



University of Denver Animal Law Program Annual Report July 2021–July 2022

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UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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ANIMAL LAW PROGRAM



WELCOME FROM THE FACULTY DIRECTOR

This was a big year for animal law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Animals are increasingly the subjects of law reform and litigation, and we are delighted to host the only animal law program in the Rocky Mountain region. With the generous support of the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, Jess Beaulieu became the program's manager and worked with me to coordinate events and create an animal law degree certificate program for our J.D. students. I published a co-edited volume titled *Carceral Logics: Human Confinement and Animal Captivity* with Lori Gruen of Wesleyan University that brings together many of the leading voices in animal law with civil rights and social justice scholars. Through this book and our work in the program, we aim to make it clear that animal protection is part of a larger struggle to expose and correct oppression against all animals, human and non-human. We have hosted amazing events and we welcome your input or interest as the program continues to grow and identify priorities!



Faculty Director, Justin Marceau



Program Manager, Jess Beaulieu

FACULTY DIRECTOR ADVANCEMENTS

Animal Law Faculty Director Justin Marceau presented a keynote style presentation at the Canadian Animal Law Conference, guest lectured in multiple animal law classes across the country, and spoke at several conferences relating to animal crime enforcement hosted by national nonprofits and animal control officers. He also worked on litigation and consulted with several local and national animal protection groups on topics of pressing import for nonhumans, including the ongoing ag-gag litigation.

Justin continues to actively research and publish on novel topics of interest to animal lawyers and activists in the field. In Spring 2022, he and co-author and co-editor Lori Gruen, welcomed the publication of their edited volume for Cambridge University Press, *Carceral Logics: Human Confinement and Animal Captivity*. The book includes chapters from luminaries in the fields of animal law, civil rights, and animal studies, and is the first detailed examination of the lessons these fields might learn from each other.

In addition, Justin is completing a monograph with fellow University of Denver faculty member and free speech expert, Alan Chen, that is a comprehensive socio-legal study of undercover investigations, like those done by animal protection groups. He also published two academic articles, *Palliative Animal Law* and *Animal Rights and the Victimhood Trap*, submitted two animal law related book reviews, participated in multiple academic workshops, and was interviewed for several podcasts.

In July 2021, Justin established the University of Denver Animal Law Program, which 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.

AFFILIATED FACULTY ADVANCEMENTS



Phil Tedeschi



Sarah Schindler



Govind Persad



Kevin Lynch



Wyatt Sassman

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 presented on a variety of animal welfare matters at several national and international conferences, for many of which he was featured as a keynote speaker. He also worked on two ongoing projects, one that seeks to establish a national platform for standardized education and training on evaluation and treatment for persons engaging in animal cruelty behaviors and another that aims to normalize an instrument he has developed for inclusion in animal

maltreatment evaluations. He also had two articles published in 2021 – one about human-canine relationships titled, *They See Us for Who We Are*, and another titled, *Zoocide-Suicide*.

Professor Sarah Schindler was a delegate for the 2022 Brooks Congress, “Sharing Animal Protection Work.” She also gave a talk on, and workshopped, a working paper titled “Animals Through a Progressive Property Lens” at the 2022 Brooks Annual Workshop for Scholars.

Professors Kevin Lynch and Wyatt Sassman of the University of Denver’s Environmental Law Clinic represented the Animal Legal Defense Fund in a case challenging the federal government’s decision to withhold information about plans to slaughter geese in Denver, and they settled the case in 2021. On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity, they challenged Colorado’s general permit authorizing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to pollute waterways. And they also represented a coalition of environmental and animal rights groups, including the Animal Legal Defense Fund and Humane Society of the United States, on an amicus brief concerning how the Trump Administration’s regulatory rollbacks exclude CAFOs and their impacts from environmental reviews.

FIRST-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed Certificate in Animal Law;
- Established Animal Law Program Speaker Series;
- Coordinating and producing a work product with a coalition of researchers tentatively titled the Animal Cruelty Response Research Group;
- Launched Animal Law Summer Fellowships;
- Introduced internships and incorporated animal law into Denver Law Externship Program; and
- Advised and assisted Sturm College of Law students and community members on animal law related matters.

ANIMAL LAW CERTIFICATE

The Animal Law Program was encouraged by student demand to create a degree certificate for those earning a Juris Doctorate at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The program proposed such an opportunity, and in Spring 2022 the law school faculty unanimously approved the new certificate. It will be available to students who take certain classes while in law school and engage in certain community or networking events.

