



## Table of Contents

Incorporating Trauma-Informed Therapy into Criminal Justice and Animal Cruelty Cases.....1

Co-Editor’s Note .....2

Annie Sloan, U-M Law graduate, honored for her work on animal rights with Wanda Nash Award ...6

A Voice for Voiceless: Becca Sutton from MSU Law honored for her advocacy for animals with Wanda Nash Award .....8

Treasurer’s Report.....10

Recent Animal Law News .....11

2023 Nominating Committee Report .....13

# Incorporating Trauma-Informed Therapy into Criminal Justice and Animal Cruelty Cases

By Jessica A. Chapman

*Co-editor’s Note:* This is a summary of a longer article previously published in The Manitoba Law Journal. The Manitoba Law Journal is “an open-access and peer reviewed journal about Law in Manitoba and beyond.” The full article titled “Ending Human-Animal Violence Cycle Through the Use of Trauma-Informed Therapy” can be found at: [https://tbemanitobalawjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/articles/MLJ\\_46%20\(Pre-print\).5/465-ending-human.pdf](https://tbemanitobalawjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/articles/MLJ_46%20(Pre-print).5/465-ending-human.pdf)

Through law school, my time completing Lewis & Clark’s Animal Law L.L.M., and my work with the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s Criminal Justice Program, I have arrived at two conclusions: 1) Animal cruelty cases and the individuals who commit that cruelty have unique and complicated backgrounds or life circumstances that underly the reasons cruelty occurs. 2) With my work—and arguably, any attorneys’ work—I must be thoughtful and conscientious of the consequences—intended and unintended—that may arise from my advocacy. Anything I propose must be solution-driven and designed to support all affected beings (human and non-human), populations, communities, races, and cultures. My overarching goals need to protect non-human animals (“animals”), avoid divisiveness, engage varying perspectives, address systemic oppression for all beings, and find solutions that positively affect change. When I had the opportunity to develop a project for my L.L.M., I recognized this project’s rare opportunity in facilitating an environment in which I could incorporate these expectations, and perhaps, develop a career-long project that helps alleviate pain and suffering for everyone.

My L.L.M. project (an academic article completed April 2021) aims to prevent animal cruelty—and cruelty in all forms—by addressing the underlying root causes for why cruelty occurs. Animal cruelty is not an animal problem. Humans make the choice to hurt animals (and other humans), whether through acts of commission, acts of omission, or socially condoned violence. For this reason, individuals who commit violence towards animals must be held accountable for their actions. But, since animal cruelty is a human problem, that also means that those of us who encounter animal cruelty professionally need to work with the humans who commit cruelty, to understand their reasons for doing so, and to provide solutions for those individuals so that they stop such actions.

I had no idea that the concept of trauma was going to become a central theme in my work when I decided to pursue law. Though looking back, I realize that trauma is a central



**Animal Law Section Council  
2023-2024**

Chairperson  
**Erin Morgan Klug, Pontiac**

Chairperson-Elect  
**Rebecca K. Wrock, Ann Arbor**

Secretary  
**Morgan Pattan, Battle Creek**

Treasurer  
**Donald R. Garlit, Canton**

Term Expires 2024  
**Celeste M. Dunn, Clarkston**  
**Heather Silcott, Waterford**  
**Sara J. Sturing, West Bloomfield**

Term Expires 2025  
**Ann M. Griffin, Bingham Farms**  
**Jennifer L. Pierce, Warren**  
**John Reynolds, Ann Arbor**  
**Anna M. Scott, East Lansing**

Term Expires 2026  
**Steve Bieda, Warren**  
**Steve L. Neugent, Eaton Rapids**  
**Kimberley Ann Ward, Detroit**

Immediate Past Chair  
**Katherine Brindle, Owosso**

Commissioner Liaison  
**Hon. Kristen D. Simmons, Lansing**

**Newsletter Co-Editors**

**Donald R. Garlit**  
**(734) 451-9950**  
**donaldgarlit@yahoo.com**

**Margaret Sadoff**  
**(734) 730-8574**  
**maggiesadoff@gmail.com**

## Co-Editor's Note

Welcome to the first issue of the Newsletter for 2023. We are now in our 29<sup>th</sup> year as a section. The Section had its initial official meeting at the 1995 State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting. Our Section is the first state-wide animal law section in the United States; something that we can all take pride in.

2020 Wanda Nash Award recipient Jessica Chapman has this issue's lead article on the use of trauma-informed therapy into criminal justice for animal cruelty cases. Jessica earned her L.L.M. at the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School. She is now a Criminal Justice Fellow with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

We have detailed news about the work and backgrounds of the co-recipients of this year's Wanda Nash Awards, Annie Sloan and Becca Sutton, as published in various editions of the Legal News. Other articles include a Section Nominating Committee Report, Recent Animal Law News from Michigan, the USA, and around the world as well as the Section's financial report for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

We continue to print the issue in all color including photographs and graphics. We are using lighter weight paper although print quality is unchanged. The heavier paper of prior issues was creating some logistics and printing issues. Some of our photos this issue come from public access photos from the Smithsonian and provide a more varied look to the Newsletter.

