

# Animal Law

International Animal Law Committee Newsletter

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# Animal Law

Internal Animal Law Committee Newsletter  
Fall 2018

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### *Hi, IALC!*

Welcome to our second newsletter. Thanks to Emily Bergeron for spearheading this issue with the help of Susan Schwartz and others. I can't stress the importance of communications in our committee, and the newsletter is one way to learn about our members and catch up on our committee activities.

We had an excellent, well-attended panel at the Section's Annual Conference in New York in April on Military Dogs. The program is highlighted in this issue. Fran Aricale and Jill Mariani organized the panel which had a special participant, a retired bomb-sniffing dog that received more attention than probably any speaker we have had in recent history.

This newsletter also introduces us to two committee members Susan Schwartz and Joan Schaeffer. Both Susan and Joan are active members of our committee, but have very different backgrounds and positions. Please reach out to your friends and work colleagues for potential committee members. We need more lawyers that care about animals and who want to help with our committee and programs,

Also, in this newsletter we discuss our current subcommittee project to bring four meat dogs from China to the United States as ambassadors of the plight of the animals in China. The subcommittee is composed of Daina Bray, Joan Schaeffer and me, with the help of Peter Li, consultant to Humane Society International. Peter was our speaker at our committee conference call on July 17th. He has just returned from China and told us about the Yulin dog meat "festival" this year where thousands of dogs were once again slaughtered and of the problem in China generally. Unfortunately, the Chinese government does not care about the problem, and while activists in China are trying to make a difference, few dogs are saved.

Lastly, I am excited that our committee is growing. My co-chair Jai Lee is stepping down in August to take on other roles in the Section, and will be replaced by Rich Angelo who is with Best Friends. I am stepping down as the Section's Programs Officer and will concentrate on our committee in the next year. We are all expecting great programs from the committee in the next year! Start thinking of ideas we can pursue.

Thanks for being great IALC members.

Marcy Stras

Co-Chair

# MEAT DOGS FROM CHINA

## A PROJECT FOR LOVE

MARCY STRASS



Three members of our committee Daina Bray, Joan Schaffner and I have formed a subcommittee to bring meat dogs from China as ambassadors to the United States to let people know of the horrific practice in China. Working with Peter Li, China Policy Specialist for Humane Society International, we identified four meat dogs that would make excellent ambassadors.

Two animal rescue groups volunteered to foster the dogs, Sue Bell at Homeward Trails Animal Rescue in Virginia and Tiana Nelson at

PawSCO in Colorado. Sue Bell helped us set up a fundraising website. All three of us contributed generously and lobbied our friends, including committee members, and families to raise the necessary funds.

Our first passenger was Little Yella. When Little Yella's mother was taken to the slaughterhouse by the dog traders, her puppies were left behind at a construction site to starve. Of the litter, only Little Yella survived and was rescued. Little Yella flew with Peter on his return flight from this year's

## ACTION UPDATE

Yulin's dog meat "festival" in June where thousands of dogs were once again killed while the Chinese government did nothing.

I had arranged for the daughter of a friend, Jaclyn French, to meet Peter at Chicago's O'Hare Airport and foster Little Yella until Jaclyn's sister could take her in cabin on a flight to Denver to place her with Pawsco. Through a set of extraordinary events, Little Yella remains in Chicago where she was adopted by a friend of Jackie's who fell in love with her. Little Yella, renamed Ellie, now lives in Chicago in a great home and is being an ambassador for meat dogs in Chicago. Her new owner's donation made us reach our fundraising goal for the three remaining dogs that we are planning to rescue.

