


July 2022 – July 2023

# ANNUAL

# REPORT



**Animal Law Program**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



**The DU Animal Law Program is committed to educating the next generation of animal law advocates, and in turn, for those advocates to enhance animal protection in the United States and around the world for generations to come**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome from the Program Director and Manager . . . . .	1
Affiliated Faculty Advancements . . . . .	2
Board of Advisors . . . . .	4
Second-Year Highlights . . . . .	5
Events. . . . .	6
Evening Speaker Series . . . . .	6
Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk Series . . . . .	8
Community Events . . . . .	9
Animal Rights Law Course & Directed Research . . . . .	10
Animal Cruelty Response Research Group (ACRRG) . . . . .	11
Plans for Fall 2023. . . . .	12
Events . . . . .	12

# WELCOME

## FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND MANAGER



Faculty Director,  
**Justin Marceau**



Program Manager,  
**Jess Beaulieu**

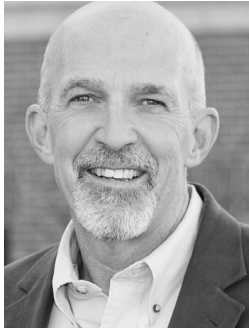
We are delighted to see our program growing in terms of student engagement, national recognition, and academic accomplishments. Program Director Justin Marceau supervised some of the most impressive student research projects he has seen in his nearly decade and a half teaching and was inspired by the energy and passion of our students. The profile of our program is increasingly drawing students to our courses and events who are what we might describe as, vegan-adjacent! The students want to learn more about animal law because they recognize that the field is no longer fringe, and because they correctly see connections between their broader interests in civil rights and animal law. Seeking greater protection and status for animals is becoming a mainstream idea around campus because of our program's presence.

We are also grateful to our supportive colleagues who help make the Animal Law Program vibrant. The program's success and growth are owed in part to the collaborations we have with our environmental law faculty, including Professor Sarah Schindler, who directs the Environmental Law Program. This year we collaborated with the Environmental Law Clinic, admired their work in challenging CAFO permits, and learned from the scholarship of Professor Wyatt Sassman about social movements. Professor Alan Chen and Director Marceau completed a multi-year collaboration culminating in a book titled *Truth and Transparency: Undercover Investigations in the Twenty-First Century*. The book takes a comprehensive look at the role of undercover investigations, with a particular focus on animal protection investigations, and their role in promoting social change.

The program is also fortunate to have strong ties to our community. We are the only animal law program in the Rocky Mountain Region of the United States, and this year we welcomed Governor Jared Polis to campus where he helped launch an institute dedicated to improving the protection of animals in the law using science. Governor Polis also appointed Program Manager Jess Beaulieu to serve on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, a citizen board that sets regulations and policies for Colorado's state parks and wildlife programs.

This year Director Marceau is co-teaching another animal law class with First Gentleman Marlon Reis, their second time teaching together, which will give students a unique opportunity to present ideas to members of the executive and legislative branch. We have students testifying in hearings, interning in state and federal agencies, working with judges and lawyers, and finding opportunities to advance the interests of animals across the state. None of this would be possible without the support of our donors, particularly the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, and the law school administration, to which we are grateful. We look forward to another year!

## AFFILIATED FACULTY ADVANCEMENTS



Phil Tedeschi



Sarah Schindler



Kevin Lynch



Wyatt Sassman



Govind Persad

*The Animal Law Program's Affiliated Faculty, pictured above, produce a wide array of original research, and are committed to advancing some of the major animal law discussions of our time.*

Professor **Phil Tedeschi** gave several incredible talks covering our relationship with nonhuman animals. In May 2023 he gave a keynote titled *Animals and Human Health*, for the Kaiseikai Hospital Group in Kofu, Japan. In June 2023 he gave another keynote in Tel Aviv, Israel titled *Animals Forward, Risk, Resilience and Remediation in Animal Maltreatment*, for the Violence Against Animals Group at Tel Aviv University and for the Community of Animals Studies Israel. That same month, Phil also led a lecture titled *A One Health/Welfare Perspective on Human and Non-Human Animal Well-Being, Israel Authority for Prevention of Violence, Alcohol and Drug*, in Jerusalem, Israel. Finally, in July 2023 he had a conversation with Oranim College titled *Toward a More Humane Community: Resiliency and Healing Through Our Connection with Non-Human Animals*, in Tivon, Israel.

