



BROOKS McCORMICK JR
ANIMAL LAW &
POLICY PROGRAM
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

PROGRAM YEAR IN REVIEW

2024-2025





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OUR MISSION

The Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School is committed to analyzing and improving the treatment of animals through the legal system. The Program engages with academics, students, practitioners, and decision-makers to foster discourse, facilitate scholarship, develop strategic solutions, and build innovative bridges between theory and practice in the rapidly evolving area of animal law and policy.



INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

— by Kristen Stilt

As we reflect on the 2024-2025 academic year—a year that brought substantial pain and uncertainty to the Harvard community and indeed to academic institutions across the country—we would like to express our profound gratitude to everyone who has steadfastly supported our mission and recognized that it is more important than ever. The stakes are so high that amid these challenges we are even further motivated to roll up our sleeves and redouble our efforts.

The Animal Law & Policy Program (ALPP, or the Program) does not currently receive federal funding, but our colleagues across the university who are doing critical work on climate change, food systems, and public health, to name a few areas, were heavily dependent on federal grants, and much of their work has come to a halt. These challenges to our shared mission only increase our determination to do the work that needs to be done—and to do more of it, and better. We are continuing our research, evaluating our impact, and considering carefully and beginning to articulate deliberately how to assess outcomes not only as an educational program, but a program with substantial reach in the world of policy-making, law, jurisprudence, and ethics.

The uncertainty for international students coming to Harvard Law School (HLS) over the past year has been substantial and has caused great stress. Over the

Spring and Summer, we worked closely with the fantastic Harvard International Office and after many months of uncertainty, our current and incoming students were able to receive or extend their student visas, traveling from countries ranging from Chile to China. One of the strengths of Harvard is the international students and scholars it attracts, and they are essential to our community. ALPP is a global program with global reach, and our international students are crucial to our international mission.

“The stakes are so high that amid these challenges we are even further motivated to roll up our sleeves and redouble our efforts.”

— Kristen Stilt

Highlights From the Year's Projects

Highlights from academic year 2024-2025 include the following, which will be covered in more depth later in the report:

- In November 2024, we hosted The Endangered Species Act: The Next 50 Years, co-sponsored with the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, the Animal Law & Policy Clinic, and Harvard Law School's Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic.

Our panelists explored the Act's successes and challenges over the past 50 years and its future directions. We brought together scholars, policymakers, and advocates who collaborated to assess lessons learned and proposed innovative strategies for the ESA's future.

- We began a complex project funded by Open Philanthropy. We are developing metrics for assessing farmed animal welfare globally, initially for a small number of test countries. The goal is to provide countries an incentive to improve and to strategize a path for doing so.
- Our Live Animal Markets Project, jointly undertaken with New York University's Center for Environmental and Animal Protection, was published in summer 2024 in its entirety (after the 2023 publication of our U.S. case study) and included a global report and synthesis of 15 countries' animal industries. The questions this project raised and the significant regulatory gaps it revealed are generating ongoing work in public health and animal law and are continuing to reach into policy discussions and media reports.



- We added to our high-impact amicus brief work with a brief written by Rights of Nature Fellow Macarena Montes and Professor Kristen Stilt to the High Court of South Africa. The amicus supports the freedom for three elephants—Lammie, Mopane, and Ramadiba—currently held at the Johannesburg Zoo.
- We continue to cultivate a meaningful relationship with other international colleagues as well, developing deeper ties in our trans-Atlantic work with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, Germany. After many years of work, in June 2025, co-editors Anne Peters, Director of the Institute, Saskia Stucki, former ALPP Visiting Fellow and now professor at The Zurich University of Applied Sciences, and Professor Kristen Stilt completed the manuscript of the Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law. With more than 100 authors and chapters, this comprehensive text establishes the new field of global animal law, or GAL. We are grateful to the Brooks Institute, whose support will make the

Handbook open access, that is, free to anyone through online access, once it is published.

- Most recently, ALPP published an in-depth analytic [report on H.R. 4673](#), “The Save Our Bacon Act.” The report was researched and written by Legislative Policy Fellow Kelley McGill and traces the origins of H.R. 4673 to earlier legislative efforts, including the “Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression Act” (EATS Act), introduced in the 118th Congress, and the King Amendment. The report shows that the potential scope of H.R. 4673 is broad and could extend into areas not originally anticipated, jeopardizing hundreds of state laws and regulations.
- We continued to provide support—through amicus briefs and media—for the position that the rescue of farmed animals allows for the introduction of the necessity defense at trial.

Finally, and critically, our students remain central to our mission. Inspiring and training the next generation of advocates is a crucial opportunity, and also a joy. We work closely with the Harvard Animal Law Society, which was led in 2024-2025 by Lla Anderson.

To teach and engage students, we offered five classes throughout the year: a 1L Reading Group on Law and the Anthropocene; Farmed Animal Law Seminar; Introduction to Animal Law; a Writing Group on Law and the Anthropocene; and a new Reading Group, Outlaw Oceans.

We have brilliant students, committed and talented faculty and staff, and an abundance of energy and ideas.



We are poised to advance our most ambitious projects yet, and we can only do so with your support. ALPP benefits from Harvard Law School in many ways—including the expert staff and administrators always willing to assist us, ranging from Finance to IT to Communications. We also benefit from beautiful office space in the HLS building at 1607 Massachusetts Avenue.

However, like many other research programs here, HLS does not sustain us financially. We rely on your continued support to maintain and expand our team and reach into new areas of law and policy. We quickly react to events on the ground with academic work meaningful to prac-

tice, such as our “Save Our Bacon Act Report,” and are ready for every subsequent challenge and opportunity. If you would consider supporting us at any level and would like to learn more about the impact that your support can make, please contact Faculty Director Professor Kristen Stilt at kstilt@law.harvard.edu or Executive Director Lana Nadj at lnadj@law.harvard.edu.

Thank you, in particular, to the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, the Hadley Family Foundation, the Humane America Animal Foundation, the Stray Dog Institute, Vegan Grants, Virginia Coleman, and several anonymous donors for your support over the past year.



