

Animal Law Section

Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2024

I. Call to Order

II. In Attendance: Sunrise Ayers, Colleen Austin, Alyson Martin, Jane McElligott, Kristi Running, Tyler Lobdell, Eileen Johnson, Kim Stretch

III. Old Business

1. Increase 30-minute CLE's offered at the meetings
 - a. Today's CLE will be our 5th. Also have a speaker from Friends of the Earth to talk about animal agriculture at our 10/22 meeting.
 - b. Continue with 30-minute CLE's or increase to 45 minutes?
 - i. Would maybe add some non-CLE meetings to our calendar to conduct business or have those meetings run an hour and ten minutes so we can get through business agenda items.
 - ii. Discussed offering to upcoming speakers to either speak for 30 or 45 minutes and will notify the Bar so the right credits are
 - c. CLE topic requests?
2. Hold and record a 2-4 hour CLE
 - a. Adam Karp will be our speaker for a CLE on May 9th at 9 am. Will be available in person and via webcast. Register here:
<https://isb.idaho.gov/events/event/emerging-appellate-issues-in-animal-law/>
3. Outreach and education to law students and new lawyers about animal law and the section.
 - a. We discussed doing a happy hour event and inviting lawyers and law students, to coincide with the timing of the annual meeting (July 17-19th). I could start the initial planning but would need someone who is willing to handle any last-minute coordination b/c I will be unavailable from 7/2-7/16.

IV. New Business

1. Update on Financials
 - a. Budget has been submitted to the Bar

b. Plan to spend the \$1,584 carryover on the CLE and a recruitment event was sent to the Bar.

c. Budget questions?

2. Need to start thinking about Officer Nominations for next year

a. Will ask the Bar to send out an Open Call for nominations in mid-May, after the CLE.

b. Ideas for recruiting more participation in leadership positions in the Section?

V. CLE Presentation (30 minutes) – Alex Cerussi will be presenting on the policy work she does as a lobbyist at Mercy for Animals, a non-profit working to build a more just and sustainable food system. Alex will also provide an overview of the ABA's Animal Law Committee and the benefits of joining the committee.

Alex is the Senior State Policy Director at Mercy for Animals. Mercy for Animals' mission is to end industrial animal agriculture by constructing a just and sustainable food system. They work on policy and lobbying as well to influence policy to benefit animals. The bulk of her work is on food procurement policy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction policy. Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act passed in District of Columbia in 2021 – requires measuring greenhouse gas emission impacts of food purchasing and reduce by 25%. MFA is working with other cities to adopt similar policies related to their government purchasing of plant-based food. Many victories at the local level but not at the state level yet. Los Angeles County passed a law that requires an update to nutritional standards and they apply to all public hospitals, dept of rec, and other govt entities. Will also require recommendations for increasing plant-based options. Lastly, requires Dept of Health services to collect data on the food they purchase and its greenhouse gas impacts. One barrier is that agencies don't believe they will be able to monitor their greenhouse gas emissions.

Other policies they are working on: factory farm moratorium, welfare improvement policies and banning cruel practices, defeating ag-gag legislation, and industrial aquaculture. 2023 Oregon bill to prohibit net pens. Currently there are no animal welfare protections for aquatic species, this bill would have put limitations on stocking density for fish, and would have required stunning before slaughter.

They will look at cities and counties climate action plans to decide what localities might be primed for these types of policies.

ABA TIPS – 300 members around the country, law students, practitioners, law professors. They are celebrating their 20th year. They have 7 Subcommittees: Companion Animals; Animals in Agriculture; Wildlife; International Issues; Equine; Animals in Science and Tech; Policy. Why join? Professional networking, opportunities for publication, CLE's and webinars, mentor/mentee program, leadership training, opportunities to travel for conferences and retreats, participate in the ABA resolution

process, just this February, the House of Delegates passed a resolution re: replacing animals in testing.

VI. Upcoming Meeting Dates: June 25th and October 22nd

VII. Adjourn