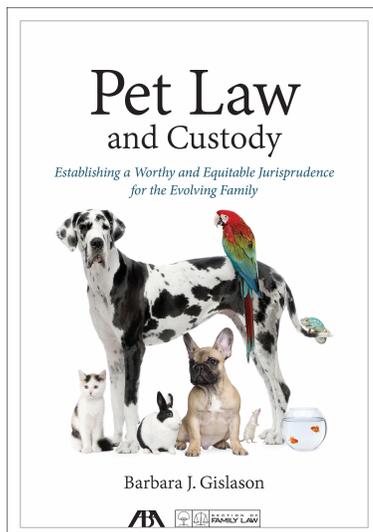
As we go to press, we have raised the necessary funds and are working on logistics to bring the remaining three dogs to the United States.

The meat dog issue remains a large problem in China and other countries such as South Korea and Vietnam. We are all searching for a way to raise awareness of this horrific practice and to make a difference.



## BOOK NOTE

Barbara J. Gialason, *Pet Law and Custody. Establishing a Worthy and Equitable Jurisprudence for the Evolving Family* (2017).



Providing legal, scientific, social, and ethical information on how the law affects pets, this compelling and compassionate book is a useful resource for lawyers and for anyone interested in the welfare and legal rights of animals. Gialason takes an in-depth look at the complicated subject of pet custody disputes from many angles, and offers practical information on how ADR processes such as arbitration and mediation can be used in resolving these often-emotional conflicts. Topics cover all legal issues involved with pets, from family law issues to estate planning, and considers specialized topics such as property law, tort law, animal cruelty, science and bioethics, and more. Gialason draws on her experience to share an array of advice for the animal lawyer, including practice tips, handling an animal law case, and identifying relevant experts.



**"WHERE I GO, MY DOG GOES. WHERE MY DOG GOES, I GO."**

*Pledge repeated by soldier handlers of Military Working Dogs*

Sgt. Ryan Henderson and his TEDD German Shepherd Satan

ABA 2018 Annual Meeting, International Section

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# **SECURING THE WELFARE OF MILITARY DOGS BY RULE OF LAW**

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The bond shared by human and dog is one forged and strengthened over centuries of living together – from shared protection to companionship. But perhaps no human-canine bond may be viewed as stronger than that of the human soldier and the military dog who serve side-by-side protecting one another, their fellow soldiers and civilians on a daily basis in some of the most dangerous conditions of warfare and security efforts around the world.

Military Working Dogs (MWDs) with their keen senses and tactical prowess carry out explosives detection, search and rescue, sentry, and other military duties for which their canine attributes cannot be as accurately replicated by human or machine. MWDs have saved countless human lives by their service, and have often directly saved their human soldier handlers through a profound devotion for which they either endangered or sacrificed their own lives. Militaries around the world

are increasingly depending on MWDs in modern-day conflicts. Given the rigors of the service required by these dogs, their health requires consistent expert care -- and their lives are often shortened by the battle wounds, both physical and mental, sustained during their deployments.[1]

Upon completion of each of their military deployments, it is our moral imperative as grateful citizens to honor the service of both human and canine veterans by ensuring their reunification and continued companionship in their mutual retirement with the requisite essential health and well-being protections. And it is incumbent upon governments to encompass the necessary legal and policy prescriptions in national and international law to ensure the welfare of all canine soldiers.

On April 19, 2018, during the ABA International Section Annual Meeting in New York City, the International Animal Law Committee (IALC) convened a stellar panel of experts to discuss “Applying the Rule of Law to Protect Military Dogs as Deserving Heroes of War,” reviewing how lawyers, advocates and policymakers may collaborate to promulgate lasting welfare protections in law and in practice worldwide.

The panel was co-sponsored with the ABA Commission for Veterans’ Services, TIPS Animal Law Committee, NYC Bar Animal Law Committee, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and moderated and co-chaired by IALC’s own Jill Mariani, Assistant District Attorney for New York County. California-based attorney Frances Arricale also served as co-chair for the event.