An ALPP Departure

After nine exceptional years, Ceallaigh Reddy retired from her position as Program Administrator at the end of May 2025. Semester after semester Ceallaigh efficiently, with her gentle personal touch and with great cheer, managed all the Program’s administrative and organizational needs—no small task! We miss Ceallaigh enormously and her daily magic that kept so much of the Program’s cogs and wheels moving invisibly beneath the surface of our work—classes, speaking engagements, vegan lunches, events, and more. We wish Ceallaigh and her family all the best in the seasons ahead.

I am so grateful for your continuing support and interest in ALPP and, indeed, in animals, their rights, and our human imperatives to fundamentally change the way we view the place of animals in the world and fundamentally change how we treat and interact with them.

Gratefully,

Kristen Stilt

Kristen Stilt



MEET OUR TEAM

Animal Law & Policy Program Faculty and Staff



Kristen Stilt
Faculty Director

The Animal Law & Policy Program is led by Harvard Law School Professor Kristen Stilt, who founded the Program in 2014. Professor Stilt also directs Harvard's Program on Law and Society in the Muslim World.



Nirva Patel
Executive Director

Nirva Patel was responsible for achieving the Program's strategic goals from an administrative and financial perspective.



Ceallaigh Reddy
Program Administrator

Program Administrator
Ceallaigh Reddy managed all administrative and organizational needs.



Ann Linder
Associate Director of Policy and Research

Ann Linder serves as Associate Director of Policy and Research. Ann managed our live animal markets project, Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease Risk, and was coauthor of a number of its component reports.



Kelley McGill
Legislative Policy Fellow

Kelley McGill focuses on food and agriculture policy, such as the proposed EATS Act and Save Our Bacon Act legislation. Kelley writes the Brooks Animal Law Digest: U.S. Edition each week, which is distributed by the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, and annually curates a compilation of U.S. Digest developments.



Bonnie Nadzam
Writer and Editor

Bonnie Nadzam is ALPP's writer, editor, researcher, and workshop facilitator. Major projects this year included editorial assistance with the Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law and helping complete the global synthesis and case studies of the Live Animal Markets Project. Bonnie works closely with visiting and former fellows on their writing projects.



VISITING FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS

In addition to our core team, each year the Animal Law & Policy Program hosts Visiting Fellows and Visiting Researchers from around the world. These visiting appointments provide opportunities for outstanding scholars and advocates from a range of work backgrounds and academic disciplines to spend a semester or academic year in residence at HLS working on their own research, writing, and scholarly engagement on projects in the field of animal law and policy. During their stay they make use of the research facilities of the Law School and the University, participate in the intellectual life of the community, and present their scholarship in academic workshops. This past year we hosted three Visiting Fellows.

Pablo Castelló

Dr. Castelló worked on developing a book project on the relationship between visibility, the recognition of violence, and legitimate governance. His book challenges the idea that “seeing is believing” and explores new ways to change people’s hearts and minds.

Pablo has also been awarded research fellowships at the Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law, University of Cambridge, the Global Research Network Think Tank, and the 2022-2024 postdoctoral research fellowship in animal studies at the Department of Philosophy, Queen’s University. He earned his BA Honours (First-class) from University College London, and his PhD on *The Language of Zoodemocracy* from Royal Holloway, University of London. From 2021 to 2022, Dr. Castelló also worked as a Research Assistant for the Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law to assist with Raffael Fasel and Sean Butler’s book, *Animal Rights Law* (Hart Publishing, 2023).

In addition to his work on visibility, the recognition of violence, and legitimate governance, Dr. Castelló’s research encompasses themes such as dominion, territorial rights, the legal recognition of wild animals’ right to self-determination, the inclusion of nonhuman animals’ voices in decision-making, biodiversity-based conservation policies, and ecofeminist vegan ethics. His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *American Political Science Review*, *Biological Conservation*, and *Hypatia* as well as featured in popular outlets such as *The Conversation* and *ABC*.

Amy Fitzgerald

Dr. Fitzgerald worked on several articles exploring the intersection of harm perpetrated against people (including domestic violence), nonhuman animals, and the environment.

Dr. Fitzgerald is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology, as well as at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research at the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada. She is the 2023–2025 University of Windsor Vice-President Research and Innovation’s Research Chair. She has published many peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and books. Recent book publications include *Animals as Food: (Re) connecting Production, Processing, Consumption and Impacts*, *Animal Advocacy and Environmentalism: Understanding and Bridging the Divide*, and *The Animals Reader: The Essential Classic and Contemporary Writings* (2nd ed., co-edited with Linda Kalof). Fitzgerald is the recipient of a Distinguished Scholarship Award from the Animals and Society section of the American Sociological Association and the Mid-Career Outstanding Faculty Research Award from the University of Windsor.

“During last academic year, I had the honor to work at the Animal Law & Policy Program (ALPP) at Harvard Law School, an experience that proved deeply enriching on multiple levels. The program offers an exceptional environment for research—from extraordinary librarians capable of locating even the most intricate sources to a superb editor, Bonnie Nadzam, who helped me refine my writing by combining academic rigor with my own voice and experience to engage readers more effectively. I also had the privilege of working with a wonderful supervisor, Kristen Stilt, and outstanding colleagues—Macarena Montes, Amy Fitzgerald, and Kelley McGill—whose support enriched me both intellectually and personally. ALPP also allowed me to connect with a wide range of scholars and activists, some of whom have become close friends and allies. On top of this, Harvard provided unparalleled library resources and research spaces—truly among the best one could wish for, anywhere.”

— Pablo Castelló, Visiting Fellow



Macarena Montes Franceschini

Dr. Montes Franceschini is an attorney with a Ph.D. in Law from Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona). She has been a visiting researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg and a Rights Research Fellow with our Program. She is a board member of the UPF-Centre for Animal Ethics, editor of the journal *Law, Ethics and Philosophy* (LEAP), a member of the Editorial Committee of the Chilean Journal of Animal Law, and the Treasurer of the Great Ape Project in Spain. She has written several articles on nonhuman animal personhood, animal rights, and animal law, and a book titled *Animal Law in Chile*.