I recently counted the pages and issues published by the Section since we were founded in 1995. Our first Newsletter was in 1997. Since that time, we have published 47 issues of the Newsletter (this issue is number 47) and have been the featured section in two issues of the SBM's *Michigan Bar Journal*. We have published over 600 pages of content over the years!

We still have a major article for an upcoming Newsletter and I believe that you will find it most interesting. The article discusses dogs in court rooms.

As always I will make my standard request, please remember that this is your newsletter, too. Helpful articles are always needed. In fact, if we can get one good main article for each issue, we can do the rest.

Co-Editor Maggie Sadoff and I welcome new authors and articles. Please consider writing an article that will be of interest to your fellow Section members. We only ask that you talk with us first so that we can discuss general article parameters and publication timing.

Donald Garlit  
Newsletter Co-Editor  
donaldgarlit@yahoo.com



## Trauma-Informed Therapy

Continued from page 1



theme in everyone's existence, regardless of our backgrounds; trauma naturally results when any being experiences a challenging situation and stress. Trauma, when addressed immediately and managed in healthy ways, can present an opportunity for growth, introspection, and self-healing. But, when individuals who experience trauma do not recognize their symptomatic responses, and they do not know they are dealing with trauma, or do not have the necessary resources or community support to help manage their responses to trauma, trauma becomes a sinister actor in those individuals' lives. Through my work on animal cruelty cases, my research, and my own experiences, I believe that trauma is an underlying cause, if not one of *the* root causes, that leads to individuals committing cruelty towards animals and humans. Trauma is an underlying cause of mental health issues—if not the instigator, then the exacerbator—particularly for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (“PTSD”), as well as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression.<sup>1</sup> Trauma, the development of PTSD, and trauma and PTSD's untreated symptoms can cause individuals to feel out of control. These symptoms can make individuals feel desperate to regain any type of control over their lives and to re-assert their self-autonomy, to prevent themselves from feeling like victims to their negative thoughts and emotions.<sup>2</sup> I theorize that individuals who suffer from untreated trauma and PTSD commit cruelty towards animals and humans not only as an attempt to regain the control they felt they lost when they first experienced a traumatic event, but also as a misguided method to manage undiagnosed symptoms of trauma and PTSD. Unfortunately, most mental health facilities and resources do not screen for trauma.<sup>3</sup> Rather, they frequently screen clients for mental health issues that trauma instigates or exacerbates, and miss an opportunity to heal the core reason those mental health issues exist.<sup>4</sup> I propose that when the legal system, social work, and mental health professionals work together to iden-

tify the trauma and other root factors that inspire individuals to commit cruelty—cruelty towards animals, cruelty towards humans, and defendants' self-victimization that occurs when they harm others—the trauma will wane.

The real work begins in trying to figure out how to heal individuals who commit cruelty to animals (and humans) of their trauma and to resolve the symptoms that have caused them so much pain. Social work and mental health professionals have done an excellent job at recognizing the trauma that crime victims experience and the PTSD those victims frequently develop from that trauma. Organizations like Michigan State University's Center for Survivors<sup>5</sup> work with victims to heal them of the trauma and PTSD that occurred from their experienced violence and sexual assault. Through this work, many of these organizations use trauma-informed therapy, specifically Cognitive Processing Therapy (“CPT”) and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (“EMDR”).<sup>6</sup> These therapies show resounding success with clients and support their path toward maintaining healthy, and mentally and emotionally stable lives.



For these reasons, I propose the following: 1) Since many individuals who committed cruelty experienced trauma, and that untreated trauma likely instigated PTSD and other mental health issues that may have led to their decision to commit cruelty; 2) and, since that experienced trauma may have come from a variety of situations in which the individuals were victims or victimized and likely felt a loss of control; and 3) that victimization, compounded by the untreated trauma symptoms and subsequent mental health issues likely instigated these individuals' need to regain control; 4) and one common method to regain control in these types of scenarios is to hurt others; 5) then, if we approach individuals who commit cruelty as victims who did not receive the necessary mental health support and therapy they needed to heal their original

trauma; 6) and, we provide them with the same trauma-informed therapy resources we provide current victims; 7) then perhaps we can heal their trauma, untreated symptoms, and mental health issues that instigated their choice to be violent and in turn, alleviate them of the need to commit cruelty to animals and other humans. Therefore, my article's primary proposal is that we, as a society, should provide individuals who commit cruelty towards animals with trauma-informed therapies, including CPT or EMDR, to end the victim-abuse cycle such individuals live within and perpetuate with every cruel act they commit. By resolving such individuals' trauma and resulting mental health issues, we can prevent their need to commit violence and, therefore, prevent future commissions of animal cruelty.



