



## Animal Law Section Members Raj Prasad and Amy Slameka Receive National Albert Schweitzer Award

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The State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section congratulates two of its members, Raj Prasad and Amy Slameka, for receiving the Animal Welfare Institute's Albert Schweitzer Award.

U.S. Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson presented the awards to Prasad and Slameka, as well as Virginia Assistant Attorney General Michelle Welch, on November 14 at The Hill Center in Washington, D.C., for aggressively pursuing animal cruelty and animal fighting cases and raising awareness about the need to take such cases seriously. The Animal Welfare Institute was founded in 1951 to alleviate the suffering inflicted on animals by people. Coincidentally, the first Schweitzer award presented to a law enforcement officer was given in 1964 to another man from Detroit, police Patrolman John Mobley. Other past recipients include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas and Jane Goodall. This is the first time the Schweitzer award has been presented to members of a prosecutor's office.

Prasad and Slameka, both assistant prosecutors in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, received the award for work they've done with the Animal Protection Unit, which they founded in 2008 to combat the underground criminal community that breeds, trains, houses and sells fighting animals. The unit has a 98 percent conviction



Raj Prasad receives Albert Schweitzer Award from U.S. Asst Attorney General Laurie Robinson (center) and AWI President Cathy Liss (right).

Credit: Randy Sager for the Animal Welfare Institute



Amy Slameka receives Albert Schweitzer Award from U.S. Asst Attorney General Laurie Robinson (center) and AWI President Cathy Liss (right).

Credit: Randy Sager for the Animal Welfare Institute

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**Schweitzer Award.. continued from page 1**

rate, handles all crimes involving animals, and is staffed by four assistant prosecutors who volunteer their time in the midst of handling cases in other divisions. In addition to handling animal abuse and cruelty cases, they have also taken on mauling cases, worked with the state legislature on dog-fighting laws, and trained animal control officers and Humane Society investigators on how to properly identify and preserve evidence when responding to crime scenes. One of Prasad and Slameka's most impressive accomplishments occurred when they won a conviction against two men for burning a dog alive in Detroit. One is now serving 13 months to eight years in prison, and the other 24 months to eight years in prison.

Prasad joined the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in 2005, and is currently assigned to the General Trials Division, which handles murder, armed robbery, and extortion cases. He is the chairman of the SBM Animal Law Section's Prosecutors Committee and serves on its Legislative Committee. Prior to his service with the prosecutor's office, he served for five years as assistant state attorney in Tampa, Fla. He earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University.

Slameka joined the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in 2001, and has served in the Felony Trial Division for the majority of her career. She is currently assigned to the Special Prosecutions Unit on a grant involving energy theft. She serves as a council member for the SBM Animal Law Section, and also serves on the SBM Character and Fitness Committee. Slameka is a board member of the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society. She received her law degree from Michigan State University. 🐾

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## Editor's Note

Welcome to the first issue of the Newsletter for 2012.

We have a wide variety of articles in this issue. I think that you will be very impressed by the activities of our members as recounted in the Newsletter. I know that I am impressed!

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

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.

Donald Garlit

Newsletter Editor

donaldgarlit@yahoo.com

# Animal Law Section Holds 2011 Symposium Covering Many Topics

By Roberta M. Gubbins

Article Courtesy of Ingham County Legal News

***Editor's Note:** Last year's annual Symposium had a wide variety of topics. There was something for everyone, so to speak. I realize that it has been many months since the Symposium. However, I do think that it is important to memorialize Section activities for our members and records. The Section owes a Thank You to 2011 symposium organizers Mary Chartier and Anna Scott.*

The 2011 Animal Law Symposium, held on April 21, 2011 at Cooley Law School, opened with the presentation of the Sadie Award to Suzanne Boukamp, Janie Duca, Paula Gonzalez, Kelli Mink and Michelle Reimer for their work with Faithful to Felines (also known as the West Michigan Society of the Protection and Care of Animals or WM-SPCA), bringing it back to its original mission of caring for cats and kittens. They received the award, which recognizes the efforts of ordinary citizens on behalf of animals, because “during the past three years they saved numerous other animals including bears, horses, a steer, pigs, goats, rabbits and a handful of exotic animals from a sanctuary that had become anything but a safe home for animals,” said Margo Miller, Animal Law Section council member, who conducted the ceremony.



