The Animal Legal Defense Fund

EVENT INFORMATION

Title: Professional Responsibility for the Animal Lawyer
Date: Friday, March 4, 2022
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. PT

Format

The format for this presentation is a live virtual hypothetical describing a lawyer advocate running afoul of the rules of professional responsibility when advocating on behalf of animals. The hypothetical is followed by a live, virtual, discussion of the hypothetical. Below is a list of topics covered, the rules of professional responsibility covered, and best practices that are included in the discussion.

Topics covered

*Rule 1.1 Competence, Client-Lawyer Relationship*

What level of prior knowledge of a legal area is required to represent a client in a new matter?

What is required to gain a sufficient level of understanding of a legal area to accept a client in a legal area new to a lawyer?

*Rule 1.2 Scope Of Representation And Allocation Of Authority Between Client And Lawyer*

What is a lawyer’s duty to abide by a client’s decision concerning the objectives of the representation?

Must a client and a lawyer’s political or social views be aligned before an attorney can represent a client?

Can a lawyer limit the scope of an engagement with a client?

*Rule 1.3 Diligence*

What is a lawyer’s responsibility to diligently represent a client when the attorney has lost interest in representing the client?

*Rule 1.9 Duties To Former Clients*

What duty does a lawyer owe to a former client after the representation has ended?

*Rule 1.13 Organization As Client*

The relationship between officers, board members and the organization itself when representing a nonprofit.
Rule 1.15 Safekeeping Property

The duty to not co-mingle funds of a client. Unique co-mingling of fund situations to be aware of when a lawyer volunteers for a nonprofit.

Rule 1.16 Declining Or Terminating Representation, Client-Lawyer Relationship

Procedures needed to terminate representing of a nonprofit client. Requirements to terminate representing when the client is involved in illegal activities. Terminating representation when a lawyer considers the clients conduct repugnant.

Rule 1.18 Duties To Prospective Client, Client-Lawyer Relationship,

What are the duties a lawyer owes to a prospective client?

When is an attorney client relationship formed?

Rule 1.6 Confidentiality of Information, Client-Lawyer Relationship

What is the duty of a lawyer to keep information learned from a client confidential?

Rule 1.7 Conflict Of Interest: Current Clients, Client-Lawyer Relationship,

When does a lawyer have a conflict of interest between current clients?

How can a lawyer resolve conflicts of interest between clients?

Rule 1.9 Client Lawyer Relationship: Confidentiality of Information

Rule 1.8: Current Clients: Specific Rules, Client-Lawyer Relationship

Sexual relations with clients

Rule 2.1 Advisor, Counselor

Is it appropriate to give non-legal advice to a client?

Rule 3.5 Impartiality And Decorum Of The Tribunal, Advocate

Inappropriate conduct between a lawyer and a judge or official.

Rule 4.3 Dealing With Unrepresented Person Transactions With Persons Other Than Clients Inappropriate conduct between a lawyer and an unrepresented person.

Rule 4.4 Respect For the Rights Of Third Persons, Transactions with Persons Other Than Clients

Inappropriate conduct between a lawyer and a third person.

Rule 7.3 Direct Contact With Prospective Clients, Information About Legal Service,
Inappropriate behavior in contacting potential clients.