2021-2022 Animal Law Student Scholars’ Workshop

Description
The Animal Law Student Scholars’ Workshop is a year-long project that will engage law students in using scholarship to develop innovative legal solutions to animal protection problems. Workshop participants will work with animal law and legal writing faculty to explore the problem and to write, publish, and present a substantial piece of scholarship, receiving expert coaching and advice throughout the project. Participation will be limited to allow cohorts of participants to receive individualized advice from project faculty.

2021-2022 Issue
Climate disasters are on the rise across the country and animals are often left with virtually no protections or plans to get them to safety. Many of us have seen news footage of pigs attempting to escape from flood waters in North Carolina, stranded atop the very cage that kept them confined hours before; tornados and earthquakes that happen so quickly that farmed animals, wildlife, and companion animals attempt to flee often with only an opening in a fence. Many states are now facing droughts and extreme heat that merely a few years ago was unprecedented, yet law and policy are not changing with the climate.

Participants in this workshop will research and write publishable papers that illustrate, explore, or expand on issues and potential solutions regarding the limited legal protections available for farmed animals in natural and weather-related disasters. While all nonhuman animals are susceptible to pain, suffering, and neglect due to natural disasters, the focus of this year’s workshop is on farmed animals. We define farmed animals as animals raised for meat, dairy, or eggs. Participants may write about a topic of their choice related to the intersection of farmed animals, natural disasters, and animal protection or welfare. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:
- Current and proposed farm requirements for protecting animals during inclement weather;
- Insurance policies requiring mitigating efforts to limit number of lives lost, such as through disaster planning;
- Executive order to protect animal health during natural emergencies;
- Inclusions and exclusions to federal bailouts;
- Required equipment and processes, such as having high speed fans turned on with ventilation or avoiding medications that can raise internal temperatures.
Details

Introductory webinar: Farmed Animals and Natural Disasters
To kick off both Speak Out for Farmed Animals Month 2021 and the Student Scholars’ Workshop, the Animal Legal Defense Fund will host a webinar on October 6. This webinar will walk law students through the animal-related issues at the center of natural and weather-related disasters and the limited laws that address the welfare of these animals. At the end of the webinar, students will be introduced to an opportunity to participate in the inaugural Animal Law Student Scholars’ Workshop.

Eligibility & solicitation of proposals
Interested full- or part-time 2L, 3L & 4L law students are invited to submit proposals. Proposals must:

- Identify the name, law school, and graduation date of the student;
- Contain the working title of the paper;
- Briefly describe the paper’s thesis and main points;
- Be based on U.S. federal, state, or local law, or incorporate international or foreign law into U.S. law;
- Be written in English;
- Be less than 500 words in length (exclusive of name, law school, and graduation date);
- Be submitted in pdf format to Priscilla Rader Culp (prader@aldf.org) by 5:00pm PT on November 8, 2021.

Workshop participants will be selected based on the strength of their proposals. Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- Writing quality;
- Clarity;
- Originality;
- Potential effectiveness of thesis to protect the lives of farmed animals in natural disasters.

Students selected to participate in the workshop will be notified by November 19, 2021.

Seminar: Introduction to scholarly writing & animal law research: January 21, 2022
Workshop participants will be invited to an online writing and research seminar led by Animal Law Program Director, Stacey Gordon Sterling, former law librarian and legal research & writing faculty.

Faculty and student cohorts
Each participant will be placed in a cohort group based on the topic of their paper. Each cohort will have a faculty member, who will be a law school faculty member or recognized animal law scholar. Cohort groups will participate in peer review and discussion during the April 1 Scholars’ Forum.

Drafts & faculty/peer review
By March 7, 2022, participants will submit complete drafts of their papers. Immediately after that date, participants and faculty will receive the drafts written by participants in their cohort for faculty and peer review.
Scholars’ Forum: April 1, 2022
A one-day Scholars’ Forum will be held remotely on April 1, 2022. The tentative agenda for the Scholars’ Forum includes:

- Welcome & Plenary Session I: The role of scholarship in making change for animals
- Cohort Discussions
- Lunch Break: Possible networking activity
- Plenary Session II: Short paper presentations
- Wrap up & next steps
- Possible networking activity

Editing & finalizing papers
After the Forum, students will edit their papers based on the feedback they received from their peers and faculty. Final papers will be submitted to the Animal Legal Defense Fund by May 2, 2022.

Final papers must:
- Be between 8,000 and 10,000 words in length, including footnotes;
- Contain a clearly stated thesis that articulates a problem and offers a solution;
- Incorporate sound research and credible legal, academic, and scientific sources;
- Build on current law and legal precedent (or lack thereof);
- Address barriers to implementation of ideas;
- Be organized and adhere to traditional law review article structure;
- Be written in English;
- Contain minimal typographical errors;
- Be footnoted and comply with either the current Bluebook or ALWD Manual citation format.

Publication & presentation
Completed papers will be compiled into a collection similar to a special edition of a law review that will be edited and published by the Animal Legal Defense Fund to coincide with Speak Out for Farmed Animals Month in October 2022. Participants will be invited to present their papers at the 2022 Student Convention, which will also be held in October 2022. Students who elect to present their papers will have the opportunity to work with the Animal Legal Defense Funds’ Project Management and Animal Law Program staffs to build professional presentation skills. The Animal Legal Defense Fund will have final approval of publication and presentation speakers.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund
The mission of the Animal Legal Defense Fund is to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals through the legal system. The Animal Legal Defense Fund accomplishes this mission by filing high-impact lawsuits to protect animals from harm, providing free legal assistance and training to prosecutors to assure that animal abusers are held accountable for their crimes, supporting tough animal protection legislation and fighting legislation harmful to animals, and providing resources and opportunities to law students and professionals to advance the emerging field of animal law.