



Agenda - ALC 2025

Friday October 17, 2025

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. CT

Welcome Reception

The conference kicks off with an evening reception in the Chicago Ballroom at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk hotel. Conference attendees will receive their event badge before being treated to a fun evening of networking with fellow attendees while enjoying plant-based appetizers and drinks. The welcome reception will not be livestreamed.

Welcome remarks by:

Pamela Byce, Assistant Dean and Executive Director, *Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clark Law School*

Chris Green, Executive Director, *Animal Legal Defense Fund*

Saturday October 18, 2025

All plenary sessions on Saturday will take place in the Chicago Ballroom at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk hotel and will be livestreamed via the virtual event platform.

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CT

Registration, Light Breakfast & Coffee

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CT

The Role of Media in Animal Advocacy

Marina Bolotnikova, Deputy Editor, *Vox's Future Perfect*

Ana Bradley, Executive Director, *Sentient Media*

Jan Dutkiewicz, Assistant Professor, *Pratt Institute*

Kenny Torrella, Senior Reporter, *Vox*

Moderator: Chris Green, Executive Director, *Animal Legal Defense Fund*

This panel explores the evolving role of media and journalism in covering animal rights and welfare issues and shaping public understanding of animal legal issues. From navigating editorial constraints to amplifying underreported stories, panelists will discuss the challenges and ethical considerations in reporting on animals and the impact it has on advocacy.

10:15 – 10:45 a.m. CT

Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CT

Legislating for Animals at Every Level

Camille Labchuk, Executive Director, *Animal Justice*

Jaime Olin, Vice President and Legislative Chair, *Texas Humane Legislation Network*

Ledy VanKavage, *Senior Legislative Attorney, Best Friends Animal Society*

Speaker/Moderator: Alicia Prygoski, Strategic Legislative Affairs Manager, *Animal Legal Defense Fund*

From local ordinances to state, provincial, and national legislation, passing animal protection laws depends on skilled advocates and attorneys working in the governmental sphere. This panel features legislative strategists and legal experts from the US and Canada who'll discuss how public policy is crafted, negotiated, and passed — and the power it has to protect animals.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CT

Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. CT

Gaps in Companion Animal Legal Protection

Alba Michelle Gonzalez, DVM, Forensic Veterinarian & Founder and Medical Director, *Rascal Unit*

Daniel Kolde, Attorney, *Kolde Law*

Conley Wouters, Assistant Professor of Law, *University of Illinois Chicago*

Moderator: Megan Senatori, Associate Director & Adjunct Faculty, *Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clark Law School*

Companion animals occupy a cherished role in society, yet they can fall through legal cracks. This panel will explore gaps in the laws protecting companion animals in three contexts: the use of dogs in security work, the excessive use of force by law enforcement, and stray animals. Panelists will share legal remedies, veterinary insights, and how to shift societal norms through advocacy and litigation.

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. CT

Break

2:45 – 4:00 p.m. CT

Free Speech & Animal Activism

Chris Carraway, Staff Attorney, *Animal Activist Legal Defense Project, Sturm College of Law*

Madeline Krasno, Executive Director, *Justify*

John Watson, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Policy, *University of Illinois at Chicago*

Moderator: Caitlin Hawks, Chief Programs Officer, *Animal Legal Defense Fund*

Animal protection often clashes with powerful industries and special interests. This panel will explore the legal landscape of undercover investigations, social media advocacy, “hunter harassment” laws, and the broader implications of free speech for advocates and whistleblowers.

4:00 – 4:15 p.m. CT

Break

4:15 – 5:30 p.m. CT

Factory Farming & the Fight for Enforcement

Adrienne Craig, Staff Attorney, *Animal Welfare Institute*

Pete Paxton, Director of Investigations, *SEED*

Speaker/Moderator: Lora Dunn, Criminal Justice Program Director, *Animal Legal Defense Fund*

Factory farms are among the most secretive and unregulated institutions affecting animals. This panel focuses on enforcement challenges, investigations, ventilation shutdown, and how the legal system can hold industrial animal agriculture accountable.