Suzanne M. Dugas

Credit: Roberta M. Gubbins

This year's conference covered topics of interest to both attorneys and non-attorneys. Anna Scott, Scott Law Firm, section Chairperson, introduced the first speaker, Suzanne M. Dugas, speaking on Pet Trusts.

Dugas explained that historically only useful animals were considered property and subject to taxation. Pets had no intrinsic value. After 1990, with the revision of the Uniform Probate

Code, pet trusts were legally enforceable. Forty-four states enacted pet trust statutes including Michigan. In 2010, the Michigan Pet Trust Statute under EPIC was adopted, (MCLA 700.2722).

Dugas recommended that the “caregiver and the trustee not be the same person. Or consider a trust protector who

can come in and say ‘something bad is happening here.’ The trust continues for the life of the animal, which in the case of some animals can be longer than human life and must be considered.”



James Schmier

Credit: Roberta M. Gubbins

James Schmier of the Law Offices of James G. Schmier, spoke of representing clients charged with animal hoarding.

“The first case involved Ken who loved Chihuahuas. He had 109 of them running around his house. What really made the story so sensational was that in his basement neatly wrapped in plastic bags and labeled with name and date of death were more in his freezer. The second

case was a woman (Pat) in Redford who had 60 animals living in the house. Both cases involved hoarding and both houses had to be destroyed. In both cases the defendants were oblivious to what they were living in.

“The difference between the two,” he said, “was that Ken hoarded everything and Patricia only hoarded animals.” Ken suffered from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and was mentally impaired while Patricia was normal. “Neither of these folks intended to harm the animals.

“These are not normal criminal cases,” he said. There is no desire to send the defendants to jail, the intent is to prevent them from owning animals again.

“I decided with Ken's case that this could not be a story about dogs. It had to be about Ken. When I talked to reporters, when they wanted to talk about dogs, I would talk about people. Ken loved these animals. They were well-cared for and all were adopted. I also decided that Ken would not be a criminal.

“When I came to Ken's house the first time, it was a three ring circus. There was crime scene tape all around it, five of those (TV) trucks with big booms, 25 reporters, videographers, newspaper guys and still photographers there. There were men in haz-mat suits taking stuff out of the house and putting it in the seven or eight dumpsters in the

Continued on next page

Symposium.. continued from page 3

empty lot next door. There were health department officials, building officials, police, city attorney—there was even a guy down the street selling ice cream from his house.”

Ultimately Ken was charged with two felony charges. “I didn’t want him punished but he couldn’t do this again. He was placed on probation with the caveat that he could never have animals again. He now lives in his own apartment.”

Patricia’s story became an animal story, which led to conviction. He urged those who defend hoarders to keep the focus on the defense of a hoarder not a criminal. “If you don’t like the publicity, don’t take the cases. Learn to handle the press.”

Virginia C. Thomas, Arthur Neef Law Library Director at Wayne State University (and attorney), spoke on breed-specific legislation, a “statute or regulation that is directed toward one or more specific breeds of dogs.”

Breeds considered dangerous are pit bulls (bully breeds in general), Rottweilers, Dobermans, Dalmations, mastiffs, chows and others. The laws, which can be found in over 500 cities in 39 states plus D.C., are regulated through special registration, restrictions on sale, required spay or neutering or confinement requirements.

“Some of the practical concerns surrounding the laws are 1) effectiveness—do they reduce dog-related injuries?, 2) complexity of the law’s requirements and 3) the cost of enforcement,” Thomas said. “Ethical concerns have been raised such as will breed specific laws promote breed-ism? Do behavior characteristics attach to specific breeds? And, is it just to remove a beloved family pet from its home?”

Thomas concluded recommending a breed-neutral approach that would “promote responsible dog ownership, strengthen anti-dogfighting laws, enforce anti-cruelty laws and encourage dog spay/neutering.”