In 2023, Professor **Sarah Schindler** was awarded a Brooks Institute Scholars Research Fellowship, which supports outstanding research advancing the fields of animal law and policy. Her current research emerges out of her property law research and expertise: “Non-human animals are legally viewed as property, able to be owned, bought, and sold. But traditional notions of property result in numerous problems when applied to non-human animals.”

Professors **Kevin Lynch** and **Wyatt Sassman** of the University of Denver's Environmental Law Clinic are representing the Center for Biological Diversity and Food & Water Watch in a challenge to the Clean Water Act general permit in Colorado for CAFOs. They have spent the past year challenging the permit before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), who agreed with their position that the Clean Water Act requires monitoring to ensure that CAFO cesspools are not leaking pollution. They are awaiting the final action from the agency and then are likely to go to court, where the industry will challenge the decision of the ALJ.

Professor Lynch's scholarship included *Rights of Rivers Swell in Colorado*, TRENDS (July/August 2023), a short piece describing key developments in Colorado applying the Rights of Nature movement to rivers in the state, including identifying ways that existing laws can be updated to incorporate the rights of rivers approach.

Professor Sassman's scholarship included *The Legal Foundations of Extractive Power*, 71 UCLA L. REV. \_\_ (2024) (forthcoming). Over the last decade, the United States became the world's top producer and leading exporter of oil and gas—a change with dramatic geopolitical and climate implications. At the root of this ascendancy is a legal framework around oil and gas extraction in the United States that empowers extractive industry to dismantle community opposition, undermine local governance, and entrench extraction in communities over time. Exercising this power creates conditions of domination and dependency in communities where oil and gas extraction occurs. These conditions, in turn, build social and political support for continued extraction. Professor Sassman charts out the legal foundations of this process to highlight law's role in building the social and political conditions for continued fossil fuel extraction in the era of climate crisis. It was featured on LPEBlog's "Best New LPE and LPE-Adjacent Scholarship" and "Recommended" on Legal Theory Blog.

His scholarship also included *Prioritizing Proximity in Phasing Out Oil & Gas Extraction*, 55 CONN. L. REV. 749 (2023). To avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, most of the world's oil and gas reserves must remain in the ground. In the United States, this would require a dramatic phaseout of oil and gas extraction nationwide over the coming decades. How could we accomplish this? While recent legal scholarship emphasizes the importance of a just transition away from oil and gas extraction, little work has been done to navigate the legal, political, and equity hurdles associated with phasing out oil and gas extraction. Professor Sassman's article seeks to start this conversation by offering one way to approach phaseouts of oil and gas extraction in the United States: prioritize phasing out extraction closest to people. This was the lead article in the Connecticut Law Review's symposium issue on Climate and Environmental Justice in the 21st Century: A Just Transition.

And his article *Community Empowerment in Decarbonization: NEPA's Role*, 96 WASH. L. REV. 1511 (2021), was selected as one of four top environmental law articles of the year through peer-review and reprinted in *Land Use & Environmental Law Review* (2022–2023).





**Akisha  
Townsend Eaton**



**Frances Chrzan**



**Giulia Malerbi**



**Trent Morton**

## **BOARD OF ADVISORS**

To achieve its ambitious visions for the future, the Animal Law Program draws upon the help of a dynamic group of animal law experts and community leaders. This group assists by providing research support, increasing the program's visibility, and expanding its impact throughout Colorado and across the nation.

