

Public Policy Position
Amicus Brief in Support of Application for Leave to Appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court

The Animal Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 246 members. The Animal Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Animal Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Animal Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 15 members. On February 3, 2026, the Section adopted its position after an electronic discussion and vote. 12 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 3 members did not vote.

Explanation:

The Section Council voted to join an amicus brief in a case in the Michigan Supreme Court, Docket No.169351:

NONHUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT, INC., ,

Petitioners-Appellants,

vs.

DEYOUNG FAMILY ZOO, LLC and HAROLD

L. DEYOUNG,

Defendants-Appellees.

Attorney for Amici Curiae Barbara H. Goldman (P46290).

The Nonhuman Rights Project is a national organization, and "the only civil rights organization in the United States dedicated solely to securing rights for nonhuman animals." This case is a petition for habeas corpus challenging the confinement of 7 chimpanzees in a roadside zoo in the Upper Peninsula.

The amicus is in line with the mission and goals of the Section, in particular, bylaw 3.4: "Promote animal protection and animal rights in Michigan through use of the legal system."

The Section filed an amicus in this case in the Court of Appeals in 2024. That brief is attached to this Report. The attorney has advised that the Supreme Court brief will be substantially the same.

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