This year, she was our Rights of Nature Fellow. She worked on scholarship examining the relationship between rights of nature and animal rights, culminating in a paper co-authored with Kristen Stilt, *Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature*, published in the Stanford Environmental Law Review. She also researched and co-wrote with Professor Stilt an amicus brief to the High Court of South Africa regarding a case involving three elephants in the Johannesburg Zoo. The petitioners are seeking release and relocation of the elephants to a sanctuary in the country.



“The space and networking opportunities were extremely conducive to thinking and writing. It’s easy to feel isolated doing animal-focused work elsewhere, so it was a pleasure to be immersed with other scholars engaged in similar work who share the same goals. I researched, drafted, workshopped, revised, and subsequently published the work I set out to do. I left feeling reinvigorated, and for that I am extremely grateful.”

— Amy Fitzgerald, Visiting Fellow

PROGRAM WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Animal Law & Policy Program had an impactful year of scholarly research and writing, public events, teaching and student mentorship, and partnership with the Animal Law & Policy Clinic. The Clinic is led by Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor Mary Hollingsworth and provides HLS students with hands-on training in legal advocacy for animals. Here we highlight many of our accomplishments.





POLICY & PRACTICE

The Animal Law & Policy Program collaborates with many individuals and organizations to share expertise on matters of law and policy. Our faculty and staff engage with law firms, academics, authors, animal rights practitioners, government agencies, international organizations, and the media to provide answers and assistance.

South African Elephants

In April 2025, Visiting Fellow Macarena Montes and Professor Kristen Stilt submitted an amicus brief to the High Court of South Africa in a case in which petitioners seek the release and relocation to a sanctuary of the remaining three elephants in the Johannesburg Zoo. The brief's goal is to highlight for the Court international legal developments that recognize the rights of animals and nature as integral to the human right to a healthy environment. The brief referenced rulings from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and countries such as Ecuador, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Pakistan, and Turkey, as well as laws such as Panama's 2023 recognition of marine turtles' rights. The brief also notes a growing global movement toward ending elephant captivity and supporting sanctuaries, reflecting a shift toward holistic environmental protection that includes animals and ecosystems.

The brief encourages the court to recognize that continued captivity of elephants (Lammie, Mopane, and Ramadiba) at the Johannesburg Zoo violates Section 24 of the Constitution, which guarantees a healthy environment. This right is not limited to humans, since animals form part of the environment, as affirmed in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA). The brief underscores that captive animals are still wildlife, and part of the environment.

The brief notes that South African law has evolved from condemning cruelty to animals, alone, to recognizing their intrinsic value. The Constitutional Court affirms that animal welfare is no longer protected only to uphold human morality but because animals themselves have inherent worth.

The High Court's procedural rules require that we first


ask the Court to accept our brief, and our South African pro bono counsel did that admirably and successfully. We were very happy to learn that the High Court granted us leave to appear as amicus curiae. In its judgment, the Court recognized that our submission offers valuable comparative and international insights into evolving standards of animal welfare and rights law, and that these perspectives will assist the Court in its deliberations. This

marks an important milestone in advancing the development of South African jurisprudence in the field of animal protection and constitutional rights. The date for the trial has not yet been announced.

Farming Octopuses

On May 13, ALPP Faculty Director Professor Kristen





Stilt testified in person before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Agriculture on [H.127](#), a bill that would prohibit the farming of octopuses for human consumption in Massachusetts. The bill also would ban the sale, possession, and transportation of farmed octopuses in the Commonwealth. The bill excludes wild-caught octopuses and those used in non-commercial research.

During the public hearing on H.127, approximately 25 individuals offered testimony in support of the bill, and there was no testimony in opposition to the bill. Among those offering testimony remotely were Amanda Fox (Executive Director of the Animal Rights Initiative), Jennifer Jacquet (Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at the Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science, at the University of Miami), and Martha Smith-Blackmore (Veterinarian, Founder of Forensic Veterinary Investigations, and former ALPP Visiting Fellow). The bill's sponsor and Committee members noted that octopus farming was not taking place in the state, and there did not appear to be any initiatives to seek permission to do so, all of which would make it easier to pass the legislation. The bill's sponsor and Committee members also noted that the bill would not prohibit efforts to catch and consume wild octopuses. On September 8, 2025, H.127 was replaced with H.4422, which was reported favorably by the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries. The new draft, H.4422, includes additional provisions that define "wild-caught" and "wild-captured" and explicitly exclude the capture and transport of wild octopuses from the bill's prohibition. H.4422 also designates rulemaking authority for wild-caught octopuses. As of writing, this legislation has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and has not yet become law in Massachusetts.

Washington and California banned octopus farming in 2024. Bills to ban octopus farming have been introduced in at least four other states (Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey, and New York) during the 2025 legislative session, in addition to Massachusetts.

Discussing Ecuador’s Estrellita Decision: A conversation with the authoring judge

At the end of February, Judge Teresa Nuques Martínez, a judge for the Constitutional Court of Ecuador, visited ALPP to connect with Professor Stilt and Rights of Nature Fellow Macarena Montes. Judge Nuques authored the decision in the “*Estrellita Monkey*” case, and she wanted to express personally how profoundly her life was changed by the **amicus brief** that ALPP, led by Professor Stilt and Macarena, co-authored with the Nonhuman Rights Project for the case. Six of the Court’s eight other judges joined Judge Nuques on the **majority opinion**, which recognized Estrellita, who was a woolly monkey, as a subject of rights protected by the rights of nature.

During her visit with ALPP, Judge Nuques told Professor Stilt and Macarena that before the *Estrellita* case, and before receiving their amicus brief, she had given animals little consideration and certainly not moral or legal consideration. The amicus brief “shook” her. Judge Nuques said she was shocked to learn how socially and cognitively complex woolly monkeys are and that it was no longer possible for her to see animals as mere things or property. She described the diligence with which she worked on the case. Judge Nuques said she now not only lives with her first-ever animal companion but is committed to teaching animal law. As she stated, “there was a Teresa before the case and a Teresa after the case.”