In order to implement this endeavor, research would need to occur to show whether trauma-informed therapy would help individuals who committed animal cruelty. Additionally, the key players in courts (judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys), the social work field, and the mental health field would need to collaborate and establish systems that support these individuals' healing and rehabilitation. Should the therapy prove effective, the ultimate goal would be to work with counties to establish trauma-informed therapy and rehabilitation programs that focus on alleviating these trauma-induced ailments. Courts could assign defendants to these programs as an alternative to incarceration. And, (with the starry-eyed, idealistic hope that all prison programs magically receive the funding they need), counties could also establish trauma-informed therapy and rehabilitation programs for incarcerated individuals.<sup>7</sup> The hope would be that through this therapy, incarcerated individuals would heal their emotional and psychological wounds so that they could return to their communities with healthy mindsets. I fully recognize though, that receiving therapy in carceral settings dramatically differs from receiving therapy in non-carceral settings. To support a healthy and stable transition for such individuals, counties would need to establish support groups for formerly incarcerated individuals who participated in therapy to lean on. These support groups

would enable attendees to maintain community with other similarly situated individuals. In turn, these groups would provide a comradery among individuals who want to heal and who understand the challenges of learning to manage traumatic experiences and trauma triggers in healthy ways, in a non-carceral environment.

These programs would exist to resolve (hopefully most of) the underlying reasons that individuals commit animal cruelty, to present sustainable and successful alternatives to incarceration, and to reduce animal cruelty recidivism rates, (and hopefully recidivism rates of animal cruelty-related crimes too). Enrollment in these programs would need to be voluntary, since research shows that forced participation in therapy and rehabilitation programs is ineffective.<sup>8</sup> This type of program would also support restorative justice practices: It would help individuals who committed cruelty to reach a place of healing so that they can take accountability for their actions when talking with their animal victims' representatives and the involved community, without those conversations creating more trauma for everyone involved.

My professional goals are to protect all animals and improve the lives of all beings, which includes humans. By proposing solution-oriented ideas to the animal advocate and criminal justice communities, I hope to provide solace and healing opportunities to everyone who has experienced trauma, and to ameliorate their needless suffering. However, programs that have the capacity to make positive change in these fields need the support of everyone involved. Together, we need to develop a compassionate perspective towards individuals who commit cruelty and recognize they are more than the crimes they committed. We also need to be willing to work with individuals who commit cruelty, to understand their actions and to support their healing, so that we can protect all beings from future victimization.



Jessica Chapman at the beach with friends

### About the Author

**Jessica A. Chapman** (from the 2023 Animal Law Conference website): As a Criminal Justice Program Fellow with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Jessica Chapman addresses crimes against animals, partnering with stakeholders across the criminal justice system to resolve both the impetus and impact of animal cruelty. Jessica earned a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley where she double majored in Slavic Languages

and Literature and Native American Studies (honors). She earned a J.D. (cum laude) from Michigan State University College of Law, where Jessica received the 2020 Wanda Nash Award from the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Jessica earned an Animal Law L.L.M. (magna cum laude) from Lewis & Clark Law School. While at Lewis & Clark, she was awarded the inaugural 2021 Outstanding Animal Law L.L.M. Graduate Award and earned placement in the Cornelius Honor Society.

**Endnotes**

1 SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVS. ADMIN., SAMHSA'S CONCEPT OF TRAUMA AND GUIDANCE FOR A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH 2 (2014), [https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA\\_Trauma.pdf](https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/userfiles/files/SAMHSA_Trauma.pdf) [hereinafter SAMHSA]; see generally Weili Lu et al., *Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment of PTSD in Severe Mental Illness: Pilot Study Replication in an Ethnically Diverse Population*, 12 AM. J. OF PSYCHIATRIC REHABILITATION 73, 73-91 (2009).

2 See, e.g., *Understanding the Power and Control Wheel*, DULUTH MODEL (last visited Jan. 24, 2022), <https://www.theduluth-model.org/wheels/understanding-power-control-wheel/> (describing the various methods people who commit maltreatment or cruelty use to maintain power and control).

3 SAMHSA, *supra* note i, at 9.

4 B. Christopher Frueh et al., *Clinicians' Perspectives on Cognitive Behavioral Treatment for PTSD Among Persons With Severe Mental Illness*, 57 PSYCHIATRIC SERVS. 1027, 1027 (2006); Lu et al., *supra* note i, at 73.

5 MICH. ST. U. CTR. FOR SURVIVORS, <https://centerforsurvivors.msu.edu/index.html> (last visited Sept. 30, 2022).

6 *About CPT*, COGNITIVE PROCESSING THERAPY (last visited Apr. 11, 2021), <https://cptforptsd.com/about-cpt/>; *Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy*, AM. PSYCHOL. ASS'N (last visited Apr. 11, 2021), <https://www.apa.org/ptsd-guideline/treatments/eye-movement-reprocessing>.

7 The good news on this front is that many states' legislatures are beginning to recognize the acute need for mental health programs for defendants and incarcerated individuals. This hope may eventually be more realistic in the near future than it seems now.

8 Mike Slade et al., *Uses and abuses of recovery: implementing recovery-oriented practices in mental health systems*, 13 WORLD PSYCHIATRY 12, 13 (2014) (citing Tom Burns et al., *Community treatment orders for patients with psychosis (OCTET): a randomized controlled trial*, 381 LANCET 1627, 1627-33 (2013)).



