed) per individual (and twice that for a married couple). The Maryland estate tax (with a threshold of \$4 million for 2018) is slated to join the federal exclusion amount next year. It remains to be seen whether the Maryland General Assembly will freeze the state estate tax at a \$5 million threshold (indexed) or permit it to flow to the over \$11 million next year. Legislation is currently being reviewed. If frozen, the Maryland “gap” amount (i.e., the difference between the federal and state exclusion amounts) will remain an important consideration for Maryland couples.

The increased exclusion amounts, both the one in place last year and the one in place for 2018-2025, will result in lower demand for “high-end” estate tax planning. This is exciting because clients will be able to focus more on family considerations and/or asset protection concerns when engaged in estate planning. To a large degree, most clients usually consider their family and asset protection concerns to be more important than the tax considerations. Instead of letting tax considerations drive the planning, most clients have instead relied on their lawyer to structure documents to maximize tax savings within the constructs of their desired plan. The sunset of the new provisions, the potential for claw-back of

gifts made under the 2018-2025 temporary increased amounts, the utility of preserving the first-to-die spouse’s unified credit for the surviving spouse with a “portability” election, and the necessity for basis step-up planning will make planning challenging for those exposed, or potentially exposed, to the tax. For estate planning, the higher exclusion will allow clients to use trusts for other purposes, and the tax focus will change from estate tax planning to income tax planning.

The major business tax reform was reducing the C-corporation tax rate to 21% beginning in January 2018. This change, as well as other business tax changes, does not sunset. The new law creates a complex provision that treats the income of owners in various pass-through entities (partnerships, LLCs, and S corporations) preferentially. The new code section (§ 199A) provides a deduction equal to 20% of pass-through income for certain taxpayers. If one qualifies, and the qualified business income is \$100,000, the new §199A deduction would yield a \$20,000 tax deduction.

There are several catches to this new benefit, however. The full 20% deduction is only available

1. The information contained in the parties’ financial statements, filed with the court pursuant to Md.Rule 9-202(f), is substantive evidence. *Beck v. Beck*, 112 Md.App. 197, 203-04, cert. denied, 344 Md. 717 (1996).

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if total taxable income from all sources is no more than \$157,500 (for a single taxpayer) or \$315,000 (married filing jointly). If the taxable income is over this amount, there are additional limits for some taxpayers based on the amount of W-2 income going to the employees and/or the amount of capital investment in the business. For those engaged in “specified service businesses,” there is a more draconian limit: there is no deduction if the taxpayer has over \$207,500 (individual) or \$415,000 (joint) of total taxable income with a phaseout in the brackets between the first threshold and the second threshold. The service businesses caught in this net include the fields of law, health, accounting, consulting, athletics, entertainment and other fields in which the individual’s reputation is a material element of the service. Some, but not all, self-employed lawyers may enjoy a tax break. Those with higher income levels, however, will see no change. The way these limitations and phaseouts work is highly complicated and certain to generate fees for our colleagues in the accounting field (ironically pushing them up into income levels where they may not be in a position to enjoy the §199A deduction).

The taxation of alimony will change dramatically beginning in 2019. This will be of particular

interest to family lawyers. After the delayed effective date, the payor of alimony will receive no deduction for those payments and the payee will record no income—exactly the reverse of present law. These new rules are effective for any divorce or separation agreement/decree that occurs after December 31, 2018. Modifications of an earlier agreement will only trigger treatment under the new rules if the amendment specifically states that the 2017 Act should apply. Negotiations for alimony after December 31, 2018, will take into consideration the adverse tax impact of the 2017 Act on the person paying the alimony.

Other individual income tax changes include an increase in the standard deduction and the cap on the SALT deduction. After factoring in the loss of various individual deductions, however, the increased standard deduction generally may not result in any large tax savings (although it will yield happy results for some taxpayers). The advertised reason for the 2017 Tax Act was to drop the corporate tax rates and spark economic growth. Many of the other provisions of the new act represent trade-offs to secure the Senate and House votes needed for the C corporation rate decrease.

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## Barrister's Ball 2018: A Celebration of Service

This year's Barrister's Ball was like no other, featuring the Naval Academy Band and Color Guard, veterans' organizations, service dogs and a very special venue, the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. All of these features highlighted the theme of this year's ball, recognizing and celebrating those who served, especially the servicemembers and veterans in our AABA family.

Nearly 200 AABA members and guests attended the ball on March 24. Members were welcomed by AABA President Steve Wrobel and Barrister's Ball Committee Co-Chairs Suzanne Burnett and Christine Pham on the Flag Bridge of the stadium. After taking in the views of the stadium and the city of Annapolis, guests moved to the "VADM William P. Lawrence 'N' Room" banquet hall. When all guests had taken their seats, the Naval Academy Color Guard entered the room for a presentation of colors, followed by a performance of the National Anthem by members of the Naval Academy Band.