The panel was honored to receive an opening video address from U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (CT), an active proponent and strong voice in Congress for MWD welfare. He reiterated his support for efforts to ensure that law and policy processes conform to the intent to protect these courageous dogs, and to secure the rights of adoption at their retirement for their veteran handlers. Senator Blumenthal urged the legal



ABA IALC April 19, 2018 NYC Panel – “Applying the Rule of Law to Protect Military Dogs as Deserving Heroes of War” – (left to right: Jill Mariani, Sgt. Ryan Henderson, Marilyn Forbes, Richard Kehoe, Meredith Ayan, Kristen Maurer)

community to strive towards work on a “global model” to assist in securing the welfare of canine soldiers.[2]

Noted animal law attorney and Duke University fellow Marilyn Forbes gave the audience an overview of canine service in warfare dating back thousands of years, but explained that only recently since World War II have more formal MWD programs been utilized by militaries worldwide. She noted the challenges of welfare protections that are not implemented in tandem with the increasing deployments of MWDs; and described one of the most troubling periods in MWD history which came at the end of the Vietnam War when many canine soldiers were either left behind or euthanized due to lack of process and funds to bring them home.

Ms. Forbes highlighted that since that time, there is increasing public awareness to improve the welfare of MWDs, but that more work still needs to be done – specifically to ensure that MWDs are brought home and can be reunited with their human partners and veteran handlers in retirement.

Ms. Forbes is the pro bono attorney who in 2017 successfully reunited two U.S. war heroes – retired Sgt. Ryan Henderson of the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division



Sgt. Ryan Henderson and his TEDD German Shepherd Satan



Retired war dog – Mako with (left to right) Marilyn Forbes, Kristen Maurer, Meredith Ayan, Sgt. Ryan Henderson

and his Tactical Explosives Detection Dog (TEDD) named Satan. Following a video showing the brave work of the TEDD dogs and their handlers, the audience directly heard Sgt. Henderson's moving account about how Satan had saved countless lives on many dangerous missions in Afghanistan – including saving his life from a sniper. When Sgt. Henderson was critically injured and medevacked from deployment, he and Satan were separated for what would become many years.

As highlighted in a recent March 2018 Department of Defense Inspector General Report on the TEDD program, [3] the legal prescriptions and processes for offering the first right of adoption to veteran handlers were not properly followed for the TEDD dogs. As such Sgt. Henderson tirelessly searched for Satan when he found out he had been retired from MWD duty, only to discover he had been sent to an adoption event without him ever being contacted. With the assistance of Ms. Forbes, Satan was finally reunited with Sgt. Henderson after the initiation of legal proceedings. But other TEDD handlers have not had the same

opportunities to adopt their “battle buddies” at retirement. For veteran handlers, adoption may not only be a matter of commitment to a treasured ‘combat comrade,’ but also a healing process for both the human and the canine soldier – as they find each other in civilian retirement and mutually assist one another in recovering from the scars of the battle experiences they went through together.

The TEDD program sheds light on another aspect of the deployment of MWDs – the utilization of contracted military dogs. Through agreements with private contractors, governments can attain MWDs for deployment with their troops, and contracted dogs perform the same duties as MWDs directly trained or deployed by government military forces. However, the same welfare protections can be more challenging to enforce for contracted MWDs, especially at retirement when their care reverts back to private contractors.

The audience heard firsthand about these challenges for contracted MWDs from Kristen Maurer, who has

compassionately taken up the call to assist these dogs through her non-profit group Mission K-9 Rescue. [4] She was joined on the panel dais by a courageous retired war dog, Mako – a contract MWD who was rescued by her group when he was left behind in the country of his last deployment. Ms. Maurer carries out contract dog rescue retrievals around the world, rehabilitates these dogs from their harrowing experiences and helps secure their adoptions. All this work, including transportation back to the U.S. and necessary veterinary care, is accomplished through donations.

While legal welfare protections are intended to cover all MWDs, including contracted dogs who serve with military forces – the reality is that loopholes exist without the appropriate regulations and processes to ensure their care. Federal military contracts with private contractors should require provisions for the welfare and retirement of contracted MWDs.