**"Get to Know Animal Law:  
How to Turn Your Passion into Action"**

This conference is designed for law students and newly admitted attorneys, but all attorneys with an interest in animal law are welcome and should find useful information.

**Sat, Feb. 10, 2024, 9 AM to 1 PM**  
MSU College of Law Castle Board room  
(hybrid meeting)

Do you want to combine your passion for animals with your legal career? A panel of experts will discuss their experiences practicing animal law in private practice (including how to add animal law pro bono work to your current practice), the government, and the nonprofit sector.

Free registration information will be provided via Section listserv.

# Annie Sloan, U-M Law graduate, honored for her work on animal rights with Wanda Nash Award

By Sheila Pursglove, Legal News

*Co-Editor's Note: This article and photos are courtesy of the Legal News and reporter Sheila Pursglove. Sheila is a true friend of the Section and has reported on award ceremonies, member profiles, and other articles over the years. Her coverage is always much appreciated. The ceremony took place in April 2023.*



Sloan is pictured second from right with members of the SBM Animal Law Section Council: (l-r) Donald Garlit, Bee Friedlander, and Kate Brindle.

Recent University of Michigan Law School graduate Annie Sloan first became interested in animal law via studying the food system.

“This area doesn’t get a lot of attention but each year around 80 billion land animals—and up to 3 trillion fish—are killed to feed humans,” she says. “I’ve spent over 15 years thinking about and working in food and have long believed humans can eat without wreaking havoc on other humans, animals, and the planet.”

One of two recipients of this year’s Wanda Nash Award from the State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section—presented each year to a student(s) at Michigan’s law schools for outstanding contributions to animal law—Sloan says she is honored to receive the award.

“I admire Wanda Nash’s courage to start something new and find a lot of inspiration in her kind but steadfast advocacy,” she says. “This honor is the highlight of my law school career. The award and the lovely award ceremony really energized me. I want to use my law degree to change human-animal relations and our food system.”

“How we treat others and other animals says a lot about our humanity. Expanding our moral circle is critical—it’s not a zero-sum game. Animals are ends in themselves—I want to learn as much as I can so I can attempt to include the voices of animals in animal law, and I want to make sure these conversations are happening outside of law review articles and conferences,” she adds. “I have long believed food is a right and that food justice includes workers, animals, and the environment.”

In undergrad at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., Sloan focused on Food Studies. Before and during undergrad she went to culinary school, worked in community gardens, and managed some of the country’s finest restaurants, in New York City and Chicago.

In her final years of undergrad, she studied the horrors of CAFOs—Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations—the environmental consequences of modern agriculture, and the many inequalities permeating the food system.

“But I also studied alternatives to industrial agriculture and my restaurant and travel experience grounded my academic work in the belief that food ought to be social and stimulating,” she says. “This thinking inspired me to devise tasting seminars and multi-course theory-based meals, which included serving my interpretation of ‘*The Companion Species Manifesto*’ to its author, Donna Haraway.”

During undergrad, Sloan worked as a legislative liaison for the Washington Student Association, an experience that provided the opportunity to work with attorneys.

In 2020, she fulfilled her dream of law school, heading to the University of Michigan Law School.

“I believed that law and policy could actually improve the food system in ways that would empower workers and consumers and benefit animals,” she says. “Besides the people—students, alumni, professors, and staff—I really enjoyed courses with talented lecturers like Legal History with Professor Bill Novak and Evidence with Professor Sherman Clark. I also really enjoyed productive discussion-based courses with my peers. For one mini-seminar course, nine other students and I were able to sit outside Professor Nico Cornell’s tiny house, in his meadow, and discuss books like ‘*Silent Spring*’ and ‘*Braiding Sweetgrass*’ while listening to the hum of insects and the honks of geese flying overhead.”

Sloan served as editor-in-chief of the Michigan Journal of Law & Society; Gayla co-chair of Outlaws and helped organize and run the annual Kevin E. Kennedy Fellowship Gala;

was a member of First-Generation Law Students; and worked with the Workers' Rights Clinic during 1L and the Environmental Law and Sustainability Clinic during 3L.

As president of the Food Equity & Ecological Diversity Society (FEEDSoc), she hosted vegan food-filled gatherings that brought people together to discuss an array of topics including "sentience," obstacles to food sovereignty, and Proposition 12's alleged violation of the dormant Commerce Clause. She will co-present with Professor Paul Szynol at the Oxford Animal Ethics Summer School in August.

"We've had a lot of interest in FEEDSoc and I'm really excited to see where next year's leadership takes the student organization," she says.

Sloan ran the organization during her 2L year and co-ran the organization in her 3L year with fellow student Amy Jiang; and, along with fellow student Anjali Baliga started a collection of vegan resources—recipes, blogs, books, local restaurants—for MLaw students.

During internships with Farmworker Justice, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, she worked with people who were deeply invested in changing the food system, and experienced a variety of possible legal careers and perspectives.

