



# ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

**The Empire State Update on Animal Law  
Friday, April 12, 2019  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe  
New York, New York**

## **Speaker Bios**

### **Nicoletta Caferri**

*Chief, Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit, Queens District Attorney Office*

Nicoletta J. Caferri, a career prosecutor, is currently serving as the inaugural Chief of the newly-created Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit in the Investigations Division of the Queens County District Attorney's Office, where she has been an Assistant District Attorney since 1992. Ms. Caferri is working closely with the NYPD's Animal Cruelty Investigations Squad to investigate and prosecute animal cruelty crimes, ranging from animal fighting and animal hoarding to intentional injuring or killing and neglect and abandonment of household pets.

Before her appointment to Chief of ACPU, Ms. Caferri served as Deputy Bureau Chief of the Appeals Bureau in the Legal Affairs Division. In that capacity, she successfully represented the prosecution in the New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals, in *People v. Curtis Basile*. In the Basile case, the Court upheld an animal cruelty conviction for a defendant who showed complete disregard for the life of his helpless dog by failing to provide basic necessities such as food, water, and shelter. Following the victory in the Basile case, she proposed to Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown that he establish a unit dedicated solely to animal cruelty investigations and prosecutions, and he agreed. In the short time since the ACPU has been established, Ms. Caferri has obtained a felony conviction for a defendant who starved his dog nearly to death, is actively prosecuting multiple felony and misdemeanor animal cruelty cases, and has initiated several investigations.

During her career as a prosecutor, Ms. Caferri has worked on more than 1,000 reported cases involving the full spectrum of crimes and legal issues. Ms. Caferri has briefed and argued numerous appeals on behalf of the prosecution in the New York appellate courts and in federal habeas corpus proceedings, and is admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Caferra is a 1978 graduate of New York State University College at Oneonta, and a 1985 graduate of Brooklyn Law School. From 1987-1990, Ms. Caferra served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, New York.

Ms. Caferra is a member of the New York City Bar Association Animal Law Committee. (photo attached to email)

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## **Kelsey Eberly**

*Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund*

Kelsey Eberly assists Animal Legal Defense Fund with its cases and projects. She graduated from UCLA Law School in May 2014, where she focused on animal, environmental, and administrative law. While attending law school, Kelsey was the chair of the UCLA Animal Law

Society—that school’s Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter. She was also a writing advisor to first year law students in UCLA’s Lawyering Skills clinical program. Prior to this, she earned a graduate certificate in Animal Policy and Advocacy from Humane Society University. In 2006, she received a bachelor’s degree magna cum laude from Middlebury College, with a double major in English and Spanish.

Kelsey is a former clerk for Animal Legal Defense Fund and before that served as a legal intern with Compassion Over Killing. She has concentrated her academic study on the abuse of factory farmed animals and is interested in the international trade of exotic animals, the free speech rights of animal advocates, and the humane management of urban wildlife.

## **Stacy Wolf**

*Senior VP, Policy, Response & Engagement, ASPCA*

Stacy Wolf is Senior Vice President of the ASPCA Policy, Response and Engagement (PRE) group, which consists of multiple teams working nationally to rescue and rehabilitate animals from cruelty cases and disasters, ensure effective enforcement of animal cruelty laws, keep people and their pets together through targeted safety-net programs, and improve the welfare of dogs, cats, equines, and farm animals by changing laws, policies, and public norms. Departments under Ms. Wolf’s leadership include Field Investigations & Response, Government Relations, Humane Law Enforcement, Community Engagement, Forensic Sciences, Legal Advocacy, Farm Animal Welfare, the ASPCA Behavioral Rehabilitation Center, the Equine Welfare department, the Anti-Cruelty Behavior Team and location-based initiatives including major ASPCA projects in Los Angeles and Miami.

Ms. Wolf joined the ASPCA in 1998 and has been instrumental in the creation of some of the organization’s most groundbreaking anti-cruelty programs, including the ASPCA’s partnership with the New York City Police Department, which has resulted in an increase of more than 200 percent in the number of animal cruelty arrests and animal victims rescued citywide.

In 2012, Ms. Wolf formed the Legal Advocacy department to provide backup legal assistance to prosecutors handling animal cruelty cases around the country, and to work on affirmative civil litigation in cases with the potential to affect substantial change in animal protection laws nationwide. In 2010, she spearheaded the launch of the ASPCA’s Community Engagement program, which works to help pets and their owners stay together by connecting them to services and resources including veterinary care, pet food, and training, as well as providing referrals to human service providers as needed.