Ann Andrews and Angela Brown, co-owners of Anna-Belle’s Pet Station in Lansing, both lawyers, opened their business in 2009. Andrews described the process involved in



L-R: Section Chair Anna Scott, Gayle Rosen - Speaker on Assistance Dogs and ADA, and Scott Frye (father of Ehlana)

opening a new business. They started the business with an idea—“wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could bring our dogs while we worked so we could visit during the day and they weren’t in a crate all day?”

The immediate problem was finding a space—no one wanted a dog business. They found a property to buy, which required six months of meetings and litigation to get a zoning change. The next problem was financing improvements, which fell through due to the recession. They had to personally finance the improvements. “Eventually we both had to go back to work.”

The business has grown. When they started the dog-sitting they started with three dogs, three days a week. “I’m happy to say that in December of 2010, we got a huge boost with an article in the Lansing State Journal. Now we are open five days a week, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and average 20 dogs a day.”

“Apart from everything else that is happening in our society,” she concluded, “the pet industry continues to grow at a rate of six percent a year.”

Tom Yeadon, Assistant East Lansing City Attorney, spoke on effective advocacy for ordinance changes. His recommendations included:

- Be brief when addressing city council
- Don’t be insulting or go off-track
- Present material in written form prior to meeting
- Show how ordinance can benefit and not harm the community—for example, the chicken ordinances.



Tom Yeadon, Assistant East Lansing City Attorney

Credit: Roberta M. Gubbins



L-R: Section Chair Anna Scott and Ann Andrews - Speaker on Creating a Pet-Related Business

Gayle Rosen of the University of Michigan Student Legal Services and American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan cooperating attorney spoke on the laws concerning service dogs, which fall under the Americans with Disabilities Act. She described a recent lengthy mediation situation with the Napoleon Community Schools which resulted in a decision to permit a doctor-prescribed service dog named Wonder to accompany a 6-year-old student, Ehlena Fry, in school. Wonder is a specially trained certified mobility assistance dog who is trained in seizure response and is hypo-allergenic.

Jeff Cruz, Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, concluded the seminar, discussing prosecuting crimes involving animals such as dog-fighting. He reviewed a major prosecution in Lansing including very graphic details.

Attendance was about 75 people including some non-attorneys and the speakers and topics were very well received. The Symposium included lunch. 🐾



Virginia C. Thomas - Speaker on Breed-Specific Legislation



L-R: Section Council member Mary Chartier and Jeff Cruz - Speaker on Dog Fighting Prosecutions

## 2010 Sadie Award Earned by Suzanne Boukamp, Janie Duca, Paula Gonzalez, Kelli Mink and Michelle Reimer for their work with Faithful to Felines (AKA West Michigan Society for the Protection and Care of Animals)

*The Sadie award of the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan honors non-legal professionals who make outstanding contributions to the betterment of animals. The award is named in memory of Sadie who was a beloved family dog who was killed by an act of animal cruelty.*

*Remarks from Section Member Margo Miller at the Award Ceremony during the 2011 Animal Law Symposium in April 2011:*



L-R: Faithful to Felines' Suzanne Boukamp, Michelle Reimer, and Kelli Mink receive Sadie Award from Section Council member Margo Miller

These five women, all affiliated with the rescue and shelter of cats and kittens through Faithful to Felines (AKA West Michigan SPCA), are receiving the Sadie Award because during the last three years they not only were rescuers of cats and kittens, they helped numerous other animals including bears, horses, a steer, pigs, goats, rabbits and a handful of exotic animals from a sanctuary which had become anything but a safe home for animals. Suzanne, Janie, Paula, Kelli and Michelle, who all have full-time jobs, spent much blood, sweat and tears, trying to work with state government representatives, courts, plus numerous other volunteers, in order to bring the WMSPCA back to its original mission: Rescue and shelter abused, abandoned and orphaned cats and kittens.