A native of Asheville, N.C., Sloan currently lives in Ann Arbor with her partner and two cats. She and her partner have been replacing their non-native turf grass with native plants that support wildlife.

"Our yard currently hosts a groundhog, and lots of incredible birds and insects—and occasionally skunks, possums, raccoons, ducks, and toads," she says.



Michigan Law graduate Annie Sloan, one of two recipients of the State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section Wanda Nash Award for animal advocacy, gives a belly rub to a pig at SASHA Farm (Sanctuary And Safe Haven for Animals) in Manchester, the Midwest's largest farm animal sanctuary.

Sloan is grateful for the support of her parents and her partner, and partner's entire family.

"My mother is an incredible person, mother, and friend; she has always given me space to be the person I am in a world that does not always respect vulnerability and honesty," Sloan says. "My father fully supports challenging the status quo and has brought animal ethics up with resistant friends and neighbors."

"And my partner, Anna Gill, has been tremendously supportive throughout the past three years of law school—and the year before that of the LSAT and applications. I feel so lucky to have such a supportive group of people to call family, none of whom give vegan food any side-eye."



Annie Sloan (center) with Award plaque, her partner Anna Gill (to her left), fellow law students, law professor, and Animal Law Section members.

# A Voice for Voiceless

## Becca Sutton from MSU Law honored for her advocacy for animals with Wanda Nash Award

By Sheila Pursglove, Legal News

***Co-Editor's Note:** This article and photo are courtesy of the Legal News and reporter Sheila Pursglove. Sheila is a true friend of the Section and has reported on award ceremonies, member profiles, and other articles over the years. Her coverage is always much appreciated. The ceremony took place in May 2023.*

Becca Sutton's childhood was shared with an assortment of companion animals—dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, parakeets, and a bearded dragon; and a current canine quartet of Husky mixes Kodah and Mischa and mini Australian Shepherds Cooper and Bailey.

So, it's no surprise that Sutton has always dreamed of advocating for animals.

A path to career in this field began to take shape during an internship with The Walt Disney Company, working at Kilimanjaro Safaris alongside advocates for wildlife and habitat conservation.

"While this role was rewarding in regard to educating guests on the status of certain species, it also challenged my knowledge of and considerations for animal welfare and animal rights, especially through an ethical lens," she says. "It allowed me to question my own perspective on when and if animals should be held captive in zoos and used by humans."

The experience deepened her interest in animal welfare and animal rights, passions she pursued at Michigan State University College of Law. Now approaching graduation, Sutton has enjoyed serving as student liaison on the State Bar of Michigan's Animal Law Section.

"I've had the opportunity to attend section meetings, which allowed me to get to know the section members and learn about relevant issues around the state involving animal law," she says.

She also found it rewarding to serve as president for the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, encouraging students to explore animal law as a potential career path. The organization hosted a fun social event at the Constellation Cat Cafe in East Lansing, allowing members to mingle and get to know one another while also playing with adorable, adoptable cats.

"Being able to support a local business that does so much for local cats was a huge pro of the event," Sutton says.

A law school highlight was attending this year's Animal Law Conference in Portland, Ore., with another executive



Becca Sutton, who has graduated from Michigan State University College of Law, was one of two recipients of the 2023 State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section Wanda Nash Award. She is pictured with Kodah, one of her family's four canine companions.

Photo courtesy of Becca Sutton

board member, with the help of a travel grant from the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Another high point was serving as Managing Editor for the *Animal and Natural Resource Law Review*, and planning and executing the 2023 annual symposium, "The Cross-Section of Animal Law and the First Amendment."

"We welcomed ten different panelists to present on issues pertaining to labeling laws, such as litigation surrounding plant-based products and animal welfare claims, and obstacles animal advocates face, such as censorship and punishment," Sutton says. "We also welcomed Jo-Anne McArthur, founder and president of 'We Animals Media' as our keynote speaker.

"The topic I chose was borne out of my personal interests in both First Amendment issues, which I have a particular interest in due to my experience as a student journalist and student clinician with the Great Lakes First Amendment Clinic at





Becca Sutton with grandparents.



Becca Sutton with grandparents.

MSU Law, and animal law issues. Serving as Managing Editor has been one of the most rewarding positions I've ever held," she adds. "It was both challenging and incredibly exciting to plan the annual symposium. I've also enjoyed working with the other members of our executive board to try and increase the number of students at MSU Law interested in legal issues pertaining to animals and natural resources."

A volunteer with Attorneys for Animals, Sutton creates monthly spreadsheets that track proposed rules, final rules, and notices in the Federal Register that impact animals; this spreadsheet becomes the Regulatory Tracker, shared with AFA members and subscribers.

"This work has felt very valuable because it allows me the opportunity to share important information with people across the state that are likewise concerned with animal protections," she says.



Becca Sutton with very proud parents.

Award photos courtesy of Animal Law Section

For her sterling work on animal law, Sutton was one of two recipients of the 2023 State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section Wanda Nash Award, established in 2006 as a tribute to the Section's founder. Sutton was honored May 11 at the Eli Broad School of Business in East Lansing, when she will receive a framed certificate and an honorarium.

