

31st Annual Animal Law Conference

October 20 - October 22, 2023

Los Angeles California

Sponsors:

The Center for Animal Law Studies

Animal Legal Defense Fund

Professional Responsibility Application for CLE credit

Presenter Russ Mead

Shared Earth Foundation Visiting Professor, Lewis & Clark Law School

Format

The format of the 2023 Animal Law Conference is a hybrid event. Attendees will attend both in person in Los Angeles California, as well as watch a live feed from anywhere in the world. Professor Mead presents a hypothetical based on a practicing lawyer volunteering to help in a community issue involving animal welfare. Many issues of professional responsibility come up while the lawyer is working as a volunteer. The result is a content packed learning experience on the ever-important topic of professional responsibility. We work hard to make an interactive presentation even though some of the attendees will be virtual.

Attendees come from around the country and the globe. The presenters are mindful that California has not adopted all the ABA rules of professional responsibility, and many of the California rules are different from the ABA model rules. Differences between the ABA rules of professional responsibility and the California rules of professional responsibility will be mentioned when applicable to the issues presented. Below is a list of the professional responsibility topics covered.

Topics covered

Scope

When is an attorney client relationship created when an attorney is volunteering for a nonprofit?

Are internet blog postings considered giving legal advice?

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?

Scope Of Representation And Allocation Of Authority Between Client And Lawyer , *Client-Lawyer Relationship*

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

Diligence, *Client-Lawyer Relationship*

What is a lawyer's responsibility to diligently represent a client when the attorney is volunteering services?

Duties To Former Clients, *Client-Lawyer Relationship*

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

Organization As Client, *Client-Lawyer Relationship*

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

Safekeeping Property, *Client-Lawyer Relationship*

Handling client's cash when a lawyer is volunteering for a nonprofit.

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.

Duties To Prospective Client, *Client-Lawyer Relationship*,

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

Confidentiality of Information, *Client-Lawyer Relationship*

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

What is the duty to keep information confidential that is generally known to the public?

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?

Conflict Of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules, *Client-Lawyer Relationship*

Using client's information to the detriment of the client.

Representing more than one nonprofit in a single matter of community interest.

Advisor, *Counselor*

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

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

Respect For Rights Of Third Persons, *Transactions With Persons Other Than Clients*

Inappropriate conduct between a lawyer and a third person.

Who is a "third person"?

Direct Contact With Prospective Clients, *Information About Legal Service*,

Inappropriate behavior in contacting potential clients.

Misconduct, *Maintaining the integrity of the profession*

Imply the ability to improperly influence officials

Harass on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or socioeconomic status.

Recommended outside resource materials:

Rules of Professional Conduct of the State of California Propagated by the Supreme Court of the State of California

<https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/Conduct-Discipline/Rules/Rules-of-Professional-Conduct/Current-Rules>

Annotated Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Authors Ellen, J. Bennett, Elizabeth, J. Cohen, Martin Whittaker,

Publisher ABA Center of Professional responsibility, American Bar Association.

Bio Russ Mead

Russ Mead is a popular lecturer at animal law conferences nationwide. Mead often presents on the professional responsibilities of lawyers who work as animal advocates.

Russ is the Shared Earth Foundation Visiting Professor at Lewis & Clark Law School. Russ authored the following textbooks

Nonprofit Animal Law (Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble)

Trial Advocacy in Animal Law (Amazon, Barnes and Noble)

Farm Animal Law Readings and Materials (Barnes & Noble)

Grass Roots Animal Legislation (Barnes & Noble)

Step by Step Guide to Legislative Drafting (Amazon.com)

Russ has served as General Counsel for two of the best-known animal sanctuaries: Best Friends Animal Society, and Farm Sanctuary; and served as Farm Sanctuary's interim Executive Director.

Russ raises awareness of animals by attempting to capture their spirit in ink wash paintings.

Russ holds a JD from St. Louis University School of Law, an MBA from Lindenwood College, and a BS in Accounting from Arizona State University, and earned a CPA license.