It required all of them to accomplish the many tasks needed to meet their goal, and each one had her hand in almost every aspect of the work. Janie Duca took the responsibility of continuing the medical care of all the cats and kittens and organized much of the foster program where all of the cats and kittens lived before their new sanctuary home; her focus on that allowed the rest of the team to concentrate on rescuing and moving the remainder of the animals to better facilities. Paula Gonzalez organized and continues to run the bingo game and fundraiser which funded much of the rescue. Suzanne Boukamp took a lead in moving and rescuing some of the exotics and helped to wrangle the pigs into the truck which delivered them to their new home. Michelle Reimer was pivotal with the care and movement of all the horses to a wonderful rescue in Ohio, and the steer, Norman, to a private home where he now lives like a spoiled pet. Kelli Mink arranged transportation of several farm animals to SASHA Farm in Manchester, Michigan, and also arranged transfer across state lines of three brown bears to a new home she found, a wildlife facility in Colorado, where those bears may now roam free instead of being in small cages. Kelli also worked diligently to find a new home for Faithful to Felines, which indeed was found and is located in Muskegon.

We salute their steadfastness and resolve in achieving their goal and most of all their compassion for all animals. 🐾

# Tieman v Grinsteiner – Court of Appeals Addresses Aspects of the Dog Bite Statute and Leash Law in Ruling for Defendant

Summary by Barbara Goldman

*Editor's Note:* Section member Barbara Goldman wrote this summary of a dog bite-related case. This is an interesting case and you will note that the courts never needed to address the issue of proximate cause. Barbara's outstanding article on Michigan dog bite cases was published in the Summer 2010 issue of the newsletter.

The Court of Appeals construed the dog bite statute (MCL 287.351) and the leash law (MCL 287.262) in a recent decision from Menominee county.

In *Tieman v Grinsteiner*, unpublished opinion per curiam of the Court of Appeals, issued 10/27/11 (Docket No. 300265), the defendant owned a farm, where he kept two dogs. The plaintiff drove up the driveway, thinking he could buy straw from the defendant because the man who previously owned the farm used to sell straw. The defendant was not home at the time. The dogs barked. The plaintiff started to get out of his truck, thinking that the dogs were not a threat because they were barking. One dog, an Australian Shepherd, bit him. As he was getting back in the truck, the plaintiff injured his knee. Several months later, before the knee injury had been treated, the plaintiff's knee "gave out" while he was working with a power tool and injured his hand. He sued the defendant, alleging both strict liability under the dog bite statute and negligence liability under common law.

The trial court, Judge Richard J. Ceello, granted summary disposition to the defendant, agreeing that the dog bite statute did not apply because the plaintiff was a trespasser and the defendant was not negligent because there was no evidence that he knew the dog had a propensity to bite. The plaintiff was allowed to amend his complaint and allege violation of the leash law, but the court also dismissed the amended complaint because it found the leash law did not apply when the dog was on the owner's property. The plaintiff appealed.

The Court of Appeals (Judges Cynthia Diane Stephens, David Sawyer, Kirsten Frank Kelly) affirmed. It

agreed that the plaintiff was not an invitee or implied licensee:

[D]efendant did not benefit from plaintiff's presence, did not explicitly invite him onto the property and was wholly unaware that plaintiff would be in his driveway. Furthermore, plaintiff has failed to show the frequency at which the public utilizes defendant's driveway. Consequently, we are unable to say that the alleged usage amounts to a known and customary use. Therefore, plaintiff is properly classified as a trespasser. . .

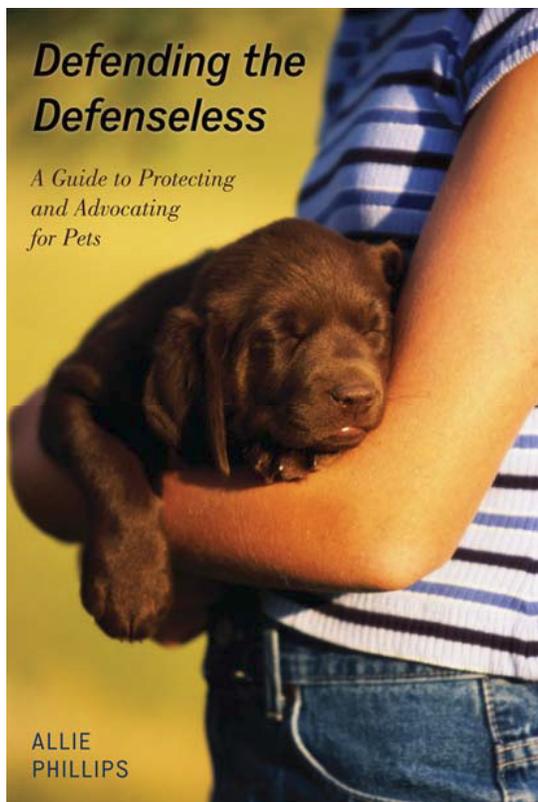
The panel also held that the plaintiff was not able to establish common law liability. The defendant's testimony that Australian Shepherds "tend[] to be protective of personal property and family" did not demonstrate that the "individual dog" had a "dangerous propensity" "unique" to him.