During dinner, President Steve Wrobel delivered his welcoming remarks and introduced a video presentation that recognized our AABA members who served, as well as AABA family members who served or currently serve. The presentation included photos and facts from more than 50 AABA members and relatives. Our AABA family has connections to all five branches of the U.S. military and has served in every corner of the globe.

Following dinner, our attendees had the opportunity to mingle, dance, visit the Silent Auction, or tour the Navy Lacrosse Hall of Fame, just one floor up from the banquet room. The Silent Auction tables were active and included some very desirable items from our generous donors (see list on page 14). Through the Silent Auction proceeds and our Barrister's Ball sponsors, the Anne Arundel County Bar Foundation raised over \$6,000 for our three designated beneficiaries: Warrior Canine Connection, which enlists recovering Warriors in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow veterans; Warrior Events, which enriches the lives of those wounded while serving and their family members by hosting monthly events to show appreciation for their sacrifices; and the Veterans Docket at the Anne Arundel County District Court, which delivers innovative solutions for veterans involved in the criminal justice system.

The AABA and the Anne Arundel County Bar Foundation are grateful to everyone who made this Barrister's Ball one of the most well-attended Barrister's Balls in recent years: AABA President Steve Wrobel; Barrister's Ball Committee Co-Chairs Suzanne Burnett and Christine Pham; and committee members Matt Bernhardt, Sarah Brown, Hon. Mark Crooks, Jim Crossan, Steven Hyatt, Kaitlyn Loughner, Mike Marinello, Hon. Danielle Mosley, and Jessica Praley.



*The Barrister's Ball Committee: (from left) Kaitlyn Loughner, Hon. Mark Crooks, Sarah Brown, Christine Pham, Matthew Bernhardt, Suzanne Burnett, Hon. Danielle Mosley, Jessica Praley, AABA President Steve Wrobel, Jim Crossan and Michael Marinello.*



*AABA members with representatives from our designated event charities: Christine Pham, Tom Mielke with service dog Bob (Warrior Canine Connections), Tina Tozzi (Warrior Events), Suzanne Burnett, Dana Balassa with service dog Clarke, Steve Wrobel, Paul Balassa, Hon. Mark Crooks, and Rocky Gall (Warrior Canine Connections).*



*Natasha and Steve Wrobel on the Flag Bridge at the stadium.*



*Tom Simmons, Bradley Walsh, Gregory Ferra, Terry Liff and Jim Crossan*



*Hon. Jonas Legum, Hon. Danielle Mosley, Hon. Dick Duden, Hon. Mark Crooks, Hon. Donna Schaeffer, Hon. Glenn Klavans, Hon. Timothy Meredith and Hon. Cathy Vitale.*



*Barrister's Ball guests enjoyed a performance by the Naval Academy Band. From left: Chief Musician Davy DeArmond, Musician 1st Class Erika Loke, Senior Chief Musician Todd Nix, Musician 1st Class Daniel Coffman, and Musician 1st Class Donald Creech*



*Tom Mitchell, Peggy Vetter, Kemp Hammond, and Nancy Duden*



*Jess and Jimmy Praley were the winners of the Yeti cooler raffle to benefit our charities.*



*Marietta Warren, Paul Douglas, Lauren Torgler, and Brian Arroyo*



*The AABA Presidents, past, present and future: (from left) Sarah Arthur, Stacey Rice, Karen Cook, Steve Wrobel, Hon. Danielle Mosley, Debbie Potter, Jessica Daigle, Dave Putzi, Greg Jimeno, Jonathan Kagan, Steve Oberg, Hon. Dick Duden, Kevin Schaeffer, Anne Leitess, Saul McCormick, John Gardner, Hon. Timothy Meredith, and Bill Mitchell.*

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All proceeds from the Silent Auction support our designated Barrister's Ball beneficiaries.

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# The Wheelhouse

Sports Commentary by Jonathan Pasterick

## Winter Olympics Part 2?

I've been on a sabbatical for a while, not that anyone has noticed. In between my last column and now, the Eagles pulled off a pretty big upset of the Patriots in a really exciting Super Bowl (which I should have written about but got lazy), and the better part of a college basketball season has passed. Unfortunately, Maryland also took a sabbatical from playing anything resembling decent basketball, and were snubbed by both the NCAA and National Invitation Tournament (NIT). (A couple of years ago, my mother-in-law had this brainstorm of a joke that the NIT should stand for the Not Invited Tournament, as if people hadn't been making that joke for decades).

And speaking of sabbaticals and the Winter Olympics, the U.S. team took a two-week sabbatical of sorts from the Olympics, underperforming in most events. I put the question mark in the title because I don't remember how many Winter Olympics col-

umns I've written. But the common theme running through them is, I'm not sure why the United States expects to do all that well in the Olympics, except for population size and money. We are competing against some countries whose entire population lives on skis for like seven months out of the year.

So no, Norway doesn't have a ton of people, and maybe not a lot of money to devote to the Olympics (not sure about that one, they probably do OK for themselves). But when EVERY SINGLE PERSON THERE is proficient on skis and spends huge amounts of their lives traversing snow, they have a pretty large pool of people to pick from. We have Colorado.

