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Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference – October 9, 2014 in Lansing

Editor’s Note: *Registration information and more details of the conference will soon be available at the Animal Law Section web pages of the State Bar of Michigan. Information will also be available through listserv emailings and (possibly) a regular mailing.*

Prosecutors who handle animal cruelty, domestic violence and juvenile cases, as well as other attorneys interested in animal cruelty cases are encouraged to attend a conference co-sponsored by the Animal Law Section and the Humane Society of the United States. The conference will be held at Cooley Law School’s Lansing Campus, on Thursday, October 9, 2014, from 11 AM to 4 PM.



Photo Credit: Lisa Godfrey

Sherry Ramsey

Sherry Ramsey, JD, HSUS’s Director of Animal Cruelty Prosecutions, will be the Keynote speaker. Parisa Kiani, Assistant Prosecutor with the Animal Protection Unit of the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, will provide detailed information about how to start an Animal Protection Unit, finding cases, resources in prosecuting these cases, and the challenges of a specialized unit, including budgetary concerns. The conference will be rounded out with a talk by a forensic veterinarian.

Ms. Ramsey is a former Assistant Prosecutor in New Jersey, and was in private practice focusing on animal law. In her current position, she focuses on training law enforcement, prosecutors and judges on animal cruelty and fighting cases, and working with prosecutors from around the country on effective cruelty prosecutions.

She has served as Chair of the New Jersey Animal Law Committee and as a member of the New York State Bar Committee on Animals and the Law. She is an Adjunct Professor teaching Animal Law at New York Law School. She has written numerous articles on prosecuting animal cruelty for legal and judicial publications including an article for the United States Department of Justice website titled, *The Implications and Risks of Animal Cruelty, and How the Criminal Justice Community Can Help*. She also writes and speaks on the subject of family violence and juvenile crime in relation to animal cruelty.



**Animal Law Section Council
2013-2014**

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Editor's Note

Welcome to the third issue of the Newsletter for 2014. This is only the second time that we have published three issues in a single year. The other year that it happened was 2012.

This issue is focused on upcoming Animal Law Section events, with announcements of an animal cruelty prosecutions conference scheduled for October 2014 and humane education training scheduled for February 2015. Both are being co-sponsored with other organizations which broadens the impact of programs that the section offers, and more effectively utilizes section funds. Other articles are the Nominating Committee Report for the upcoming 2014-2015 FY and recent animal law news.

We continue to print the issue in all color including photographs and graphics. This greatly increases the visual appeal of the Newsletter.

I did send out a request for articles on the Section listserv soon after the last issue was mailed to you. I received several positive responses and am hoping that the articles will appear in the next issue which should be published in November.

As always, please remember that this is your newsletter, too. Helpful articles are always needed. In fact, if I can get one good main article for each issue, I can do the rest. Please consider writing an article that will be of interest to your fellow Section members. I have had several members suggest or volunteer articles and I am looking forward to these and other articles as noted above.

Donald Garlit, Newsletter Editor

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Animal Cruelty Prosecution Conference . . . continued from page 1



Parisa Kiani

Parisa Kiani is an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in Detroit, MI. She is currently assigned to the Child Abuse Unit, which vertically prosecutes the physical and sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults. She specializes in cases of child pornography and child exploitation and is a member of Michigan's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. She has tried nearly 40 jury trials in her five years as an APA. Parisa is also one half of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Animal Protection Unit. APU is a volunteer unit that reviews and prosecutes all animal cruelty and animal fighting warrants. Through her work in APU, Parisa also regularly advises other members of law enforcement on criminal investigations and has worked on the legislative reform of animal-related laws in Michigan. A lifetime animal lover, Parisa volunteers as a docent at the Detroit Zoo and is the proud guardian of Donovan the cat and Emmeline the pup. When she's not fighting crime, she pursues her other passion, teaching yoga. Parisa graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan in 2005 and a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University School of Law in 2009. 🐾

Bringing the ABA-HEART Humane Education Project to Michigan

Training Scheduled for February 28, 2015

By Meena Alagappan, JD, HEART Executive Director

Editor's Note: Please "Save the Date" for Saturday, February 28, 2015, when the Animal Law Section in partnership with Michigan Attorneys for Animals, will sponsor this training for lawyers and law students. The training will be in Lansing; watch for details and registration information in future issues of this Newsletter, via the Section Listserv, and special emails.

The Humane Education Project is a joint public service project of the Animal Law Committee of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (ABA-TIPS at <http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=IL201050>) and Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART at www.teachhumane.org), a non-profit public charity based in New York. The primary objective of the Humane Education Project is to cultivate compassion and empathy in our youth toward animals and foster respect for the environment.