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 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Evening Speaker Series

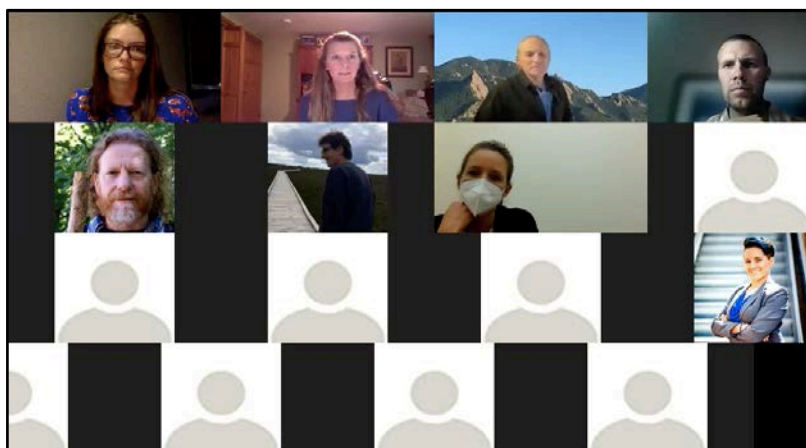
- The Cutting Edge of Animal Activism: Wayne Hsiung Event

September 9, 2021: Wayne Hsiung, co-founder of Direct Action Everywhere (DxE), discussed both his work with DxE along with the civil liberties and political concerns that are intertwined with animal activism in the United States.



- A Dog's World: Jessica Pierce and Marc Bekoff Event

October 27, 2021: Jessica Pierce and Marc Bekoff discussed their recent publication, *A Dog's World: Imagining the Lives of Dogs in a World without Humans*. Drawing on biology, ecology, and the latest findings on the lives and behavior of dogs and their wild relatives, Jessica and Marc explained who dogs might become without direct human intervention into breeding, arranged playdates at the dog park, regular feedings, and veterinary care.



- Hog Haven Documentary Screening with Filmmaker and Director Q&A

November 4, 2021: The Animal Law Program and University of Denver Animal Legal Defense Fund hosted the premiere screening of *Hog Haven*, a documentary about Erin, a Colorado woman who founded an animal sanctuary for pigs when her pet pig Pippy nursed her back to health after a car accident. It follows Erin and Hog Haven Farm’s 120 resident rescue pigs through several seasons and depicts the events that profoundly changed her life. We also had the pleasure of hosting Katie, a Hog Haven resident therapy pig, for the evening.



- Animal Law and Environmental Law: Parallels and Synergies with Randall Abate

February 23, 2022: Randall Abate gave an evening talk titled “Animal Law and Environmental Law: Parallels and Synergies.” Animal law stands to gain valuable insights from the environmental law movement. Drawing on lessons from history, politics, and law, Randall’s book, *What Can Animal Law Learn from Environmental Law* (2d ed.), examines how environmental law’s successes and shortcomings can inform animal law. During his talk, he explained how the two fields can work together to secure mutual gains in the future.



- Effective Humane Education Panel Discussion

March 3, 2022: The Animal Law Program hosted leading experts for a discussion about how effective humane education means controversial reforms to our system, and how this is the best way to protect animals and ensure biodiversity and nonhuman autonomy.



Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk Series

- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Jay Tutchton

October 6, 2021: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioner Jay Tutchton discussed with students his work as the Preserve Manager for the Southern Plains Land Trust (SPLT). He manages SPLT's reintroduced bison herd and works to improve its 32,000-acre network of protected lands for the benefit of all native wildlife species. Jay outlined his animal law path and offered advice for students pursuing a career in the public interest field.



- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Amy P. Wilson

October 14, 2021: Amy P. Wilson discussed with students her work as a qualified attorney from South Africa with a master's degree in animal law. Her research focuses on the intersection of the rights of animals, humans, and the environment in law and policy. Amy gave a thorough explanation of animal law, outlined the many animal law career possibilities, and offered advice for students.



- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Alene Anello

October 25, 2021: Alene Anello discussed her work as the founder and president of Legal Impact for Chickens, a nonprofit aiming to make factory farm cruelty a liability. She also described how her two beloved avian family members, Conrad and Zeke, inspired her career path and she offered students advice for pursuing a career in the animal law field.