The program officially welcomed an incredible group for its Board of Advisors. The Board includes:

- Akisha Townsend Eaton, *Chief of Policy, Environmental Justice Division for Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE)*
- Frances Chrzan, *Federal Policy Manager, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Mercy for Animals*
- Giulia Malerbi, *Global Policy Lead, Aquatic Life Institute*
- Trent Morton, *Staff Attorney, Legal Affairs Department, Mercy for Animals*

## SECOND-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



*Hosted several incredible*

### ANIMAL LAW EVENTS

*Selected  
Animal Law Program*

### BOARD OF ADVISORS



*Offered Animal Law*

### COURSES & RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

*Coordinating and producing a work product with  
a coalition of researchers tentatively titled the*

### ANIMAL CRUELTY RESPONSE RESEARCH GROUP

*Advised and assisted  
Sturm College of Law*

### STUDENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

*on animal law related matters*





# EVENTS

The Animal Law Program provided educational and networking opportunities to engage students in the field of animal law by bringing in renowned scholars and practitioners to campus for close interaction with students and by also hosting virtual events.

## EVENING SPEAKER SERIES

### Animals in the Anthropocene: A Journey with Jo-Anne McArthur into Animal Photojournalism



**September 27, 2022:** Jo-Anne McArthur visited the University of Denver as a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence September 24–30, 2022. During her evening discussion, she covered the history of animal photojournalism and described how she documents our complex relationship with animals around the globe. Her latest book, *HIDDEN: Animals in the Anthropocene*, was awarded “Photography Book of the Year” by Pictures of the Year International. She is also the founder of We Animals Media, the world’s leading animal photojournalism agency whose mission is to document the stories of animals in the human environment and to connect those stories to the individuals and organizations who can amplify their reach.

### Racial Equity and Animal Law



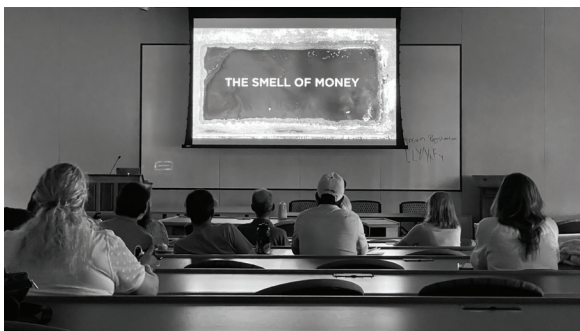
**November 2, 2022:** Akisha Townsend Eaton, Chief of Policy, Environmental Justice Division for Companions and Animals for Reform and Equity (CARE), discussed how racial, economic, and environmental justice are often viewed as tangential rather than an essential part of a sustainable animal advocacy movement. Her discussion provided a basic overview of how these issues are critically connected and interdependent. An emphasis was placed on the human and animal well-being movement as it applies to humans and companion animals. However, the themes covered could easily extend to many other areas of animal advocacy.

## Jo-Anne McArthur Art Exhibition & Evening Talk



**March 6–9, 2023:** When Jo-Anne McArthur visited the University of Denver a second time in the spring, the Animal Law Program, along with the Department of Art and Art History, co-hosted an exhibition of Jo-Anne's photography and an evening talk she gave about animal photojournalism.

## The Smell of Money Film Screening



**April 12, 2023:** The Animal Law Program was pleased to screen “The Smell of Money,” a documentary about corporate hog farms in North Carolina and the unjust impacts they have on local communities of color, the environment, and animals. The film was followed by a panel discussion featuring producer Jamie Berger, the Waterkeeper Alliance’s Larry Baldwin, and local environmental attorney, Manny Rutinel.

## Denver Slaughterhouse Ban Campaign Unveiling



**April 18, 2023:** Animal protection organization Pax Fauna is initiating petitions for two ballot measures for the 2024 election in Denver: 1) a ban on the sale of fur products in Denver, and 2) a city-wide slaughterhouse ban. To spread awareness about this initiative, the Animal Law Program cohosted an information session for law students and the community.



**July 30, 2023:** The Animal Law Program participated as a vendor at VegFest Colorado, a celebration of plant-based living, respect for our planet, sustainability, and kindness toward our fellow earthlings.