Maybe people figured that since Russia was "banned" from the Olympics, it took out a lot of potential competitors. Except that, setting aside the Ivan Dragos of the team, they were all pretty much allowed to freely compete under some long moniker that basically meant, "the Russians that didn't test positive." So they dominated figure skating, and had a huge advantage in hockey, since the NHL



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didn't allow its players to go, and the Russian professional league is probably the second best league in the world.



It's not to say that the US didn't do ok. They finished with a good medal count. Except, getting back to Colorado, many events in the Olympics, like pretty much every snowboarding event, were practically invented in Colorado by, I guess, reformed skateboarders, or skateboarders whose parents vacationed in Aspen during the winter with Harry and Lloyd. So we have a huge edge in those events. Like I said in a prior column, the Winter Olympics folks are constantly trying to find new events for people to slide on snow in.

But in skiing, Lindsey Vonn's last hurrah was good, considering all she's been through, but not great. The new prodigy, Mikaela Schiffrin, won a gold, but finished fourth in one of her better events and had to pull out of some other events when weather made them stack too many skiing events too close together.

The highlight of the Olympics, I'm told, was the surprise gold medal in men's curling. The main guy on the team that slides the stones (not gonna look up his name), was being bashed all Olympics for, don't know how to say it, sliding bad? But he got on a hot streak at the end and upset Sweden for the gold. Now, I call this an upset, but let's be real, it's shuffleboard on ice. You could definitely do it with a beer in hand, and the captain of the U.S. team looks like he's done that plenty of times. Plus, unlike Norwegians living their lives on skis, I have a hard time believing that other countries have large populations that just curl for fun as part of their ordinary entertainment. So the U.S. should be good at curling, just tell the barflys to learn how to skate.

So now that the NCAA basketball tournaments have wrapped up and baseball season has begun, I should have some decent fodder to write about so hopefully you'll hear from me a little more. Bet you can't wait.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

**MONDAY, JUNE 11**

**AABA Annual Meeting**

**Anne Arundel County Circuit Court,**

**5:00 PM**

**President's Reception**

**Location TBD**

**Immediately following Annual Meeting**

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**When:** May 16, 2018; 6 – 8 p.m.

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TVM = Judge Miller  
LMR = Judge Robinson

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>GLEN BURNIE ANNAPOLIS</b>	<b>MAY 2018</b>	<b>1</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 SCPS HRD JPM EAR 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 LMR VJ DMM TJP JDL	<b>2</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 EAR SCPS JPM VJ 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 LMR HRD TJP JDL DMM	<b>3</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 HRD EAR SCPS LMR 0/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 1/0 JPM DMM JDL TJP FA	<b>4</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 LMR FA EAR SCPS 1/1 2/2 4/4 5/5 JDL TJP HRD DMM
<b>GLEN BURNIE ANNAPOLIS</b>	<b>7</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 SCPS LMR VJ TVM 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 HRD JDL DMM TJP JPM	<b>8</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 SETT TVM JPM VJ SCPS HRD 3/0 2/2 0/3 4/4 5/5 FA LMR DMM TJP JDL	<b>9</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 TVM TJP JPM SCPS 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 LMR HRD JDL DMM VJ	<b>10</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 SCPS TVM VJ LMR 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5* DMM VJ HRD TJP JPM*	<b>11</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 SCPS LMR HRD FA 2/2 3/3 4/4 JDL TVM TJP
<b>GLEN BURNIE ANNAPOLIS</b>	<b>14</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 EAR SCPS LMR VJ 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 TVM JPM TJP HRD JDL	<b>15</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 VJ SCPS LMR JPM 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 JDL EAR TVM TJP HRD	<b>16</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 EAR DMM LMR JPM 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 JDL HRD SCPS TJP TVM	<b>17</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 SCPS EAR DMM LMR 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 JDL TVM HRD TJP JPM	<b>18</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 TVM DMM EAR VJ 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 HRD TJP LMR JDL SCPS
<b>GLEN BURNIE ANNAPOLIS</b>	<b>21</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 TVM VJ FA EAR 1/1 2/2 4/4 5/5 VJ DMM JPM LMR	<b>22</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 TVM LMR EAR JPM 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 HRD VJ DMM TJP VJ	<b>23</b>  2/2 VJ	<b>24</b>  2/2 VJ	<b>25</b>  2/2 VJ COMMISSION DAY - ADC
<b>GLEN BURNIE ANNAPOLIS</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>29</b> 1/4 2/2 3/3 4/1 LMR EAR JPM SCPS 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 JDL TVM DMM TJP HRD NO DRUG COURT!	<b>30</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 EAR SCPS LMR TVM 2/1 1/2 0/3 3/0 5/5 HRD TJP DMM JPM JDL JPM - CH (PM)/DMM MTG AM	<b>31</b> 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 TVM EAR SCPS LMR 1/1 2/2 3/3 4/4 5/5 DMM JPM JDL TJP HRD NO DRUG COURT!	



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