THE BROOKS ANIMAL LAW DIGEST & COMPENDIUM

This past year, Legislative Policy Fellow Kelley McGill continued to research and write about the latest developments in animal law and policy to form the U.S. Edition of the Brooks Animal Law Digest. Professor Kristen Stilt works with Kelley and edits the Digest; together they also add contextual comments to some of the entries. The Digest includes federal and state case law updates, ongoing legislative efforts, regulatory actions, scholarly publications, and international news. The U.S. and Canada editions of the Brooks Animal Law Digest, both published by the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy, are freely accessible to benefit the wider animal welfare community, including practitioners, academic clinics, programs, and scholars.

These regular updates integrate a broad spectrum of topics that significantly influence the lives of nonhuman animals. They cover various areas such as the regulation of animal testing and research, advertising and sale of animal products, breed-specific limitations, establishment of trusts for companion animal care, treatment of companion animals in cases of domestic violence, conditions in animal breeding and slaughter facilities, cultivated meat products, hunting, pollution, and the welfare of captive wildlife. The Digest also follows litigation, legislation, and regulation under key animal law statutes and other statutes often utilized in the field, such as the Animal Welfare Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act. These updates also cover a wide variety of types of animals, including aquatic animals, companion animals, animals used for food and fiber, and captive wild animals.

Kelley and Professor Stilt also carefully distilled and developed another curated, comprehensive review of developments in U.S. animal law and policy for a thorough [year-in-review](#) that also provides a sense of the themes

and trends over the year. Early each spring, Professor Stilt and Professor Angela Fernandez of University of Toronto, who supervises the Canadian Digest, have a discussion at a Brooks Institute event where they compare and contrast developments in the U.S. and Canada over the previous year.

“All law is comparative in some way, and there is no better way to understand your own country—for good and bad—than to draw comparisons with another. My annual Digest conversations with Professor Fernandez do just this, illuminating questions that we may not even ask about our own system until we hear that they are salient questions in another jurisdiction.”

— Kristen Stilt





SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM THE COMPENDIUM

2024-25

The Year-in-Review Compendiums offer an annual, curated compilation of the Brooks Animal Law Digest: U.S. Edition drafted by the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School and published by the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy.

“This compendium captures many of the ups and downs for animal law and policy throughout 2024 and foreshadows the fights to come in 2025 between industry, advocates, and regulators before courts, legislators, and administrators at all levels of government.” — *Looking Ahead to 2025, Compendium*

RESTRICTIONS ON ANIMALS USED IN ENTERTAINMENT

States and localities took meaningful actions in 2024 to restrict the use of animals for entertainment. Maryland, Massachusetts, and Greenwich, Connecticut, joined a growing list of states and localities that have prohibited the use of certain captive animals in circuses and other traveling animal acts. Virginia joined California, Rhode Island, and over a dozen municipalities to prohibit the use of bullhooks on elephants. Illinois’ prohibition on direct public contact with captive primates and bears entered into effect. While New Jersey extended its horse racing purse subsidy, New York strengthened its enforcement of its anti-slaughter protections for racehorses. Connecticut banned dog racing, and Arizona prohibited wagering on simulcast dog races. Miami-Dade County in Florida is attempting to evict the Miami Seaquarium.

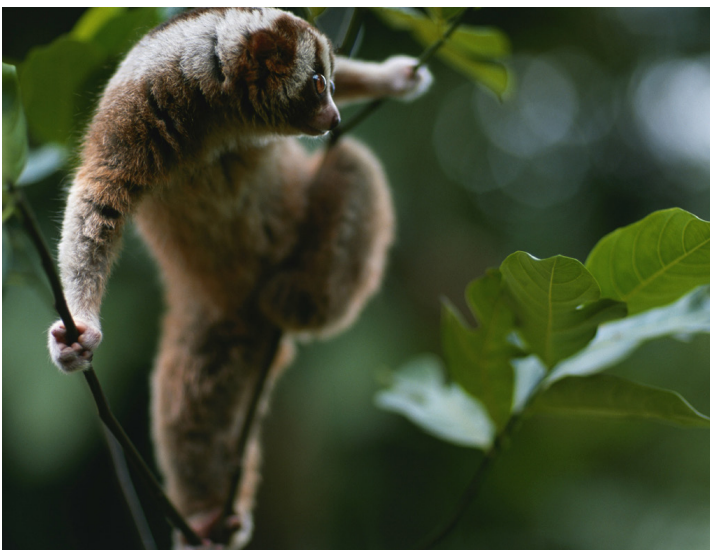
COMMERCIAL FISHING DEVELOPMENTS

2024 saw numerous federal actions and litigation related to the regulation of commercial fishing. Among other actions, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducted rulemaking to reduce the incidence and injury of animals caught as bycatch, increase fishing gear biodegradability, sustain fisheries, and protect certain animals and environments. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on efforts by NMFS to reduce the incidence of aquatic animals caught or killed as fishing bycatch. GAO recommended that NMFS request additional funding from Congress for fisheries observers, update the National Bycatch Reduction Strategy Implementation Plan, develop goal tracking processes, and draft a written bycatch estimates reporting plan.

Federal courts made a series of rulings affecting commercial fishing. Significantly, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, in a precedential (published) opinion, stripped the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Council of its pocket veto, requiring it to now play only an advisory role, because the president did not appoint the council's members, as constitutionally required. The U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts ruled that NMFS improperly closed 200 square miles of ocean to lobster fishing to protect endangered North Atlantic right whales, finding that the closure rule was statutorily precluded until after 2028. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington ruled that a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorizing finfish aquaculture structures in U.S. waters was unlawful. The U.S. District Court for the District of Maine dismissed a challenge to a Maine rule requiring the use of tracking devices on fishing vessels to monitor stocks and manage the fishery, but the court encouraged appeal of the ruling given its Fourth Amendment issues. Other federal court decisions included the upholding of an amendment promulgated by NMFS to the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan to change the way the Pacific halibut bycatch limit is set and the dismissal of South Carolina's attempt to oversee shellfish harvesting in the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

LEGAL PERSONHOOD FOR ANIMALS AND RIGHTS OF NATURE

Utah passed a law prohibiting governmental entities from granting legal personhood to, or recognizing legal personhood in, certain nonhuman entities including artificial intelligences, bodies of water, land, and nonhuman animals. Utah's anti-personhood law follows similar laws enacted in Florida, Idaho, and North Dakota since 2020, which push back against the growing rights of nature movement globally and seek to preserve economic interests and anthropocentrism in the law. Additional



state legislatures and municipalities may follow Utah's example, potentially hindering the expansion of legal protections for animals and nature.