Another key perspective about dogs serving with military forces was provided by Meredith Ayan, Executive Director of SPCA International. [5] Dogs assigned or found in-country on deployments often serve as sentries on bases, and become the companions of military personnel. Ms. Ayan’s group is often called upon by military veterans to undertake rescue missions, negotiate travel permissions and assist in bringing these dogs to the U.S. to reunite them with their veteran companions. Here as well, all this work is undertaken by donations.

While it not likely many would argue about the bravery of these heroic military dogs or the intent to ensure their welfare, the panel discussion highlighted the disconnect between the legal requirements enacted and the actual deficiencies in the implementation policies and processes for these welfare prescriptions.

Richard Kehoe, State Director for Senator Blumenthal provided expert insights on the legislative efforts to date in the U.S. to enhance the welfare of MWDs and their veteran handlers, and address the need for implementing procedures. Mr. Kehoe highlighted the enactment of

Robby’s Law in 2000 which aimed to facilitate the adoption of MWDs at retirement, along with additional funding appropriations by Congress to implement these policy responsibilities. He also detailed the specific efforts by Senator Blumenthal to have MWDs recognized as “canine members of the armed forces,” [6] and the ongoing work by the Senator’s office and colleagues in Congress to close current loopholes in practice to ensure the welfare of MWDs, including contracted dogs.

Immediately following the panel, a new commitment to MWD welfare in rule of law was forged with the formation of a Coalition Working Group for MWD Welfare under the auspices of the ABA IALC, consisting of ABA members and advisors. This group is currently taking up work on a draft ABA Resolution intended to serve as a global model for all nations deploying canine soldiers, and plans to cover legal responsibilities for transportation of MWDs back to their home countries upon discharge; veterinary care coverage in retirement and first rights of adoptions to veteran handlers.

As lawyers, we have special skills and knowledge that can assist in bridging the gaps in current implementation and processes for securing the welfare of Military Working Dogs and ensuring the legal adoption opportunities to their veteran soldier partners. We honor the service of both human and canine military heroes by working to extend rule of law protections to Military Working Dogs.

1 For additional detailed information on MWD deployment, training, healthcare, and legal status/classification discussions, see Sarah Cruse, *Military Working Dogs: Classification and Treatment in the U.S. Armed Forces*, 21 *Lewis & Clark Animal Law Review* (2015).

2 Richard Blumenthal, *Applying the Rule of Law to Protect Military Dogs as Deserving Heroes of War*, ABA Annual Meeting, International Animal Law Committee Panel (2018).

3 *The Army’s Tactical Explosive Detection Dog Disposition Process from 2*, Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, DODIG-2018-081 (2018).

4 Mission K9 Rescue, <https://missionk9rescue.org>

5 SPCA International, <https://www.spcai.org>

6 “Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act,” U.S. Senate Bill S.2314 (112 Congress, 2d Session, 2012) [introduced, not enacted].

**If you would like to join the coalition, please send an email with your contact information to [INTLANIMAL@MAIL.AMERICANBAR.ORG](mailto:INTLANIMAL@MAIL.AMERICANBAR.ORG) with subject line “MWD Coalition”.**

## MEMBER PROFILE

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# *GW's Animal Law*

INTERVIEW with JOAN SCHAFFNER

**What is the George Washington Law School's Animal Law Program? How long has the program been in existence? What courses are taught as part of the program? How many students are involved? Did you start the program, and if so, why did you start the program? What issues have you addressed through this program? What are the most significant topics that your students have addressed in their research and papers?**

I started the GW Animal Law Program with my colleague, and now DC Councilwoman, Mary Cheh, in 2003. It began as a 1-year pro bono project to review the laws in the District as they relate to non-human animals and propose revisions to provide greater protections for their lives. That project culminated in a comprehensive report and ultimately the DC Animal Protection Amendment Act of 2008. Also, as a result of that project, I became aware of the area of animal law, got involved in the American Bar Association, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Animal Law Committee that was established in 2004, and began focusing my own scholarship in the area.