As for the leash law claim, the court held that the prohibition against allowing a dog to "to stray unless held properly in leash" did not apply.

[T]he legislature did not intend to require an owner to leash its dog if that dog remained on the owner's property. Therefore, the term stray, as used by the statute, refers to a dog that is wandering or roaming an area of land that does not belong to its owner. . .

Richard C. Clark of Escanaba represented the plaintiff. Counsel for defendant was Raymond J. O'Dea of Marquette. ☛

# BECOMING AN ANIMAL ADVOCATE



*Defending the Defenseless* is for anyone who wants to join a growing crusade to bring animal protection to its rightful place in a civilized society. Allie Phillips wrote *Defending the Defenseless* for three primary reasons: she knows a great deal about animal protection, she is frequently asked by others how they can get involved as well and there is not currently a lot of information out there on how to get involved with helping animals.

This book guides readers through the variety of ways they can help companion animals and offers practical tips to get involved, from donating money to volunteering at animal shelters, from opposing animal experimentation to raising children to protect animals. Phillips shares her own personal experiences in her work with protecting animals, which she describes as “some involve outrageous joy, and others involve life-altering devastation.”

“If you are new to animal advocacy, this book is much more than a how-to manual. It provides those yearning to make a difference for animals with both a roadmap and a call to action. It also reminds experienced advocates why they became involved in this gratifying yet emotionally demanding cause.”—**Beatrice Friedlander, Animals and Society Institute**



**Allie Phillips** is an author, attorney and advocate for the protection of animals and vulnerable victims. She is a former prosecuting attorney who has worked for the National District Attorneys Association where she launched and is the director of the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse. She was previously employed with American Humane Association as the Vice President of Public Policy and Vice President of Human-Animal Strategic Initiatives. Allie is a nationally-recognized expert on issues involving animal protection and advocacy. She is a volunteer with King Street Cats (Alexandria, VA) and Vice President of No Paws Left Behind. She co-founded Michiganders for Shelter Pets, is a council member of the State Bar of Michigan Animal Law Section, on the steering committee of the National Link Coalition, and a Practitioner Member of the Shelter Animal Reiki Association. She is author of *How Shelter Pets are Brokered for Experimentation: Understanding Pound Seizure* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010). To learn more, please visit [www.alliephillips.com](http://www.alliephillips.com).

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eBOOK

# Attorney Represents Herself in Tax Court and Wins Case Involving Allowable Charitable Deductions to Fix Our Ferals, a 501(c)(3) Organization, for Which She Fostered Cats

Summary by Barbara Goldman

**Editor's Note:** Section member, Barbara Goldman, summarizes this interesting case involving the scope and documentation related to charitable deductions. Attorney Joyce Van Dusen of California represented herself in Tax Court and prevailed. Obviously, the old adage that the "attorney who represents herself has a fool for a client" is untrue in this case.

A recent Tax Court decision may be of interest. In *Van Dusen v Comm'r*, 136 T.C. No. 25 (2011), the petitioner (plaintiff) was Joyce Van Dusen, an attorney from Oakland, California. She was a volunteer for a 501(c)(3) organization called "Fix Our Ferals," which ran a trap-neuter-release program in the Oakland area. Van Dusen housed cats in her home, including post-surgical ferals and other cats who were not returned to the outdoors.