Conversely, building on an increasing body of judicial decisions around the world, legislative or judicial bodies in the U.S. could advance the personhood of animals and nature or the right to a healthy environment. In the fall of 2024, for instance, the Colorado Supreme Court heard arguments in a right to liberty case involving elephants kept in a zoo. At the end of 2024, in a landmark climate decision, the Montana Supreme Court upheld a ruling enjoining the state from violating its citizens' constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment, which it found to include a stable climate system. Also at the end of the year, the Washington Supreme Court affirmed that a dog should not be euthanized solely for being unconfined, with the court's decision using language that implicitly recognized the dog's individuality, using masculine pronouns and his name.

Example Entries Drafted in 2025 for the Brooks Animal Law Digest: U.S. Edition

2024-25

The U.S. Edition of the Animal Law Digest is researched and drafted by the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School. It is published weekly by the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy.

Federal Court Vacates Nationwide Permit for Offshore Fish Farm Cages

March 22, 2025

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington issued a prospective vacatur of Nationwide Permit 56, which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved under the first Trump Administration to allow offshore cage structures for fish farming in federal waters. Under the court's order, future cage structures will need to go through individual permitting, but the existing six projects retain their authorizations under the nationwide permit. The permit was challenged by Don't Cage Our Oceans, the Center for Food Safety, and other groups in 2022 and was set to expire in 2026.

FWS Proposes Rescinding Regulatory Definition of “Harm” Under ESA

April 17, 2025

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to rescind the regulatory definition of “harm” under the agency's Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations. According to the FWS, “[t]he existing regulatory definition of ‘harm,’ which includes habitat modification, runs contrary to the best meaning of the statutory term ‘take.’” The agency stated that it is “undertaking this change to adhere to the single, best meaning of the ESA.” According to the notice, “[t]his revision would be prospective only and would not affect permits that have been granted as of the date the regulation becomes final.” The action could have sweeping consequences for habitat protection for ESA-listed species.

Washington State Prohibits Use of Elephants, Primates, and Other Animals in Circuses

April 22, 2025

Washington Governor Bob Ferguson signed into law [Senate Bill 5065](#), which prohibits the use of elephants, cats (except domestic cats), nonhuman primates, and bears in traveling animal acts. A violation of the prohibition would be punishable as a gross misdemeanor.

Massachusetts Bill Would Prohibit Octopus Farming

May 13, 2025

Massachusetts Bill [H.127](#) would prohibit the farming of octopuses for human consumption. The bill also would ban the sale, possession, and transportation of farmed octopuses. The bill excludes wild-caught octopuses and those used in non-commercial research. Violations could be punished by a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per day. The Joint Committee on Agriculture held a public hearing on the bill on May 13, 2025.



SCHOLARSHIP & PUBLICATIONS

In July, ALPP and the Center for Environmental and Animal Protection at New York University published *Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease Risk: A Global Synthesis of a 15 Country Study*, along with 15 country case studies. The report is one of the most comprehensive assessments to date of zoonotic risk, offering an in-depth analysis of potential risks posed by animal markets and their supply chains across 15 countries and six continents. Researched and written by a team of experts, the report incorporates scientific findings, field observations, data, interviews, local and regional regulatory analysis, and other research to describe and analyze what is known about the zoonotic risks posed by animal markets and other related forms of animal industries. Ann Linder, ALPP's Associate Director of Policy & Research and lead author of the report notes: "Our research found that zoonotic disease risk is not confined to any one region or type of market. This is a global problem, and one that needs to be addressed urgently through better regulation to target the root causes of zoonotic spillover." Concurrent with the release of the report, *USA Today* published a [feature story](#) highlighting our findings.

Below, publications are listed by team member or Visiting Fellow name.

Kristen Stilt

Publications

- Linder, Ann; Nadzam, Bonnie; Jamieson, Dale; Stilt, Kristen; and McCarthy, Valerie. *Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease Risk: A Global Synthesis of a 15 Country Study*. Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program, Harvard Law School; Center for Animal and the Environmental Protection, New York University, June 2024. <https://animal.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Animal-Markets-and-Zoonotic-Disease-Risk-high-resolution.pdf>

- Montes Franceschini, Macarena & Kristen Stilt. 2025. “Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature.” *Stanford Environmental Law Journal* 44 (1): 71-103. <https://law.stanford.edu/publications/naturalized-rights-of-animals-animalized-rights-of-nature/>

Forthcoming Publications

- Stilt, Kristen, Anne Peters, and Saskia Stucki, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Forthcoming.
- Stilt, Kristen. “Introduction.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stilt, Kristen. “Religious Freedom.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stilt, Kristen, and Macarena Montes. “Case Note: Estrellita.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Marceau, Justin; Angela Fernandez; and Kristen Stilt. *An Animal Law & Policy Coursebook*. Forthcoming. St. Paul, MN: Foundation Press.

Nirva Patel

Forthcoming Publications

- Patel, Nirva. “Jainism.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.