"I'm incredibly grateful to receive the Wanda Nash Award—it's such a high honor," says Sutton, who was nominated by MSU Law Professor David Favre. "I'm very appreciative of the Animal Law Section for recognizing my contribution and dedication to animal law. I'm also ecstatic to share the honor of receiving the award with my co-recipient, (Michigan Law student) Annie Sloan. I'm happy to see other law students across Michigan dedicating their time to animal law, and I hope the number of law students interested in animal law continues to grow."

In her 3L spring semester, she externed with the Animal Protection Law Department at the Humane Society of the United States.

"This is the first internship I've had in law school that focuses more on litigation than on policy work, which I've enjoyed a lot," she says. "This role has given me the chance to conduct deep-dive legal research to discover answers to narrow questions that arise from various pending and potential cases."

Following her 1L year, Sutton was a regulatory intern with the Humane Society Legislative Fund; and spent the summer after her 2L year in Centennial, Colo., as a legal intern with Friends of Animals' Wildlife Law Program, where she drafted a rulemaking petition regarding the breeding and public display of captive cetaceans.

"I absolutely loved this assignment—it was the first time I ever got any exposure to marine mammals," she says. "I

Continued on the next page.

sincerely hope I'm able to continue to work on issues related to marine mammals in the future."

She spent her 3L fall semester externing with the Animal Welfare Institute in their Terrestrial Wildlife Program, working on a variety of long-term research projects that resulted in legal memos.

"This externship greatly enhanced my legal research and writing skills, while also allowing me to gain exposure to a handful of species-specific issues," she says

"Each of these internships helped me develop necessary skills to continue my pursuit of utilizing my law degree to advocate for animals," she says.

The native of Fredericksburg, Va. has enjoyed her law school experience, where she has been a member of—and on the leadership board—for several other student organizations including the Women's Law Caucus, Public Interest Law Society, and Council of Graduate Students.

"The community at MSU Law is what originally drew me to attend and it has definitely been the aspect of law school I've enjoyed the most," she says. "Law school is portrayed in movies and TV shows as this really cutthroat environment,

but MSU Law provides a collaborative approach to law school where I feel as though my fellow law students are my teammates, not my competition."

Last fall, she received the Jurisprudence Award in a Food & Drug Law class, writing her final paper about the need to have regulatory oversight of cruelty-free labels for cosmetic products, including an official definition that consumers can look to, to ensure the brand, and its products, meet their expectations.

Her career goal is to work at a nonprofit dedicated to animal advocacy.

"I have every intent to utilize my law degree to advocate for animals and assist in altering the way we, as humans, view and treat animals," she says. "After graduation and the Bar Exam, I'll be working as a research attorney with the Michigan Court of Appeals in Grand Rapids. While not a position that specializes in animal law, I believe this position will provide me with the opportunity to greatly enhance my legal research and writing skills as well as gain exposure to and knowledge of a variety of different cases and laws."

---

## Treasurer's Report – 2022-2023 FY (12 Months through September 30, 2023)

based on preliminary unaudited data

This is a summary of the Animal Law Section's financial status as of September 30, 2023 (12 months of the FY). This is unaudited preliminary data which may be revised after the annual audit. However, it should be considered substantially correct. A revised report will be published if there are material changes after the audit.

Paid membership is 245 and has increased about 1% over the prior Fiscal Year. Graduating law students are allowed and encouraged to join for the first year after law school at no charge.

Revenue for the year was \$3,595. This is the second year of the attorney dues reduction to \$15 from \$25 where dues had been since the Section was formed in 1995.

Expenses for the year were \$3,689 which include one issue of the Newsletter (\$1,547), awards and honorariums related to the Brandi and Wanda Nash Awards (\$1,200), award cer-

emony expenses such as food and supplies (\$882), and credit card processing charges (\$60). We had our first in-person award ceremonies since 2020. Newsletter printing expenses have increased.

Net income was a deficit of (\$94).

The funds balance at the end of September 2023 is \$19,632; a decrease of \$94 compared with the prior FY year-end balance of \$19,726 on September 30, 2022. The expenses for the latest issue of the Newsletter will be recognized in the financial results for the next FY 2023-2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Garlit  
Treasurer  
November 2023



# Recent Animal Law News

By Donald Garlit

**Co-Editor's Note:** *The news below includes brief summaries of important and newsworthy items of interest. We chose these as being of most interest to our members. Many items are now appearing in the legal, national, and world press and not all can be included.*

*You will see that some items cover situations in countries other than the United States. Improving conditions for animals is achieving worldwide interest.*

*Normally we only cover cases that have been fully adjudicated or legislation that has been signed into law. We are not always following those approaches in all updates as there are several situations in the early stages that present interesting legal or legislative approaches that may be discussed below.*

*Additionally, we will continue to discuss recent cases which have involved dog attacks and animal cruelty which have resulted in serious charges against the owner/guardian. It appears that prosecutors are taking these situations much more seriously especially when there is a past pattern of dog aggression or animal cruelty.*

*This section is briefer than normal as the main articles in the Newsletter are lengthy. We will have more Recent Animal Law News items in the column in the next Newsletter.*

## Annie Sloan is Recipient of Initial Brooks Institute and Center for Animal Law Studies L.L.M. Fellowship for 2023-24

Annie Sloan, co-recipient of this year's Wanda Nash Award (see elsewhere in Newsletter for more details about the award), was awarded one of two initial highly competitive Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy L.L.M. Fellowships for the 2023-24 academic year. This is for study at the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark Law School leading to a L.L.M. in Animal Law.