Today, the Animal Law Program at GW provides a broad range of educational and practical opportunities for law students to study and practice animal law while also providing public education, pro bono services, and support to the District, humane organizations, and community groups working to protect animals worldwide. The program works to build bridges among government and humane organizations to better address the needs of animals by improving their welfare and changing the perception of the relationship between human and non-human animals within our society.

The Animal Law Program has several components. First, there are two courses focused on animals—Animal Law and Wildlife and Ecosystems Law. Second, the program hosts conferences and panels on a variety of animal law topics. This past year the animal law panels included: “Careers in Animal Law,” “Man’s Best Friend or Man’s Best Specimen?,” “Legal Advocacy for Abused Animals: Connecticut’s ‘Desmond’s Law’ as a Roadmap for Change in D.C.,” and the “It’s A Zoo Out There: Making Sense of Animal Accommodation Laws.” Third, the GW field placement program offers students opportunities to gain real-world experience advocating on behalf of animals with organizations such as the Animal Welfare Institute and the Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Wildlife and Marine Resources Section. Additionally, the program includes an “in-house” Animal Welfare Pro Bono Project that allows students to effect change through legislative and regulatory avenues, scholarship opportunities to support students committed to improving the protection of animals, and a robust student chapter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund that engages in local public service and educational outreach.



Although all aspects of the program are important, the most rewarding aspect for me and the students is the work of the Animal Welfare Pro Bono Project(AWP). In past years the AWP, submitted a comment in support of the Proposed Rule of the Fish and Wildlife Service United States Department of Interior to List all Chimpanzees as Endangered as well as a comment to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in opposition to the Georgia Aquarium Application to Import 18 Beluga Whales from Russia. In both cases the final decisions of the agencies were in accordance with our positions. We also have worked with the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys to provide state summaries of case law interpreting the anti-cruelty statutes of each state as a resource for local prosecutors and advocates. These summaries may be found on the APA web site. Currently students are working on drafting a “Beagle Freedom Bill” for the District that would require DC institutions that use live dogs and cats in research or testing to attempt to offer for placement, with an animal rescue or shelter, all retired dogs and cats who are suitable for adoption before euthanizing them. Although the number of students at GW that actively participate in the various projects is relatively small, they are an engaged and compassionate group committed to promoting the interests of animals through the law.

**You've written extensively on animals and the law. What are you working on now? What are the most pressing animal law issues facing us today, nationally and internationally?**

My recent work, broadly, has been focused on bridging the divide between animalists and conservationists to encourage traditional conservationists to embrace “compassionate conservationism” and account for the interests of the individual animal—whether they be considered wild, feral, “invasive,” or so-called “pests”— in their management plans rather than be focused exclusively on the protection of the “species.” This focus has taken two specific forms in my recent scholarship.

First, I have explored extensively the management of free-roaming “community cats” and the legal implications of non-lethal TNVR (trap-neuter-vaccinate-return) management programs. My work in this regard is doctrinal and policy focused. My article entitled Community Cats: Changing the Legal Paradigm for the Management of So-Called Pests, is a comprehensive exploration of TNVR programs and their legal implications that also formed the basis for the ABA HOD Resolution 102(b) adopted in August 2017 that urges all localities to allow for the implementation of TNVR programs as the most humane, efficient, and effective method for managing community cats. Later this year, my book review article entitled, “Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Dangerous Book” will be published in the Journal for Animal Ethics. In the review I highlight the hyperbole and exaggerated statistics cited by the authors, note the many flaws in their analysis, and challenge their profoundly unethical focus on eradicating free-roaming cats from the landscape and then redirect the dialogue towards an ethic of compassionate conservationism. Currently, I am the primary co-editor of a Research Topic for the Frontiers in Veterinary Science, Veterinary Humanities and Social Sciences Journal on “Sustaining Innovation in Compassionate Free-Roaming Cat Management Across the Globe: A Decadal Reappraisal of the Practice and Promise of TNVR.” With contributions from authors not only from the U.S. but from other countries, including Australia, Italy, and the UK this will have an international perspective. Peter Wolf, Cat Initiatives Analyst for Best Friends Animal Society and a co-editor of the topic, and I are submitting an article as well entitled: “TNR: Sound Public Policy Under ‘Prevailing Conditions’.”