Ann Linder

Publications

- Linder, Ann; Nadzam, Bonnie; Jamieson, Dale; Stilt, Kristen; and McCarthy, Valerie. *Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease Risk: A Global Synthesis of a 15 Country Study*. Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program, Harvard Law School; Center for Animal and the Environmental Protection, New York University, June 2024. <https://animal.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Animal-Markets-and-Zoonotic-Disease-Risk-high-resolution.pdf>
- Linder, Ann; Sebo, Jeff; and Jerolmack, Colin. “The Choice of Culling or Letting Avian Influenza Spread Obscures Larger U.S. Policy Failures.” *Science*, e-Letter, 2025. <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adx8639>

Forthcoming Publications

- Linder, Ann. “Animal Industries and Zoonotic Disease in the United States.” In *Leveraging Viruses for the Treatment of Viral Diseases and Cancer*, edited by Tibor Bakacs. Forthcoming. Elsevier Publishing.
- Linder, Ann. “Science and Animal Law.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kelley McGill

Publications

- McGill, Kelley and Carney Anne Nasser. 2024. *Recent Developments in United States Animal Rights Law & Policy: 2024 Year-in-Review*, edited by Kelley McGill and Kristen Stilt. The Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy.
- McGill, Kelley and Kristen Stilt. *Animal Law Digest: United States Edition*. 2025. Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law & Policy.

Forthcoming Publications

- McGill, Kelley. “The Regulation of Cultivated Meat: An Exploration of Emerging Approaches Around the World.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.



Bonnie Nadzam

Publications

- Linder, Ann; Nadzam, Bonnie; Jamieson, Dale; Stilt, Kristen; and McCarthy, Valerie. *Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease Risk: A Global Synthesis of a 15 Country Study*. Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program, Harvard Law School; Center for Animal and the Environmental Protection, New York University, June 2024. <https://animal.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/Animal-Markets-and-Zoonotic-Disease-Risk-high-resolution.pdf>
- Nadzam, Bonnie, and Dale Jamieson. “The Case For Spiritual Resilience.” *Carleton Voice*, Winter 2025.

Forthcoming Publications

- Nadzam, Bonnie. “Buddhism.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Nadzam, Bonnie and Caroline Merrifield. “China and Wildlife Farming.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Nadzam, Bonnie. *The Magpie Spoke to Me: How the Stories We Tell Shape Our World*. Boulder, CO: Shambhala Publications, 2026.

Amy Fitzgerald

Publications

- Barrett, B.; Amy Fitzgerald; H. Al-Wahsh; and M. Musa. “Animal Companionship and Psycho-Social Well-Being: Findings from a National Study of Community-Dwelling Aging Canadians.” *Journal of Aging Studies* 70 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaging.2024.100055>.
- Fitzgerald, Amy. 2024. “Animals as Covictims and More-Than-Property: The Inclusion of Companion Animals in Protection Order Statutes at the State Level in the United States.” *Violence and Victims*, 40, no. 1 (2025): 110–34. <https://doi.org/10.1891/VV-2024-0004>.
- Fitzgerald, Amy; Valerie Monckton; Kerri Thompson; and Kendra Coulter. 2025. “Intersecting Abuse of People and Animals in Practice: Implications of the Connection Between Intimate Partner Violence and Animal Abuse for Family Justice Professionals.” *Canadian Journal of Family Law* 36, no. 1: 1–64. <https://commons.allard.ubc.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1115&context=can-j-fam-l>.
- Fitzgerald, Amy. 2025. “Animal-Inclusive Protection Order Statutes: A Powerful Tool for Addressing and Mitigating Coercive Control.” *Violence Against Women*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012251338405>.
- Fritz, P. T.; C. Baldwin; A. Gray; B. Barrett; A. Fitzgerald; R. Stevenson; N. Forsyth. 2025. “Barriers to Implementing On-Site Companion Animal Programs in U.S. Domestic Violence Shelters: Does Shelter Location Matter?” *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

Forthcoming Publications

- Fitzgerald, Amy. “Animal-Inclusive Protection Order Statutes and the Erosion of the Property Status of Animals.” Forthcoming. *Social Problems*.
- Fitzgerald, Amy. “Sociology and Animal Law.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Fitzgerald, Amy; Ben Nicholls; Janet Halliday; Andrew Painter. “Green Criminology.” In *Research Handbook on Animals and Society*, edited by Angela Mertig. Forthcoming. Edward Elgar.
- Fitzgerald, Amy; Janet Halliday; Carol Semeniuk. “News Media Representations of the ‘Molecularization of Life’ vis-à-vis Gene Transcriptional Profiling.” Forthcoming. *Animal Ethics*.
- Fitzgerald, Amy; Ben Nicholls; Bonnie Barrett; Rachel Stevenson; Andrew Gray; Paige Fritz. “Companion Animal Protections in Intimate Partner Violence Programming in Canada and the United States: Is There a Relationship to Legislative Developments?” Forthcoming. *Society & Animals*.



Jo-Anne McArthur / EAST / We Animals

Pablo Castelló:

Visting Fellow

- Castelló, Pablo P. 2025. “The Fabric of Zoodemocracy: A Systemic Approach to Deliberative Zoodemocracy.” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2024.2437870>.

Macarena Montes

Rights of Nature Fellow

- Casal, Paula and Macarena Montes. “El lenguaje especista en el derecho.” In *Especismo y lenguaje*, edited by Catia Faria and Núria Almirón, 195-207. Madrid: Plaza y Valdés Editores, 2024. <https://www.plazayvaldes.es/uploads/2025/09/especismo-y-lenguaje-open-access.pdf> [plazayvaldes.es+1](https://www.plazayvaldes.es)
- Montes, Macarena. 2025. Review of *The Legal Recognition of Animal Sentience: Principles, Approaches and Applications*, edited by Jane Kotzmann and MB Rodriguez Ferrere. *Review of European, Comparative & International Environmental Law*.
- Montes, Macarena. 2025. Review of *The Amazon in Times of War* by Marcos Colón. *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*.
- Montes, Macarena and Carlos Contreras Lopez. 2024. “Animal Welfare and the Law: History, Definition, and Challenges.” *Metode: International Journal of Methodology and Statistics for the Social Sciences*, Special Issue on Animal Welfare.
- Montes Franceschini, Macarena and Kristen Stilt. 2025. “Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature.” *Stanford Environmental Law Journal* 44 (1): 71-103. <https://law.stanford.edu/publications/naturalized-rights-of-animals-animalized-rights-of-nature/>

Forthcoming Publications

- Montes, Macarena. “From Theory to Practice: On the Development of Animal Rights,” in Fasel, R. & Adenitire, J. (eds.) *Fundamental Rights for Nonhumans*, Hart.
- Montes, Macarena and Kristen Stilt. “Case Note Estrellita,” In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Montes, Macarena and Carlos Contreras. “Case Note Sandra and Cecilia,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*, edited by Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki. Forthcoming. Oxford: Oxford University Press.