In 2004, Van Dusen sheltered 70 to 80 feral cats, in addition to her own seven pets. Most of the cats she either trapped herself or got from other members of Fix Our Ferals, but she was not able to trace the origins of all of them. She spent over \$12,000 on food, cleaning supplies (including a Costco membership fee) and veterinary care and incurred increased costs for utilities; she also had her wet-dry vacuum repaired. She claimed the expenses as charitable contributions on her tax return; she later conceded that less than 100% of the expenses were deductible, but argued that most of the them were.

The IRS disallowed the \$12,000 and charged Van Dusen with over \$4,000 in additional federal taxes. One issue was whether the expenses constituted "contributions" to the organization; the other issues involved whether Van Dusen's record-keeping met the requirements for substantiation of charitable donations.

Van Dusen represented herself in Tax Court and won. The court held her expenses in caring for the cats constituted "unreimbursed expenditures made incident to the rendition of services to an organization contributions to which are deductible may constitute a deductible contribution." 26 CFR 1.170A-1(g). The court found that Van Dusen's connection with Fix Our Ferals was enough that her care for the foster cats constituted services to it. *Id.* at \*5-6. The organiza-

tion "encouraged and indirectly oversaw" her work. *Id.* at \*6. The fact that Van Dusen also did work for other charitable organizations "[did] not pose an insurmountable bar to deductibility." *Id.* at \*6. The court also decided that fostering cats was within the organization's "mission," even though its literature referred only to "education and sterilization." The court did, however, disallow some expenses (such as the Costco membership and the cost of repairing the shop vac), because they were not "solely" attributable to Van Dusen's cat-care work.

Part of the cost of cleaning and other supplies could not be attributed to caring for the cats, but the court allowed a deduction for the remainder. It relied on documentation where Van Dusen could provide it and her own testimony as to parts of the rest, although the court's estimate of the percentage attributed to the foster cats was somewhat less than Van Dusen's.

Van Dusen, however, did have some problems with substantiating her expenses. The court found her records – check copies, credit card statements, bank records and various bills and account histories – for expenses of less than \$250 "substantially complied" with the requirements of 26 CFR 1.170A-13(a), although they did not meet the exact descriptions. "Van Dusen's documents are legitimate substitutes for canceled checks." *Id.* at \*11.

Van Dusen produced records of her expenses which contained all of the information that would have been on a canceled check. Her records show the name of the payee, the date of the payment, and the amount of the payment. [*Id.* at \*11.]

There is a separate requirement for contributions of \$250 or more. "The taxpayer must substantiate the contribution

with a contemporaneous written acknowledgment from the donee organization.” 26 USC 170(f)(8)(a); 26 CFR 1.170A-13(f)(1). Because Van Dusen failed to obtain the “contemporaneous written acknowledgment” from Fix Our Ferals, she could not deduct some of the expenses. The court also allowed a prorated deduction for the utility bills.

The IRS did not appeal. 🐾

Please join us for an afternoon of information regarding current animal law topics. Areas that will be discussed include the link between animal abuse and human violence; lobbying and legislation in the animal world; activities of Wayne County’s Animal Prosecution Unit; the story of the “MC Quad” that survived a Monroe County dog fighting ring; and current legal issues that arise for veterinarians. Moderating the event is Grand Rapids animal law attorney Ginny Mikita. We hope you will be able to join us!

**The Animal Law Society**  
**of**  
**Thomas M. Cooley Law School–Grand Rapids**  
**Cordially invites you to attend its**  
**Animal Law Symposium**

Speakers will include:

- Ms. Bee Friedlander, Managing Director of Animals & Society Institute, Inc.
- Ms. Eileen Liska, former Michigan Humane Society lobbyist
- Mr. Raj Prasad, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor
- Ms. Beth Wickwire, University of Michigan Attorney - Counselor
- Dr. James Bader, DVM

Moderator: Attorney Ginny Mikita

Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
111 Commerce Avenue  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

**Saturday, February 18, 2012**

**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

\$5.00 for Guests - Free for Students & Faculty Members

Light refreshments will be provided

Please RSVP to [EdmondsR@cooley.edu](mailto:EdmondsR@cooley.edu)  
by February 4, 2012



## Treasurer's Summary Report for 2010 Fiscal Year (FY)

This is a summary of the Section's financial status for the FY ended September 30, 2010. The purpose of this summary is to assure the members that the Animal Law Section is very viable with a healthy financial status and your Section dues are being spent responsibly. (Note that we previously published results for the 2010 FY through July and this takes into account the final two months of the FY.)