Second, I am finalizing a book chapter entitled, “Value, Wild Animals and the Law” to be published in Animal Welfare and International Environmental Law: From Conservation to Compassion. The chapter is less doctrinal and more philosophical and is motivated by the basic thesis that humans protect that which we value and thus developing appreciation for, and legally recognizing, the many values exhibited by wild animals, especially their intrinsic value, is key to providing greater protection for their individual welfare. Notably, international agreements first focused exclusively on the economic consumptive use value of wildlife [1] and then included recognition of their economic non-consumptive use value to humans. [2] Later conventions, while all

continuing a focus on economic use values, introduced noneconomic use and existence values of wildlife as reasons for their conservation<sup>[3]</sup>and, in recent years, have introduced their intrinsic value as well.<sup>[4]</sup> While these various documents reflect a growing understanding of and concern for non-human life, they do little to require any action that takes such values directly into account and/or protect the intrinsic interests of wild animals. The chapter begins a discussion of how this might be rectified. Notably, the importance of properly valuing animals has been a theme of mine for several years. I have written a few pieces on the topic including the chapter “Valuing Nature in Environmental Law: Lessons for Animal Law and the Valuation of Animals” in *What Can Animal Law learn from Environmental Law?*.

**What issues do you feel should be addressed by the ABA International Animal Law Committee in the next year, and over the next five years - where do you think the committee's programs can have the greatest impact?**

The IALC serves the goals of raising awareness and educating members of the ABA (and the public more generally) of the plight of animals internationally and the woefully inadequate laws available to protect their interests, and establishing ABA policy through the adoption of ABA HOD Resolutions that, in turn, provide an important resource for advocates to effect change both nationally and internationally. The IALC’s April Military Dogs CLE was a great program and the work that Fran Arricale, Jill Mariani, and others are doing to draft a resolution to provide greater protection for military dogs is a great project for the next year. As for additional topics/issues to explore over the coming years—moving from fairly uncontroversial/targeted topics to a quite controversial/broad topic—are:

- Ivory trade: Given the relatively recent moves to ban the trade in ivory (albeit with some exceptions) by the US, China, and the UK, the topic might be one for the adoption of a resolution to encourage all states/countries to follow-suit and to encourage more effective enforcement of such bans.
- Marine Debris: The effect on marine wildlife of plastics and ghost fishing gear is devastating. There are efforts to ban certain plastic products, like plastic foam cups and containers, straws, and packing bands, along with efforts to explore ghost gear solutions throughout the world. Educational programs and possibly a resolution designed to help clean-up our oceans might be fruitful.
- WTO/GATT and the Public Morals Exception: The WTO Seals Products case provides a platform to explore the scope of the public morals exception under Art. XX of GATT and its implications for countries wanting to promote greater animal welfare in the trade regime under GATT.
- An International Treaty for Animal Welfare: Academics and advocates for animal welfare, noting that no international agreement “ensures the welfare and protection of animals,” have called for the adoption of such an agreement/treaty. As a political matter it is, of course, controversial, but ultimately many agree that it is a critical step in providing greater protection for animals world-wide. A future program devoted to exploring this issue would be interesting.

