

ISB ANIMAL LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES
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?*”
- a. Presentation Notes/Highlights**
 - b. Rights Paradigm** – Rights versus welfare
 - c. Animal considered** – usually approach is to focus on intelligence (great apes, some sea mammals). Why focus on this approach? Much smaller range of animals than sentience of capacity to suffer focus would encompass. Focus on intelligent animals as the “low hanging fruit” because we have less economic reliance on these animals, less economic impact on society, and less impact on research (which uses mostly rats, mice, and fish). Also, easier to analogize them to humans.
 - d. If we give an entity legal personhood status, we have to talk about legal rights.** Being a beneficiary under a trust could be considered a right. “Romance of rights” – vocabulary of “rights” may have more significance than the technical issue of the rights.
 - e. How can an animal be a legal person?** Advocates point to personhood for corporations.
 - f. Links suggested by Dr. Cupp for additional information:**
 - i. *Nonhuman Rights Project v. Lavery*, New York Supreme Court Appellate Division decision (the “Tommy” case): <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/ny-supreme-court/1685538.html>
 - ii. *Nonhuman Rights Project v. Presti*, New York Supreme Court Appellate Division decision (the “Kiko” case): <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/ad4/clerk/decisions/2015/01-02-15/PDF/1300.pdf>
 - iii. A February 11th, 2015 debate between Dr. Cupp and Mr. Steven Wise of the Nonhuman Rights Project on animal legal personhood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pm6aLIp7b0U>
 - iv. The Nonhuman Rights Project’s website: <http://www.nonhumanrightsproject.org/>
- III. November and January minutes** – voted on and approved minutes for November and January
- IV. Membership Update** – Current membership update: Currently at 41 members. Our goal is 55 members, so will seek to add 14 additional members before year’s end.
- V. Budget Update** – Current section financials and goals. Need to increase membership to meet budget goals. So far we are on track with our financials, but will turn into a loss if we don’t add additional revenue through membership dues.
- VI. Adjourn**

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