

28TH ANNUAL
ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 23-25, 2020



IMPACTS ON ANIMALS IN
A CHANGING CLIMATE

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- a. How much should our justice system rely upon judges to be educated in all areas of the law they encounter? What should be the role of counsel in educating judges on the law as it relates to animals while briefing/arguing a case?
- b. Are there any potential drawbacks to educating judges on animal law? For example, we are sometimes asked not to file amicus briefs on certain cases because prosecutors do not want judges thinking finding in the State's favor would be a radical leap. Is it sometimes better to downplay the effect decisions will have in the field of animal law?
- c. What are some types of cases or specialty courts where it would be important to educate judges on animal law issues? (e.g. mental health court, juvenile court, etc.)
- d. Are specialty courts for animal cruelty cases a good solution?
- e. What specific topics within animal law should judges be trained on? (e.g. property status of animals, the Link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence, live animals as evidence, sentencing measures like possession bans).