

The Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Is pleased to present

"Garner Versus . . . "

The Trial of a Young Slave Mother

Presented at the Baltimore federal courthouse,
Ceremonial Courtroom (101 W. Lombard Street)

Friday, February 1, 2008, 5:00 p.m.
(reception with light fare to follow)

Attendance is free, but reservations are required

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Margaret Garner was a Kentucky slave who fled to Ohio in 1856 with her husband and three children, pursued by U.S. Marshals who intended to return the family to her Kentucky slave owner under the Fugitive Slave Act. Although the Garners made it to safety in Ohio, the Marshals quickly descended on them. As they broke down the cabin door, Margaret Garner, desperate to keep her children free, slashed the throat of her two-year old daughter, killing her instantly. Mrs. Garner was in the midst of killing her other two children when the Marshals physically restrained her.

Her case – later the basis for Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved* -- immediately became a lightning rod for the larger battle over slavery. Her extradition hearing in Ohio federal court – which led to her compelled return to Kentucky -- was a microcosm of the arguments that divided free and slave states and led to the Civil War four years later.

Now an all-star cast of Maryland state and federal judges and trial lawyers from around the country brings this gripping story to life. Civil rights attorney and MacArthur Award recipient Bryan Stevenson will be joined by U.S. District Judges Alexander Williams and André Davis, U.S. Magistrate Judges Paul Grimm and James Bedard, and the Hons. Joyce Baylor-Thompson and Howard Chasanow (ret.), along with leading attorneys John Chamble, Michelle Roberts and Bill Brennan, in a stirring re-enactment of these remarkable events.