ANIMAL LAW & POLICY WORKSHOP SERIES

During the academic year, the Program held Animal Law & Policy Workshops in which up to two dozen academic colleagues convened both in person and online to review and critique drafts of our faculty and fellows' scholarship in progress. Experts in the subject matter of each topic participated along with the Program's faculty, staff, visiting affiliates, HLS SJD and LLM students, and Harvard University graduate students. We also welcomed the JD Student Board of the Harvard Animal Law Society to participate, along with others from outside the immediate Harvard community, including—for the first time—an undergraduate, whose final thesis in Amherst's Department of Jurisprudence and Social Thought focused on Animal Law.

The authors and topics covered in this year's Workshop Series were:

November 13, 2024

Amy Fitzgerald:

Animal Inclusive Protection Order Statutes: A Powerful Tool for Addressing and Mitigating Coercive Control

December 5, 2024

Pablo Castelló

The Fabric of Zoodemocracy and The Colonial Legacy That Lives in Us: Western Eyes That Cannot See

December 3, 2024

Kristen Stilt

Someone

March 4, 2025

Bonnie Nadzam

Animal Chaplaincy in the Anthropocene

April 4, 2025

Victoria Kühborth

Fitness Check of the Enforcement of EU Farm Animal Protection Legislation

April 25, 2025

Ilaria Cimadori

Selective Breeding and Gene Editing: The Regulatory Framework for Farm Animal Breeding in the United States

May 2, 2025

Ethan Prall

Rights and Duties for Nature and Animals

May 16, 2025

Tim Carroll

An Elephant is Not a Person: The Capabilities and Wonder of Animal Jurisprudence

May 23, 2025

Macarena Montes

Fear of the Nonhuman: Legal Backlash Against Personhood for Nature and Animals

“I’ve participated in, led, and lived through scores of writing workshops. Like many of the best, this one is iterative and process-oriented, engages everyone at the table, and is facilitated with genuine curiosity, and gentle if firm and incisive questioning. Beyond these basic nuts and bolts, however, the ALPP workshop series is experimental and bold. It is totally interdisciplinary: we workshop academic and popular book manuscripts, book proposals, legal articles, science articles, mainstream and literary essays, fiction, polished prose, detailed outlines and half-baked ideas. Built-in conversation ensures that mutual understanding guides the hour. We are all engaging as peers with a shared mission and an understanding that we are world-building together, and we aim to fuel each writer’s confidence beyond their place at the table. And the series is impressively productive—not only in terms of the sheer number of revisions and new drafts, but ultimately, publications too.”

— Bonnie Nadzam

May 30, 2025

Kristen Stilt and Bonnie Nadzam

Someone: Humans and Animals in the Anthropocene

“ I left the workshop more excited than ever about pursuing animal law and continuing scholarly work — my arguments both vindicated and challenged in the best ways... ”

Attending the ALPP workshop series was a delight; as an undergraduate, it was easily the most intellectually invigorating experience to date. I valued the opportunity to discuss my written work with respected authors in the field and receive their reactions, support, and critique. The breadth of disciplinary perspectives only deepened the rigor of our conversation.

— **Tim Carroll**

Amherst College 2025





Gabriela Penela / We Animals

ACADEMIC COURSES

One goal of the Animal Law & Policy Program is to provide students with the opportunity to take multiple animal-law-related courses during their time at Harvard Law School.

Farmed Animal Law and Policy Seminar (Fall 2024)

This seminar explored farmed animal law and policy, with a focus on high-profile issues concerning the use of animals for food, including current controversies over animal welfare, environmental degradation, public health, consumer protection, worker safety, and climate change. The seminar examined the history and evolution of animal agriculture from early agrarian domestication to modern industrial farming, and highlighted the major ethical, cultural, ecological, social and economic issues that are shaping farmed animal law and policy in the twenty-first century. The seminar included an overview of key laws and regulations concerning farmed animals, as well as an exploration of current legislation, litigation, ballot initiatives, and consumer-based campaigns to reform animal agriculture. The seminar compared farmed animal laws and regulations in different countries and encouraged students to consider how international trade agreements both promote and prevent legal protections for farmed animals.

“Professor Stilt’s Animal Law course perfectly blended the elements of several of the major doctrinal courses I took in my first year at HLS. From criminal and civil law to the law of administrative agencies and constitutional law questions of federalism, the course allowed me to creatively apply doctrine from across the law. The course has made me a stronger reader of judicial opinions and strengthened my advocacy skills by positioning me to test the logic and assumptions of arguments to which I had rarely if ever been exposed.”

— Trevor Núñez
HLS Class of 2027

“ I saw just how much time and care she invests—folding in end-of-semester feedback, updating the syllabus with new case law, and arriving each week with questions that spark rich discussion in a genuinely safe classroom. ”

TA-ing Professor Stilt’s Animal Law course this year after taking it last year let me sit on the other side of the table. From that vantage point, I saw just how much time and care [Professor Stilt] invests—folding in end-of-semester feedback, updating the syllabus with new case law, and arriving each week with questions that spark rich discussion in a genuinely safe classroom. Even where the material repeated, I learned more the second time through; the depth of the subject—and the way each group’s dynamics surface new insights—made “taking the class twice” feel like two distinct, invaluable experiences.

— Valerie McCarthy
HLS Class of 2026

Introduction to Animal Law (Fall 2025)

This course introduced students to the broad range of laws that affect non-human animals, including companion animals, farm animals (with a particular focus on factory farms), animals used in the context of entertainment (such as zoos and aquaria), animals used in scientific experimentation, and wild animals. The course focused mainly on the U.S. but also included some attention to the laws of other countries and to international law. The course engaged with fundamental questions about animals and the law, such as: Are some animals more deserving of protection than others, and if so, on what basis? What role does culture and belief play in animal law—why are dogs considered pets in the U.S. and food in some parts of the world? Does the status of animals as property pose an insurmountable barrier to increasing protections for animals? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the concepts of “animal rights” and “animal welfare”?