The mission of the ABA-TIPS Animal Law Committee is to address all issues concerning the intersection of animals and the law to create a paradigm shift resulting in a just world for all. HEART seeks to foster compassion and respect for all living beings and the environment by educating youth and teachers in humane education.



All photos in article courtesy of Meena Alagappan

Humane education, as it first came to be known over a century ago, focused primarily on animal issues, especially

in connection to companion animals. The scope of humane education over the past few decades has expanded to include issues relating to the environment, human rights, cultural issues, and a broader perspective on animal issues. Humane education takes root with reflection and teaches students to become critical thinkers. It empowers them by providing the tools to make more compassionate and informed choices that benefit other people, animals and the environment. In many ways, the development of critical thinking skills, empathy, and compassion are three components that explicitly identify the cognitive, affective, and behavioral outcomes that are desirable from implementing humane education programs.

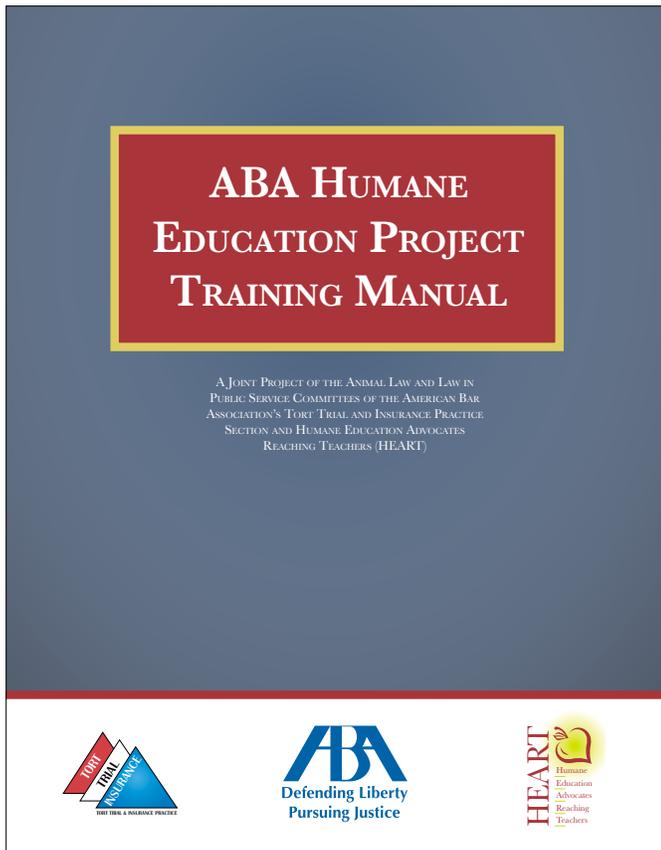
ABA-TIPS solicits lawyer and law student volunteers from the ABA membership, and from the membership of state or local bar associations, to work on implementing humane education programs in their local schools. This public service project has been developed for elementary school children in 4th and 5th grades. In its pilot phase in the spring of 2009, the project was implemented in New York City and the District of Columbia where interested volunteers were trained by HEART's instructional staff to offer a four-lesson humane education program.

We extended the program to Chicago and Baltimore in 2010, Los Angeles in 2011, Miami and Portland, Oregon in 2012, and Lawrence, Kansas and Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 2013. We intend to continue to expand the geographical reach of this public service program over time and have scheduled our next training in Michigan on February 28, 2015.

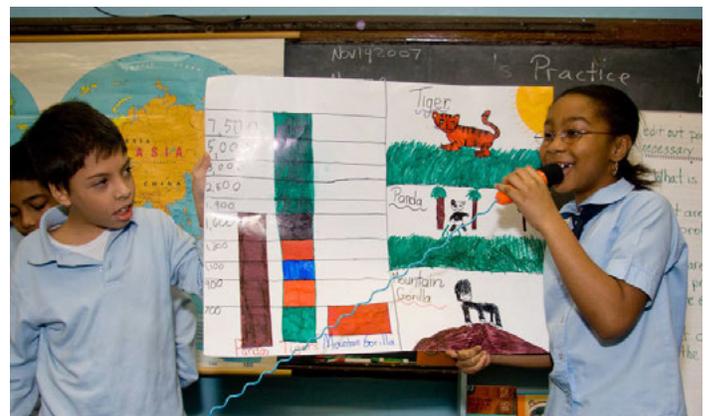
As part of the project, the ABA-TIPS Animal Law Committee and HEART published a comprehensive Humane Education Training Manual including detailed lesson plans, teaching tips, classroom communication strategies, school