The Brooks Institute is an Illinois-based animal think-and-do tank. It is named after life-long animal lover Brooks McCormick Jr. who was a member of the McCormick family who founded and controlled International Harvester and a predecessor company.

Source is Center for Animal Law Studies at: <https://law.lclark.edu/live/news/51772-announcing-our-2023-24-brooks-institute-animal-law>



## New Jersey Ends Pig Gestation and Veal Calf Crates

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation to ban pig gestation and veal calf crates in July 2023. (These crates are considered cruel practices by most people.) The legislation had 93% support among voters based on polls.

The law takes effect immediately subject to the New Jersey Board of Agriculture and Department of Agriculture first adopting rules and regulations concerning the confinement of breeding pigs and calves raised for veal.

This bill completed a campaign by animal advocates that lasted 13 years.

Source is the Humane Society of the United States at: <https://www.humanesociety.org/news/gestation-and-veal-crate-ban-overwhelmingly-passes-new-jersey-legislature>

and

Animal Legal Defense Fund at: <https://aldf.org/project/gestation-and-veal-crate-ban-new-jersey/>



## Greyhound Racing in the United States Appears to be Running Its Last Laps – Hopefully!

We have reported on the decline of greyhound racing over the years in this Newsletter. It appears that greyhound racing in the United States is in serious decline with many closures as a result of legislative action, citizen referendums, and negative citizen views of the activity especially greyhound deaths. The recent pandemic also impacted track attendance.

The epicenter of greyhound racing was Florida. However, a successful citizen referendum banned the tracks at the end of 2020. Ten tracks in Florida closed in 2020 alone and some tracks closed in 2018 and 2019 even before all tracks were banned.

A total of 37 tracks have closed in the USA since the end of 1999. Arkansas ended greyhound racing at the end of 2022.

Only two greyhound tracks remain in the United States and they are both in West Virginia. The daily bets are said to be high although the trend for the activity is very negative.

Perhaps greyhound racing's long run will be over soon.

Source is Grey 2K USA at: <https://www.grey2kusa.org/about/states.php>

and

Wikipedia at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound\\_racing\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound_racing_in_the_United_States)



### Ann Arbor Enacts Ban on Retail Sales of Certain Animals including Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits

The ban was approved by the City Council in June 2023 and will take full effect in July 2024. At least eight other cities and municipalities in Michigan have these bans. Hundreds of

similar municipal bans (one estimate is at least 450) are in effect across the United States and there are several state-wide bans.

Many of the bans are largely symbolic as some of the municipalities had no such stores (Ann Arbor has none) at the time of the enactment. On the other hand, they can make a strong anti-puppy mill statement as they close-off potential markets.

Sources are WKFR at: <https://wkfr.com/ann-arbor-law-pet-stores/>

Pet Advocacy Network at: <https://petadvocacy.org/local-ordinances/state/mi>

Best Friends Animal Society at: <https://resources.best-friends.org/article/states-humane-pet-sales-laws>

and

the Humane Society of the United States at: [www.humanesociety.org/blog/major-win-450-local-communities-have-banned-sale-puppies-pet-stores](http://www.humanesociety.org/blog/major-win-450-local-communities-have-banned-sale-puppies-pet-stores).



Greyhound (1550-1600)  
Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum



### **US Supreme Court Upholds California Proposition 12 which Bans Sale of Food from Certain Animals unless Raised in Conformance with California Standards - Even if Raised Outside California**

This is a brief summary of the decision as many articles have been written about the decision in print and online.

Arguments were heard in October 2022 in the case of National Pork Producers Council vs. Ross. Basically, the issue was whether California can set standards for food production that apply to other states if the product is sold in California. The National Pork Producers Council was the only major industry group that challenged the proposition.

The US Supreme Court ruled in favor of California in May 2023 permitting such a sales restriction. Justice Gorsuch wrote the majority opinion which included the following words: “While the Constitution addresses many weighty issues, the type of pork chops California merchants may sell is not on that list.”

The proposition passed by voter initiative in 2018. The trial and appellate courts ruled in favor of the California proposition. Obviously, the case raised many Constitutional issues.

Source is the Humane Society of the United States at: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/supreme-court-upholds-california-ban-unethical-pork-proposition/story?id=99256802#:text=Justice%20Neil%20Gorsuch%2C%20writing%20for%20a%20five-justice%20majority%2C,to%20decide%20what%20products%20appear%20on%20store%20shelves.>



### **Judgement of \$1.62 Million against Humane Society for Fostering Out a Dangerous Dog is a Record**

A settlement of \$1.62 million is to be paid by Eleventh Hour Rescue of New Jersey for claimed negligence in sending an animal to a foster home.