# LUNCHTIME ANIMAL LAW CAREER TALK SERIES

## Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Jessica Blome

**September 9, 2022:** Jessica Blome of Greenfire Law discussed how in 2016, she and her legal team won a precedent-setting victory establishing that Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act applies equally to privately possessed threatened and endangered wildlife. During her talk, she discussed how she established the applicability of Section 9 to captive species and what that precedent meant for the litigation against “The Tiger King” and his Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park in Oklahoma.

## Lunchtime Film Screening with Jo-Anne McArthur

**September 28, 2022:** Jo-Anne McArthur, animal photojournalist and We Animals Media founder, presented a lunchtime screening of short films followed by a discussion about animal photojournalism and filmmaking in animal activism.

## Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Alex Cerussi

**October 26, 2022:** Alex Cerussi, State Policy Manager for Mercy for Animals’ Government Affairs and Public Policy team, described to students what inspired her animal law journey and offered them advice for pursuing a similar path.

## Colorado Wolf Reintroduction: Implementing Voters’ Intent

**November 9, 2022:** Lindsay Larris, Wildlife Program Director for WildEarth Guardians, and Aubyn Royall, Colorado State Director for the Humane Society of the United States, discussed both the Colorado wolf reintroduction and a conservation-backed wolf restoration plan that restores a self-sustaining population of gray wolves to the state – a place where they have been functionally extinct for 76 years. Lindsay and Aubyn informed students about what they could do to ensure that decision-makers follow the will of the Colorado public – who want to restore wolves to the state – in finalizing a wolf restoration plan.

## Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Lesley Tse

**January 24, 2023:** Lesley Tse, staff attorney with the Animal Defense Partnership, an organization that protects animals by providing free legal services to nonprofits that advocate for animals and plant-based diet change, described her work to students and what led her to a career in the field of animal law.

## Animal Legislation Lunchtime Career Talk with the ASPCA



**February 10, 2023:** The ASPCA joined the Animal Law Program for a lunchtime talk to discuss legislative advocacy opportunities. Students heard from Amie Farquhar and Ali Mickelson of the ASPCA about their work and how to get involved in animal legislation. We also heard from the First Gentleman of Colorado about why animal welfare advocacy matters, and a couple Colorado lawmakers virtually joined the discussion.

## Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Jennifer Best

**March 1, 2023:** Jennifer Best, Wildlife Law Program Director for Friends of Animals, an international animal advocacy organization that advocates for the rights of nonhuman animals, free-living and domestic, joined the Animal Law Program for a discussion about her work as an animal law attorney.



## Humans & Other Animals: Where Did We Go Wrong? with Seb Alex

**March 8, 2023:** Seb Alex, head of Campaign Management and Lectures for the Middle East Vegan Society, an organization that focuses on reducing and eliminating the suffering of animals, as well as reducing our impact on the environment with our day-to-day choices, discussed the arguments for animal rights and how it's related to human rights.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## The Wild Animal Sanctuary Visit



**September 10, 2022:** The Animal Law Program and Jessica Blome visited The Wild Animal Sanctuary to learn about its many residents. Currently, there are over 25,000 tigers, lions, wolves, bears and other large carnivores living outside of the United States zoo system. These animals can be found in people's apartments, basements, garages, backyards, roadside zoos, and other unnatural places. The Wild Animal Sanctuary specializes in rescuing and caring for these large predators. During the visit, students learned about the residents and the situations that brought them to the Sanctuary.

## Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary Visit



**September 25, 2022:** Animal photojournalist Jo-Anne McArthur visited the University of Denver as a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence September 24–30, 2022. She kicked off her visit with a trip to Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary to take photographs and learn about its residents.

## Lobby Day at the Colorado State Capitol

**February 16, 2023:** The Animal Law Program and the ASPCA hosted a Lobby Day at the Colorado State Capitol. Students toured the Capitol, attended the Colorado Legislative Animal Welfare (CLAW) caucus, during which Animal Law Program Manager Jess Beaulieu gave a presentation, and met up with legislators and Governor Polis to hear about their work.