Continued on next page

ABA-HEART Project . . . continued from page 3



cruelty to animals as a criterion for diagnosing conduct disorders. Clinical case studies of troubled youth and retrospective studies of violent criminals have repeatedly shown a connection between childhood animal abuse and later interpersonal violence. (See Randall Lockwood & Frank Ascione, *Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence* (Purdue Press: 1998)). Recognition of the violence link has created a nationwide legislative response with all states elevating aggravated animal cruelty to felony status. By cultivating respect and compassion toward all living beings, humane education functions as a valuable deterrent to violence and helps break the cycles of abuse toward both people and animals.



outreach guidelines, state humane education laws, and related articles. The curriculum addresses a wide range of animal-related issues such as responsible companion animal care, animal cruelty laws, dog and cat overpopulation and homelessness, puppy mills, dogfighting, the violence link, factory farming, endangered species, habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change. Most importantly, the program invites students to become problem-solvers, engaged citizens, and conscious choice-makers, so that their lives become part of the solution to societal challenges. Participants attend a day-long, intensive training that covers the course material and helps them develop highly effective, active teaching skills. This four-lesson program is being offered at no cost to schools and has been embraced enthusiastically by students, teachers, school administrators, parents, government officials, foundations, and private individuals alike.

There are so many compelling reasons to ensure that our children receive humane education instruction. The link between violence toward human beings and animals has been well documented through numerous research studies. The FBI considers animal abuse in assessing the dangerousness of criminals and the American Psychiatric Association identifies

In two independent evaluations of the impact of a ten lesson humane education program with about 1,000 students in New York City and Chicago schools (conducted by the Associate Director of Fordham University's Graduate Psychology Department and the Director of Assessment at CUNY College of Staten Island), the results showed that the curriculum positively affected students' knowledge and attitudes regarding humane education topics. Intervention students were also rated by their teachers as being significantly more prosocial than those in the control groups. (See Ann Higgins-D'Alessandro, PhD, *Evaluation of the HEART Humane Education Program in NYC* and William Elery Samuels, PhD, *Study Shows HEART Program Leads to More Prosocial Behaviors*).

Thirteen states in the country have humane education laws; nine of them mandate humane education (ND, FL, NY, CA, WA, IL, PA, WI, TN) and four authorize such instruction (ME, LA, NJ, OR). Some of the compulsory laws focus on animals, but others include people and the environment. However, none of these statutes, whether "mandatory" or non-mandatory, are enforced and the ABA-TIPS public service program is a valuable step toward implementing hu-

mane education in states with these laws as well as those that don't have any such statutes.

The ABA has a strong and continuing commitment to involvement in local community issues and to supporting a new generation of youth leaders. Humane education not only provides important skills and content to children during their formative years, but also teaches these within a larger, personal ethics and leadership focus that will help to steer children toward meaningful engagement with their communities as they mature. These personal and community-based values and skills are important factors in reducing negative behaviors and potential criminal acts, and advancing prosocial involvement at home, at school and in the wider community.

The expansion of humane education legislation is an ongoing process, and attorneys who have had experience teaching a coordinated curriculum in this area, and have seen the positive results for the participating schools, will be in the vanguard of lawyers capable of effecting further legislative change toward a more humane society. Since the project's launch in 2009 volunteers have successfully reached hundreds of students.

One volunteer said, "The students were very engaged and able to really think through the impact of their actions, the actions of others and connect it all to the bigger picture of

compassion and the earth. Each discussion was lively with students offering input and seeking additional information. When we returned for subsequent lessons, the students had new questions for us and it was apparent they had been thinking about what we had discussed the previous week." Another volunteer shared, "The curriculum does a great job getting students to think critically and reach their own conclusions instead of presenting one viewpoint as a foregone conclusion. The curriculum also furthers the objectives of core classes, as it draws upon students' knowledge of government, social science, earth science, geography, ecology, and even mathematics."

Despite their diverse affiliations, the various participants in this project all share a passion for this work and we have consistently received excellent evaluations from the training sessions. I have been so impressed that our project volunteers have been able to so quickly begin affecting students on cognitive, emotional, and behavioral levels and are successfully promoting critical thinking skills.

As I see it, all of you reading this newsletter are so well poised to be humane educators. Your commitment to the humane treatment of animals, demonstrated by your donation of time and skills to serve the legal needs of animals and their human guardians, is commendable. The volunteer work you do serves as an excellent model for our youth of how they can use the legal system and their concern for animals to make significant contributions on behalf of one of our world's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for promoting the protection of animals and for inspiring others to do the same. I sincerely hope you will join us when we expand our Humane Education Project to Michigan on Saturday, February 28, 2015! 🐾

About the Author

Meena Alagappan is a Vice-Chair of the ABA-TIPS Animal Law Committee and Executive Director of Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART), a 501(c)(3) organization based in New York.



**ABA-TIPS Humane Education Training
Michigan State University College of Law**

February 28, 2015 from 10am-4pm

The Humane Education Project is a joint public service project of the Animal Law Committee of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (ABA TIPS) and Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART), a non-profit public charity. The primary objective of the Humane Education Project is to cultivate compassion and empathy in young people toward animals and foster respect for the environment.