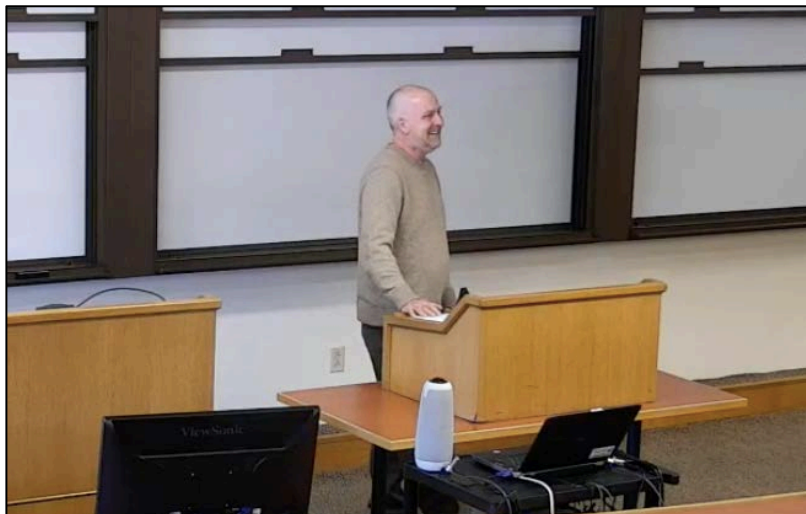
- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Kristina Bergsten

February 8, 2022: Kristina Bergsten discussed her current work as owner and founder of The Animal Law Firm, a Denver-based firm that specializes in pet custody, dog bite defense, service animal representation, veterinary malpractice, and more. Kristina also described what inspired her animal law path and she offered students advice for pursuing a similar path.



- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Mike Harris

March 7, 2022: Vermont Law School's Mike Harris discussed his work as the prior Wildlife Law Program Director at Friends of Animals. He also gave a great explanation of what it means to advocate for animals and what students should consider if they plan to pursue a career in animal law.



Community Events

- Volunteering at Broken Shovels Farm Sanctuary

September 12, 2021: Students joined the University of Denver Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Animal Law Program to kick off National Farm Animals Awareness Week by helping Broken Shovels Farm Sanctuary paint resident goat barns before winter.



- Nature Day at Cherry Creek State Park

April 2, 2022: Students heard from representatives of the Colorado Attorney General's office, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife about their work and what opportunities exist for students interested in pursuing animal and environmental law. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a cleanup of the park.



VISITING FELLOWS AND 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 is currently accepting applications for its Board of Advisors and should have decisions made by the Fall 2022 semester.



Will Potter, author and leading expert on social movements, is the program's Distinguished Journalist in Residence and Civil Rights Fellow. In this role, Will continues his research, writing, and scholarship, particularly regarding the intersecting issues of social movements, animal rights and environmental protection, and civil rights. He is currently working on his next manuscript and will continue to appear as a subject matter expert in major media outlets.

ANIMAL LAW SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

The Animal Law Program introduced its Animal Law Summer Fellowships. The program is committed to supporting summer public interest employment opportunities and providing a guaranteed summer funding award to two animal law students who choose to work in a public interest law position during the summer.

ANIMAL LAW INTERNSHIPS & EXTERNSHIPS

To further improve the lives of all nonhuman animals, the Animal Law Program collaborates with leading animal protection organizations. These relationships give our animal law students the opportunity to engage with groups beyond the classroom through research and internships. Several students participated in internships with animal law groups this past summer. The internships varied from private practice to nonprofits to the Colorado Governor's Office. And some of these students were even offered the opportunity to stay on and continue their work through the Fall 2022 semester!

Further, as one of the largest and most robust programs in the nation, the University of Denver's Externship Program offers students a comprehensive and effective bridge from law student to attorney. The Animal Law Program worked with the Externship Program to add animal law as a practice area.

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 2022 or early 2023.

PLANS FOR FALL 2022

Events

The Animal Law Program has a great line-up of Fall 2022 events, with many open to the public.¹

September

- Tiger King Case Discussion with Jessica Blome (September 9)
- The Wild Animal Sanctuary Visit (September 10)
- Jo-Anne McArthur Visit to the University of Denver as a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence (September 25–September 29)
 - *Luvin Arms Animal Sanctuary Visit and Potluck (September 25)
 - *Animals in the Anthropocene: A Journey with Jo-Anne McArthur into Animal Photojournalism (September 27)
 - Lunchtime Animal Activism Film Screenings (September 28)

October

- Lunchtime Animal Law Career Talk with Alex Cerussi (October 26)

November

- *Racial Equity and Animal Law (November 2)
- Colorado Wolf Reintroduction Discussion (November 9)

Conference or Symposium

The Animal Law Program hopes to establish an annual conference or symposium to bring in renowned speakers from around the world to address animal law matters.

¹ A red asterisk indicates the event is open to the public.

Until next year!