# ANIMAL RIGHTS LAW COURSE & DIRECTED RESEARCH

Students had the opportunity to take a seminar on Animal Rights law and policy or to write directed research papers on topics relating to animal law. This was the first seminar in animal law offered at the University of Denver, and it was deliberately limited to a small group of just under 15 students. The conversations and guest speakers were far-ranging and covered a variety of topics, including the role of science in law, the impact of activism on legal change, and the intersection of free speech and civil rights with animal law.

The seminar was co-taught by Professor Justin Marceau and Colorado's First Gentleman, Marlon Reis. The First Gentleman attended each class and posed policy questions and dilemmas of legislative strategy to the students. An amazing group of distinguished guests offered lectures throughout the semester, including:

- Jessica Blome, *Attorney and Shareholder, Greenfire Law, PC*
- Carter Dillard, *Director of Strategic Initiatives, Animal Activist Legal Defense Project*
- Kevin Morris, *Executive Director, University of Denver Institute for Human-Animal Connection*
- Sloane Hawes, *Assistant Director of Research, University of Denver Institute for Human-Animal Connection*
- Jo-Anne McArthur, *animal photojournalist and We Animals Media founder*
- Jeff Kerr, *Vice President of Corporate Affairs, PETA Foundation*
- Almira Tanner, *Lead Organizer, Direct Action Everywhere*
- Jonathan Lovvorn, *Chief Counsel for Animal Protection Litigation, Humane Society of the United States*
- Rebecca Niemiec, *Manager, Colorado Bureau of Animal Protection*
- Roland Halpern, *Board Member, Colorado Voters for Animals*
- Aubyn Royall, *Colorado State Director, State Affairs, Humane Society of the United States*

The students concluded their studies by writing an original research paper on an animal law topic of their choosing.

## ANIMAL CRUELTY RESPONSE RESEARCH GROUP (ACRRG)

The Animal Law Program and a group of researchers, called the “Animal Cruelty Response Research Group” or “ACRRG,” are mapping out a research project that encompasses alternative responses to animal cruelty. The Animal Law Program is leading the charge, overseeing a work product that entails a research agenda for future quantitative and qualitative research about how to best respond to animal cruelty and neglect. The hope is for the ACRRG’s in-depth analysis of how our current system’s responses to animal cruelty are failing and inadvertently contribute to mass incarceration and social justice inequities, along with the alternatives the paper suggests, offer insights into what can be done to better the lives of both companion animals and their humans. The program hopes to release the paper, or a draft of it, by the end of 2023 or early 2024.

This research project is made possible by the generous support of the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy.



**The Brooks Institute  
for Animal Rights Law and  
Policy, Inc. is a  
think-and-do tank  
pursuing a paradigm shift  
in human responsibility  
towards, and value of,  
nonhuman animals by  
advancing animal law,  
animal policy, and related  
interdisciplinary studies.**



# PLANS FOR FALL 2023

## EVENTS

The Animal Law Program has a great line-up of Fall 2023 events, with many open to the public.

### SEPTEMBER

- Animal Law Program Information Session (September 6)
- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Macarena Montes (September 13)
- Advancing Law for Animals with Vanessa Shakib (September 19)\*
- Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary Volunteer Day (September 30)

### OCTOBER

- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Manny Rutinel (October 4)
- Why Plant-Based Meat is the Future and How Data Science Helps (October 11)\*
- Abduction at DU (October 23–24)
- Lunchtime Advocacy Talk with Nilang Gor (October 27)

### NOVEMBER

- From Dominance to Justice, Equity, & Inclusion: Extending Human Rights Frameworks to Other Animals (November 6)\*

\* Events open to the public



Until next year!



**Animal Law Program**  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Animal Law Program  
University of Denver Sturm College of Law  
Denver, Colorado 80208

303.871.6761    [law.du.edu/animal-law](http://law.du.edu/animal-law)