The following will provide highlights of the financial status of the Section through September 30, 2010 and the end of the FY:

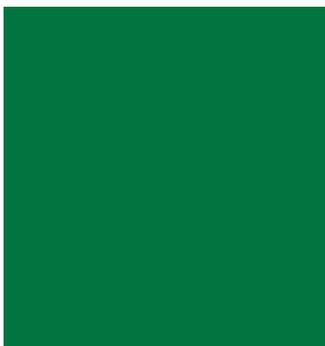
- Membership dues were down by about 3% this year. This was a reflection of the state of the Michigan economy during the year.
- Expenses have been reasonable and have averaged about \$160 per month and are primarily for the Legislative Aides lunch in November, teleconference calls, the Wanda Nash award, the Annual Meeting, an Amicus brief filing fee in a case involving neglected horses, and the website/listserv. We continue to have the monthly listserv charge so please use the listserv as a means of contacting other Section members.
- The total cost of the symposium was about \$655 (expenses exceeded revenues). Symposium attendance was good although lower this year as the symposium was aimed primarily at attorneys rather than a broader group which has included animal interest groups in the past. Additionally, we have always approached the Symposium as an educational function of the Section not as a profit making endeavor although we have generated a profit in some years.
- The two issues of the newsletter cost \$1,593 with the year's first issue of the Newsletter costing \$1,022 primarily as a result of it being the largest issue ever published by the Section, issue being all color, and extra copies printed for author, speaker, and event distributions.
- The Section fund balance was \$11,669 at the end of September – a decrease of \$309 from the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1, 2009.

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN



ANIMAL LAW SECTION

### Treasurer's Reports



Respectfully submitted,

Donald Garlit  
January 2012

## Treasurer's Summary Report for 2011 Fiscal Year (FY)

This is a summary of the Section's financial status for the 2011 FY. The purpose of this summary is to assure the members that the Animal Law Section is very viable with a healthy financial status and your Section dues are being spent responsibly.

The following will provide highlights of the financial status of the Section for the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

- Membership was about 170 during the year with dues and membership up by about 8% from the prior year. This is a positive development given the state of the Michigan economy.
- Expenses have been reasonable and have averaged about \$195 per month and are primarily for the Legislative Aides lunch in July, teleconference calls, the Sadie award, Annual Meeting expenses for 2011 and 2010 (as the 2010 section meeting was held on October 1, 2010 and expenses were not recognized until the 2011 FY), and the website/listserv. We continue to have the monthly listserv charge so please use the listserv as a means of contacting other Section members.
- The total cost of the symposium was about \$761 (expenses exceeded revenues). Symposium attendance was very good and up for the prior year. We have always approached the Symposium as an educational function of the Section not as a profit making endeavor although we have generated a profit in some years.
- The latest issue of the Newsletter cost \$694 which is an increase over most prior issues as we now using an all color format with more photographs which improves the look of the Newsletter. Note that extra copies are printed for author, speaker, and event distributions.
- The Section fund balance was \$12,431 at the end of September – an increase of \$762 from the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1, 2010.

This will be my last report as Treasurer. Brandon Scott became Section Treasurer beginning on October 1, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

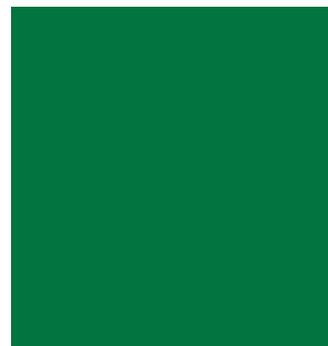
Donald Garlit  
January 2012



STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

■  
ANIMAL LAW SECTION

## Treasurer's Reports



# SBM

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## Upcoming Events

### February 18, 2012

Animal Law Symposium sponsored by the Animal Law Society of Thomas M. Cooley Law School – Grand Rapids (more details within Newsletter)

### Spring 2012 (probably April)

Annual Animal Law Section Symposium (more details to be provided later)