This is believed to be a record settlement in a situation where a dog has been fostered out by a rescue group.

Plaintiff Carol Olson visited a friend’s townhouse as an invited guest where Alamo the dog was being fostered. When she pushed the dog off her leg, he bit her thumb off. He was neither caged nor muzzled. The injury limited her work at a

bakery and limited day-to-day activities. The thumb could not be reattached.

New Jersey law has a very rigorous liability standard in the event of a dog bite regardless of the temperament of the dog. The owner of the townhouse was uninsured and filed for bankruptcy. The rescue group remained as the liable party. The settlement was reached in August 2023 per reports.

Obviously in these types of case, collectability can be an issue although reporting does not mention this issue. The rescue appears to still be active.

Source is Animal 24-7 at: <https://www.animals24-7.org/2023/09/20/1-62-million-award-against-rescue-for-fostering-out-vicious-pit-bull/>



### **Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus Reopens with No Animal Acts**

The so-called “Greatest Show on Earth” ended elephant acts in 2016 reflecting lack of public acceptance of such “entertainment” although other animal acts continued. Finally, the circus shut-down totally in 2017. The economics and legislative resistance to that type of “entertainment” ended their long-run. Many states and municipalities have banned live animal acts in the circus in recent years.

Both circuses began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and combined in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Interestingly, the combined circus has not performed under the canvas big-top since the 1950’s. The canvas big-top is a popular but false image of the circus.

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circus began a new tour in September 2023 with only human and no animal acts.

We wish them success with their new business model.

Source is the Humane Society of the United States at: <https://blog.humanesociety.org/2023/09/the-greatest-show-on-earth-finally-does-the-greatest-thing-for-animals.html>

and

NPR at: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/ringling-bros-circus-ends-controversial-elephant-act-after-145-years.>



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Animal Law Section Members, Council and Officers  
**From:** Nominating Committee: Erin Klug, Jennifer Pierce and Bee Friedlander  
**Subject:** 2023 Nominating Committee Report  
(for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024)  
**Dated:** August 4, 2023

Pursuant to the updated Section bylaws (Article III, Sections 1-6), officers are to be elected for a two-year term, after which they are term limited. This year, the Chair Elect becomes Chair, and the positions of Chair Elect, Secretary and Treasurer are to be elected.

Council members are elected for 3-year terms and there are 3 positions open this year. Council members are term limited after 2 3-year terms.

There are also two Council positions open to fill the remaining terms of two people who are nominated for officer positions.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 13.**



## **Officers**

The committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of officers:

- Chair: .....P73361 ... Erin Klug (current Chair Elect), Pontiac  
Chair Elect: .....P78973 ... Rebecca Wrock (currently on Council, term expiring 2024), Ann Arbor  
Secretary: .....P85688 ... Morgan Pattan (currently on Council, term expiring 2025), Battle Creek  
Treasurer: .....P28266 ... Donald Garlit, (currently Secretary), Canton  
Immediate Past Chair: ..P81785... Katherine Brindle, Owosso

The committee recognizes and thanks Allie Phillips for her service as Chair Elect, Chair, and Immediate Past Chair over the past 6 years.

## **Council**

The committee is pleased to recommend the following slate of council members:

### **Term expiring 2026:**

- P48011 .. Steven Bieda (1<sup>st</sup> term), Warren  
P84801 .. Steve Neugent (1<sup>st</sup> term), Eaton Rapids, *new to Council\**  
P80812.. Kimberley Ward (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Detroit

The Committee recognizes and thanks Joshua Holman and Meredith Sharp who have served 2 terms and are term limited.

### **Term expiring 2025:**

- P86789.. John Reynolds (1<sup>st</sup> term, fills Pattan's unexpired term), Ann Arbor, *new to Council\**

### **Term expiring 2024:**

- P86819.. Heather Silcott (1<sup>st</sup> term, fills Wrock's unexpired term), Waterford, *new to Council\**

### **\*A nominee who has not served before is required to submit the following information:**

1. Resume
2. Date admitted to the bar
3. Amount of time as an Animal Law Section member
4. List the involvement in animal advocacy activities, committee participation, authored articles both as an individual and as a member of the Animal Law Section
5. Short explanation of interest in the Council position (100 words maximum)

## **Advisory Committee**

This committee was created several years ago, comprised of council members who were term limited, to act as mentor/advisors to Officers and Council members who had not served in Section leadership previously. This year the Committee will become active. Current members are:

**Tom Boven, Raj Prasad, Richard Angelo, Kieran Marion, Bee Friedlander**

Plans are that each committee member will be assigned a new member and will be in contact with that person before the term starts and as needed throughout the year.



FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 191

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

MICHAEL FRANCK BUILDING  
306 TOWNSEND STREET  
LANSING, MI 48933-2012

[www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org)



*Thanksgiving and after: A time to gather the fruits of gratitude from the gardens of abundance.*

Photo credit: Skip Brown, Smithsonian's National Zoo