This free training will be placing a special emphasis on issues connected to companion, farmed and wild animals, such as puppy mills, dog fighting, overpopulation, factory farms, climate change, habitat destruction and pollution.

Participants will be provided with teaching skills, lesson plans and guidance on implementing humane education into Michigan schools. To register, contact Meena Alagappan at meena@teachhumane.org, Kimberly Korona at kim@teachhumane.org, or Beatrice Friedlander at bee.friedlander@animalsandsociety.org

Who Should Attend?
Attorneys and law students
Paralegals
Members of Bar Associations
Educators and concerned citizens also welcome

Sponsored by:




Recent Animal Law News

Tango the Dog Appears as a Witness during Preliminary Hearing for Murder

Tango the Labrador is reported to have been called to the witness stand in an effort to identify his owner's murderer in France. The suspect's defense attorney objected to the approach. This information is apparently truthful and not a hoax or joke, based on a web search.

Source is *Huffington Post*: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/04/04/labrador-dog-named-tango-witness-stand-murder-trial-_n_5090614.html

Couple Charged with 2nd Degree Murder after Their Dogs Kill Jogger in Metamora Township in Lapeer County

A couple has been charged with 2nd degree murder after two of their Cane Corso dogs killed Craig Sytsma of Livonia who was jogging near their house in July. The two dogs and another adult dog in the house have been euthanized. Eight puppies have been removed from the house.

Source is *Lansing State Journal* at: <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/viewart/20140801/NEWS02/308010009/Dog-owners-charged-second-degree-murder-mauling-Livonia-man-agree-dogs-euthanized>

MSU College of Law Animal Law & Historical Center Website Redesigned with New Features

The website has recently been redesigned and celebrates its 12th anniversary in August 2014. The following is a description from the website:

On this site you will find a comprehensive repository of information about animal law, including: over 1200 full text cases (US, historical, and UK), over 1400 US statutes, over 60 topics and comprehensive explanations, legal articles on a variety of animal topics and an international collection.

The website has many interesting case summaries among much other useful information.

Source is Animal Law & Historical Center at: <https://www.animallaw.info/>

First Person Charged under Rhode Island Law with Leaving Animal in Hot Car

A man was charged with a misdemeanor in July after leaving his dog in a hot car under a law recently enacted in Rhode Island. The temperature in the car was 124 degrees when police arrived.

Source is Animal Law & Historical Center summary (address above) and CBS Boston at: <http://boston.cbslocal.com/2014/07/10/man-charged-under-new-ri-law-for-leaving-dog-in-hot-car/>



Animal Law Section Council Nominations for 2014-15

Officers

The Council has four officer positions. The Chair Elect, Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually and may serve for two terms. The following have agreed to serve for a second one-year term:

- Laurie A. Hrydziusko, Lansing – Chair Elect
- Mary Ann Kozlowski, Bloomfield Hills – Secretary
- Anna Marie Scott, East Lansing – Treasurer

The Chair is elected for a two-year term. Jennifer Pierce will be continuing as Chair for a second year.

Section Council, 2014-2017

The following have agreed to stand for election to a three-year term:

- Ann M. Griffin, St. Clair Shores, is the Chair of the Section's Legislative Committee, and has taught at University of Detroit/Mercy.
- Rajesh Krishna Prasad, Detroit, is an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Wayne County, a member of its Animal Protection Unit, and a member of the Section's Legislative Committee.
- Stephen A. Seman, Saginaw, is in private practice and interested in animal law; he is a long-time member of the Animal Law Section, and serves on the Saginaw County Bar Association Pro Bono Committee.

Thank You

The Nominating Committee on behalf of the Section Council wishes to thank Jeffrey Cruz, Brandon Scott, and Sharon Noll Smith who are leaving the council at the end of this fiscal year. Thanks to Rebecca Kristen Wrock who recently graduated from Wayne State University Law School for serving as a student member of the Council for several years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beatrice M. Friedlander
Nominating Committee Chair





Visit our Website: <http://www.michbar.org/animal/>



Animal Legal Lifeline
Toll-free Number for Referrals:
(866) 211-6257

Upcoming Events

September 17-19, 2014

State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting
Grand Rapids

Friday, September 19, 2014, 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Annual Animal Law Section Meeting in Grand
Rapids during SBM Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 11 AM – 4 PM

Conference on Prosecuting Animal Cruelty
Cases at Cooley Law School, Lansing. The
conference is jointly sponsored by the Animal
Law Section and the Humane Society of the
United States.

February 28, 2015, 10AM – 4:00 PM

ABA-HEART Humane Education Project
Training in Lansing (Michigan State University
College of Law)

