

AGENDA
ISB ANIMAL LAW SECTION MEETING
March 13, 2015 12:00 Noon MST

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- I. Call to Order**
- II. CLE Presentation** – Professor Richard Cupp, Pepperdine University, will speak in person on the topic “*Are some animals entitled to legal personhood?*” The animal rights movement was originally characterized by philosophical arguments, but it is now increasingly focusing on concrete legal action. Most recently, in late 2013 widely publicized habeas corpus lawsuits were filed in New York seeking legal personhood for captive chimpanzees. Although the lawsuits were dismissed by trial courts, they are now on appeal, and similar lawsuits are likely to be filed in other states. Lawsuits such as these will likely fail in the short run, but they are not frivolous; some form of legal personhood for at least some animals is supported by several prominent legal scholars, and the media is increasingly taking the arguments seriously. Court battles over legal personhood for intelligent animals will likely entail a long-term struggle extending over many years, and the ultimate outcome of this struggle is not at all certain. Although highly intelligent animals such as chimpanzees are presently the focus of personhood arguments, the issue has significant implications regarding the legal status of all nonhuman animals. Professor Cupp’s presentation will introduce the basic concepts of animal legal personhood, and, will address some pros and cons of the approach for the interests of both nonhuman animals and humans.
- III. November and January minutes** – require approval
- IV. Membership Update** – Current membership update.
- V. Budget Update** – Current section financials and goals.
- VI. Adjourn**

THE NEXT SCHEDULED SECTION MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY MAY 1, 2015