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. CT

Break

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. CT

Banquet Dinner, Awards Ceremony, and Keynote Presentation

Join us Saturday evening in the Chicago Ballroom for the banquet dinner, awards ceremony, and keynote presentation. The Animal Legal Defense Fund Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Awards and the Animal Law Conference Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented before the keynote presentation. The awards ceremony and keynote presentation will be livestreamed via the virtual event platform.

Sunday October 19, 2025

All plenary sessions on Sunday will take place in the Chicago Ballroom at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk hotel and will be livestreamed via the virtual event platform. The conference concludes today at 1:30 p.m. CT.

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CT

Light Breakfast & Coffee

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CT

Legal Victories: Lessons & Insights

Jessica Blome, Attorney, *Greenfire Law, PC*

Elizabeth McLampy, attorney, writer, and advocate

Haley Stewart, Senior Public Policy Manager for Wildlife, *Humane World for Animals*

Moderator: Rajesh Reddy, Assistant Professor of Law & Animal Law Program Director, *Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clark Law School*

Highlighting recent wins for animals, this panel will showcase how litigation and policy strategies are evolving. Panelists will share what it takes to turn legal action into lasting change for endangered species, animals in entertainment, and the fur industry.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. CT

Break

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. CT

Engaging the Next Generation & Expanding Outreach

Ilana Braverman, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, *Greener by Default*

Hira Jaleel, Visiting Assistant Professor, *Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clark Law School*

Tené Johnson, Associate, *Latham & Watkins LLP*

Allison Troy, Research Director, *Faunalytics*

Speaker/Moderator: Alyssa Crowell, Law School Programs Attorney, *Animal Legal Defense Fund*

Sustaining a movement means inspiring the next wave of animal advocates and reaching wider audiences. This panel brings together leaders and educators to discuss how to reach, motivate, and empower students, young professionals, and other communities.

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. CT

Break

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. CT

Ethical Issues in Animal Lawyering

Matthew Liebman, Associate Professor and Chair of the Justice for Animals Program, *University of San Francisco School of Law*

Taylor Waters, Head of Programs, *Animal & Vegan Advocacy Summit*

Moderator: Pamela Frasch, Professor of Law, *Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clark Law School*

What ethical frameworks guide representation in animal law matters? This closing panel will explore how the Model Rules of Professional Conduct apply to animal advocacy, helping lawyers ethically engage in the difficult task of translating animals' voices into the framework of law.

Recognizing & Managing Compassion Fatigue for Animal Welfare Professionals

Patricia Smith, Founder, *Compassion Fatigue Awareness Project*

Compassion fatigue is a possible consequence of distress resulting from caring for and helping traumatized or suffering people or animals. This pre-recorded, one-hour presentation guides participants through the definition, symptoms, and causes of compassion fatigue, and will discuss strategies and techniques to help participants embrace a lifestyle and outlook that lowers compassion fatigue levels.

Global Perspectives on Advancing Animal Law

Felix Aiwanger, Senior Research Fellow, *Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law*

Yvonne Gurira-Mushunje, Founder, *Animal Advocates International*

Marine Lercier, Executive Director, *International Centre for Animal Rights and Ethics (ICARE)*

Moderator: Alyssa Crowell, Law School Programs Attorney, *Animal Legal Defense Fund*

This pre-recorded session brings together a diverse panel of international experts to examine emerging issues and innovations in global animal law. Topics include France's préjudice animalier concept, which recently extended aspects of legal personhood to companion animals in two court rulings; collaborative strategies for strengthening animal protection in Zimbabwe; a comparative analysis of various European jurisdiction's representation of animal interests in legal proceedings; and a timely discussion on the legal safeguarding of animals during natural and humanitarian disasters.