Previously, Ms. Wolf served as the ASPCA’s Senior Legislative Director, responsible for writing and spearheading passage of critical animal welfare legislation, particularly in New York, including the state’s felony animal cruelty law, pet dealer licensing law, dog shelter law, exotic pet ban, and “dangerous dog” law. She has also served as the legislative chair of the New York State Bar Association’s Special Committee on Animals and the Law.

Ms. Wolf began her legal career in 1986, serving as a public defense attorney before joining the ASPCA. As a criminal defense lawyer, Ms. Wolf represented indigent adults and children on Long Island, in New York City, and in upstate New York.

Ms. Wolf is the former president of AnimaLovers (Animal Welfare League of the Greater Capital District), a nonprofit group that rescues and provides adoption opportunities for homeless pets throughout the Albany area. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Juris Doctor degree from Hofstra University School of Law.

## **Jennifer Hauge**

*Legislative Affairs Manager, Animal Legal Defense Fund*

As the Animal Legal Defense Fund's Legislative Affairs Manager, Jennifer is responsible for implementing creative strategies to pass laws that help animals and defend against bills that would hurt them.

A graduate of Northwestern University with a BS in Education and Social Policy, Jennifer also studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics for a year at Oxford University. She began her career in the corporate world while advocating for animals in her personal time. She was a leader in signature gathering for a statewide ballot measure initiative, testified at hearings, lobbied bills in her state capitol and co-founded a vegan advocacy organization in her local community of Salem, Oregon.

She is currently on the board of Humane Voters Oregon and while her passion for helping animals has turned into her full time career, she still volunteers at local farmed animal sanctuaries.

## **Diane Balkin**

*Senior Staff Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund*

Diane Balkin is a senior staff attorney for Animal Legal Defense Fund's Criminal Justice Program. She began her career as a prosecutor in the Denver District Attorney's Office in 1979, where she has worked for the last 32 years. When she retired from the DA's office on July 15, 2011, Diane was the Chief Deputy District Attorney (trial attorney) where she prosecuted all types of felonies (including homicides) and supervised a team of junior lawyers and support staff. Diane also served as the "animal crimes" prosecutor in her office where she demonstrated time and time again her commitment to ensuring both an effective investigation and an aggressive prosecution of every animal cruelty case within her jurisdiction.

Prior to becoming Chief Deputy, Diane served as the director of the Complex Prosecution Division where she was the legal advisor to the Denver County Statutory Grand Jury and she supervised the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against the elderly. She has

also served as the director of the Juvenile Division and the Domestic Violence Unit. Diane was appointed to the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine in June 2001 and served on the Board for 8 years.

She received her J.D. in 1977 from the University of Denver and is a nationally ranked lecturer on animal cruelty investigations and prosecutions with a strong emphasis on training veterinarians.

### **Martha Smith-Blackmore, DVM**

*President & Director of Veterinary Forensics, Vet Investigator*

Martha Smith-Blackmore is an internationally recognized veterinarian with deep animal welfare and veterinary forensics experience. She is a leader in the field of veterinary, shelter & forensic veterinary medicine; an engaging public speaker; a compassionate and effective manager. A talented animal advocate, Dr. Smith is known for her appropriate and balanced scientific approach. She is passionate about good quality of life for all animals and people. Dr. Smith works to protect animals because protecting animals helps to protect all of us.

Dr. Smith-Blackmore is a research assistant professor at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, and she is a recipient of the school's Childers Award for extraordinary contributions to student education. She is also an associate member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the National Sheriffs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Dr. Smith is the chair of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Committee, and past-president of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians.

Dr. Smith-Blackmore's forensics career was launched at the MSPCA and continued to develop over her 14 year career at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, working with a variety of police departments, animal control departments and prosecutors. Dr. Smith has contributed to the successful prosecution of cases of simple animal abuse, intentional abuse & torture, animal sexual abuse and animal fighting.

A graduate of Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Smith is internship trained at the MSPCA Angell Animal Medical Center. She has worked as a shelter veterinarian, director of veterinary medicine, interim president and vice president of animal welfare at the Animal Rescue League of Boston.