**What can an individual lawyer do to promote animal welfare? What actions have the most impact, in your experience?**

There are a variety of things that individual lawyers may do to promote animal welfare. First, through the law itself, litigators may consider providing legal services to individuals who need their help, such as dog owners whose dogs are threatened with a dangerous dog classification. Corporate attorneys might provide legal services to start-up animal organizations concerning incorporation, tax, contracts, and/or other aspects of their operations. Lawyers may also get involved on the boards of animal welfare organizations and/or help with local or state lobbying efforts on behalf of laws designed to better protect animals. Second, the consumer choices each of us make can have a dramatic effect on animal welfare. By making “vegan”

choices in food, clothing, and/or other products (e.g. cruelty-free cosmetics), we support those industries that are moving away from cruelty and towards a society that is less-reliant on non-human animals. Finally, we each can offer our time and resources to help local humane efforts, such as volunteering/fostering for a local humane society or rescue organization. My life changed forever in 2003 when I initiated the pro bono project. Not only did my professional focus turn to animal law but I became a vegan and started fostering felines and now have a home that is a feline sanctuary!

## NOTES

[1] See e.g. Agreement for a Modus Vivendi in Relation to Fur Seal Fisheries in the Bering Sea of 1891, the purpose of which was to sustain fur seal fisheries for economic consumption. Benjamin Harrison: "Proclamation 306—Modus Vivendi Respecting the Fur-Seal Fisheries," June 15, 1891. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=71008>.

[2] See e.g. Convention for the Protection of Birds Useful to Agriculture was founded on the instrumental non-consumptive economic use of certain birds who protected crops from harmful organisms. Convention for the Protection of Birds Useful to Agriculture Austria-Belg.-Fr.-Ger.-Greece-Hung.-Liech.-Lux.-Monaco-Port.-Spain-Swed.-Switz., Mar. 19, 1902, 102 B.S.P. 969.

[3] See e.g. For example, CITES preamble states: "Recognizing that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come; Conscious of the ever-growing value of wild fauna and flora from aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational and economic points of view . . ." Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Mar. 3, 1973, 993 U.N.T.S. 243, preamble (emphasis added), <https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.php#texttop>.

[4] See e.g. Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats of 1979 states:

"Recognising that wild flora and fauna constitute a natural heritage of aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational, economic and intrinsic value that needs to be preserved and handed on to future generations . . ." Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats of 1979, 1284 U.N.T.S. 209; Eur. T.S. No. 104 (1982); 1982 Gr. Brit. T.S. No. 56 (Cmd. 8738) (emphasis added), <https://rm.coe.int/1680078aff>.

# SUSAN SCHWARTZ

Susan Schwartz is a new member of the ABA's International Law Section's Animal Rights Committee. She is a prosecutor in Los Angeles, and has been a prosecutor for more than 30 years. Susan, a UCLA Law School graduate, served as a member of the Law Review, Moot Court Honors Program, and an editor of the Federal Communications Law Journal. She clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Consuelo Marshall after law school, a role model who Schwartz credits as "a wonderful woman who treats everyone with dignity."

Susan became a member of the International Law Section after working as a prosecutor for two years in the Republic of Palau shortly after Palau became a nation. The work was challenging – nearly every case was a case of first impression, and the impact of each case on the new Republic could be significant. The mentorship she received from Palau's Attorney General Ernestine Rengiil, an extraordinarily courageous and compassionate leader, allowed her to work effectively in a land that was rapidly developing its own legal precedents.

Susan has had a lifelong love of animals. Last year she volunteered at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah, in their Dogtown and Piggy Paradise areas and was deeply impressed by how well the Sanctuary cares for the many rescued animal residents, and how well the human volunteers were treated. She was able to care for the dogs in the Sanctuary, and took one of the dogs out for two home visits. That dog, Fergie, now lives with Susan, my husband, and their two other large dogs in their home in Los Angeles. She is currently training to be an Animal Rescue Volunteer with the American Humane Society, and hopes to help save animals who are separated from their caretakers during the turmoil caused by natural disasters.



Susan found the IALC at the International Law Section Annual Meeting in New York. She attended the program on Military Dogs, and stayed after the presentation for the working group meeting. She found the committee members welcoming and inclusive, and despite no legal experience in Animal Rights, was made to feel at home. Susan notes that "this is a phenomenal group to learn from and I look forward to working with the committee and helping in any way I can to help secure a better future for all sentient beings."