



The Florida Bar Animal Law Section

CONTINUING JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Seminar on Current Animal Law Issues

Friday, March 9, 2018 • 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

The Florida Bar Headquarters • Tallahassee, Florida

Earn 6.0 CJE CREDITS (3.75 Ethics)

Complimentary Course & Luncheon

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Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 A.M	Animal Abuse and Neglect	<i>Ralph A. DeMeo, Esquire</i>
<p>This lecture will focus on animal abuse and neglect cases and the different types of cases that come to court. The speakers will address both civil penalties that are levied by animal control officials, such as animal seizures and citations as well as cruelty investigations and prosecutions under Chapter 828, Florida Statutes. The speakers will address ethical matters that arise in these types of cases. Special attention will be given to the types of issues that judges might be required to address in these cases. As a result of participating in this lecture, attendees will have a better understanding of the issues that come up in animal abuse and neglect cases and will be more confident in directing the cases through the process.</p>		
9:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Animal Hoarding	<i>Gregg Riley Morton, Esquire, and Dr. Rachel Barton</i>
<p>This lecture will focus on the complex nature of animal hoarding behavior and the ways to potentially achieve better results for both animals and individuals accused of hoarding. The discussion will include the types of hoarding and the different stakeholders that are involved in addressing hoarding cases in court and ways to potentially break the hoarding cycle. The speakers will address ethical matters that arise in these types of cases. As a result of attending this lecture, attendees will have a greater knowledge of the mental health aspects of hoarding and things to consider when authorities have intervened in hoarding situations and brought those situations to court.</p>		
10:00 – 10:15 A.M.	Break	
10:15 – 11:15 A.M.	Domestic Relations and Property Issues	<i>Ralph A. DeMeo, Esquire, Chuck Mitchell and Stephanie Perkins</i>
<p>This lecture will cover domestic relations, property, and animal law. In particular, the speakers will deal with the issues that can arise in custody disputes over animals in divorce proceedings, landlord/tenant, condominiums, and the like. The including the current state of the law in Florida in addition to ways the law may develop because animals are unlike other types of property that are distributed in divorce proceedings. The presentation will also cover the use of animals in courtrooms in dependency and other proceedings. The speakers will address ethical matters that arise in these types of cases. As a result of attending this lecture, attendees that deal with divorce proceedings will be better prepared to deal with situations where animal custody is in dispute.</p>		
11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.	Dogfighting	<i>Eric Abrahamsen, Esquire, and Kate MacFall</i>
<p>This lecture will cover how dogfighting cases are identified and investigated as well as how offenders are prosecuted and sentenced. The presentation will include a discussion of the relevant statutes and cases as well as procedural matters that occur in court from motions to dismiss up to sentencing. The speakers will address ethical matters that arise in these types of cases. As a result of attending this lecture, attendees will have an increased knowledge of the law in Florida associated with dogfighting and the types of issues that come up during cases involving dogfighting.</p>		
12:15-1:00 P.M.	Lunch	<i>Guest Speaker: The Honorable Second Judicial Circuit Judge James C. Hankinson</i>

Speaker Bios

The Honorable Judge James C. Hankinson has served as a Circuit Judge in the Second Judicial Circuit since 2002. He is a graduate of Davidson College and The Florida State University College of Law. Prior to serving on the bench, he was Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, and Assistant State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit. He is presently assigned to the Criminal, Civil, and Family Law benches, in which capacities he has permitted the use of courtroom dogs in proceedings before him.

Ralph A. DeMeo, Esq., is a shareholder in the Tallahassee firm of Baker Donelson. He is past Chair of The Florida Bar Animal Law Committee which preceded the Animal Law Section (ALS), immediate past Chair of the ALS, and a current member of the ALS Executive Council. He is the founder of Tallahassee-based animal welfare charity Pets Ad Litem (PAL). He has written and lectured extensively at law schools and at Florida Bar CLEs on animal law issues, and his law practice includes animal law. He has handled numerous animal law cases in the Second Judicial Circuit.

Gregg Riley Morton, Esq., is a Tallahassee attorney with the Public Employees Relations Commission, where he serves as a Hearing Officer and Deputy General Counsel. He has written and lectured extensively at law schools and at Florida Bar CLEs on animal law issues and has worked with a number of animal organizations and charities. He is the 2017-2018 Chair of The Florida Bar's Animal Law Section, and is a prior Chair of the Animal Law Committee. He is Secretary of PAL.

Eric Abrahamsen, Esq., is a partner at the firm of Friedman & Abrahamsen. Prior to his time at Friedman & Abrahamsen he was an Assistant State Attorney in the Second Judicial Circuit. During his time as an Assistant State Attorney he created an animal fighting task force to include prosecutors, law enforcement officers, animal control officers and veterinarians who would all coordinate to aid in the prosecution of animal fighting and animal abuse cases. His law practice includes animal law.

Dr. Rachel Barton, is the Animal Services Veterinarian for the City of Tallahassee's Animal Services Division. Her duties include providing forensic veterinary services for local animal control and law enforcement by assisting with evidence collection and interpretation. She has also served as an expert witness in criminal cases involving animals. In addition to her work with Tallahassee Animal Services, she is adjunct faculty at Florida A&M University teaching Law & Ethics in Veterinary Medicine and also serves as a veterinary responder with the ASPCA's Field Investigations & Response Team, where she assists with large scale animal cruelty and hoarding cases.

Chuck Mitchell is a former Chair of the Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Board of Directors, and helped TMH create its well-recognized Animal Therapy Program. He helped create the Florida Courthouse Therapy Dogs program and lead the effort to create the first law in the nation that allows therapy dogs to accompany victims of assault into court to help them testify. His pioneering work with his exceptional therapy dog is documented in "Encounters With Rikki," by Julie Strauss Bettinger.

Stephanie Perkins is the Program Director for the Tallahassee Memorial Animal Therapy Program. Stephanie was awarded the Leon County Humane Society's Purple Paw and was recognized as one of Tallahassee's 25 Women You Need to Know award for her work in Animal Therapy. In addition to leading the TMH Animal Therapy Program, she continues her personal visits to the hospital, schools, courts and the local child advocacy center with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Starla, and her Lab, Margo.

Kate MacFall is the Florida State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. In her role as state director Kate works to pass animal protection legislation and also with the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission on wildlife protection issues. She is a long time animal advocate and shelter volunteer with Tallahassee Animal Services- she also cofounded the Animal Shelter Foundation. Kate has written and lectured on animal law issues in Florida and has provided humane services for numerous dog fighting cases in the Second Judicial Circuit.

'To inculcate in its members the principles of duty and service to the public, to improve the administration of justice, and to advance the science of jurisprudence.' From the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar

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