READING & WRITING GROUPS

Law and the Anthropocene Writing Group

Writing groups provide an opportunity for students to complete a writing project within a workshop environment, and with an instructor and a small group of peers to offer feedback on each other's projects. This allows students guidance structuring their research and writing, providing students with opportunities to workshop outlines, drafts, and other work. Students—some of them for the first time—learn the important art of peer review, delivering and responding to criticism. This year, Professor Kristen Stilt taught a writing group on a broad range of topics both directly and indirectly related to animals and animal treatment in the U.S. and internationally.

Outlaw Ocean Reading Group

Every problem on land is worse at sea—yet for the most part, these problems escape the attention of regulators, legal advocates, and the general public. The fishing of wild fish is driving species to extinction, while aquaculture, often touted as a solution to feeding the world, amounts to floating factory farms, or aquatic industrial animal agriculture, with all the associated harms to animals, the environment, and humans who work in the industry and consume the fish produced. Fish are sentient creatures, and suffer and feel pain, but their welfare is on almost nobody’s agenda. Fishing ships, especially distant-water ships, are now known to be sites of major human rights abuses, including labor trafficking and debt bondage. The common practice of trawling involves dragging heavy nets along the ocean floor to entrap fish, harming marine life and marine ecosystems. The amount of CO₂ released when the seafloor is damaged through trawling is comparable to clear-cutting forests for extractive terrestrial industries. It is estimated that every day, approximately 2,000 truckloads of plastic are dumped into oceans, rivers, and lakes. This Reading Group also explored these topics and efforts underway around the world to bring these problems to public attention and to take steps towards improvements.

“Professor Stilt’s reading group was a highlight of my 1L year. I am very grateful to her for creating a space that encouraged empathy and reflection regarding how to use the law for justice; in a largely formulaic, doctrine-driven first year of classes, I was reminded during our reading group meetings that I came to law school to make an impact, not just to memorize holdings. I’m excited to now be pursuing career opportunities in environmental law, with the goal of tackling some of the challenges to climate justice that we discussed together last Fall.”

— Ideal Dowling
HLS Class of 2027

“ I’m very grateful for the opportunity to have taken this class—it has had a real and lasting impact on my intellectual development. ”

In Spring 2025 I took Animal Law, which I found to be both enjoyable and unique. Animal law is a constantly evolving field, and the course was anything but doctrinal. Instead, it was highly interdisciplinary: we discussed the philosophical foundations for animal rights/welfare/abolition, explored how different areas of law conceptualize animal status, and engaged with cutting-edge issues such as the legality of open rescue.

What makes Animal Law so compelling, I think, is precisely that it is not a field with settled answers. Each student is challenged to think critically about—and evaluate—the various legal and ethical approaches to the circumstances of non-human animals. Under Professor Stilt’s guidance, we learned a great deal. The course has directly influenced my own SJD project, which places the “non-human world” at the center of comparative law research. In this way, Animal Law opened my eyes to interdisciplinary possibilities I had not considered before.

— Biyuan Hu
SJD Candidate at HLS



STUDENTS, ADVISING, AND PLACEMENT

ALPP plays a role in the lives of HLS students in many ways, from offering courses to providing hands-on teaching and guidance in the Clinic, to career advising. We offer career advice and mentorship to our students who seek to work in the area of animal law and policy, whether full time or on a pro bono basis from a position in a law firm. Season after season, there are more Harvard graduates doing just that, and every year we offer advice and support to launch them in the field.

“Professor Stilt’s guidance was an invaluable part of my writing process. The writing group that she created was congenial, warm, and supportive. Professor Stilt encouraged me to investigate my claims, as well as my purpose in writing this paper. Further, Professor Stilt created an environment where I felt equally challenged and cared for while writing on an extremely difficult subject. I mean it when I say that Professor Stilt’s mentorship has changed my life, and I am grateful to have written this paper under her tutelage.”

— Lla Anderson
HLS/MDiv Class of ‘27

“As an undergraduate, I cross-registered for the Farmed Animal Law and Policy seminar with Professor Stilt.”

Coming from rural Virginia with interests in agriculture and rural infrastructure policy, I was surprised and excited to find such a course offered. Although I was initially nervous to be taking an upper-level seminar as my first law school course, Professor Stilt has a way of explaining concepts and guiding discussions in a way that makes even complex international trade law accessible and engaging. Her passion for the subject and personal encouragement helped me gain confidence to contribute meaningfully to discussions. The class gifted me with a new way to see the law: not only as a series of individual cases, but also as a system that evolves and can be reimaged. Each day I left each class acutely aware of the complex, quite contemporary issues we covered, and inspired by the innovative solutions we envisioned together.

This inspiration influenced my intellectual journey significantly. I spent the following summer home in Virginia, working in the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney in Culpeper through the Presidential Public Service Fellowship. This year, I am working at the U.S. Supreme Court in the Office of the Clerk, assisting with new petitions, providing procedural guidance to attorneys and litigants, and preparing orders and judgments from the Court. I also received Harvard’s endorsement and was a finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. Looking ahead, I intend to continue engaging with animal law and policy, perhaps through initiatives at the College to engage students with the subject sooner, and even after, as I pursue a career in constitutional and government law.

Each week, Professor Stilt took the time to handwrite comments on my papers, engaging with my questions, recognizing my insights and prompting me to share them with the class, while also posing her own questions that pushed me to think more deeply. My experience with Professor Stilt and the Animal Law and Policy Program has been one of mentorship and encouragement. Even my law school peers have become mentors for me. I have Professor Stilt and the ALPP to thank for affirming my commitment to pursuing law, and to using it in service of communities like my own.

— Michelle Balderrama
Harvard Class of 2026



Animal Law & Policy Writing Prize

Each year at graduation the Law School awards numerous prizes of \$1,000 for the best papers written by Harvard Law School students. Of these, the Program awards the prizes for animal law and policy or a related field, such as food law, on a topic directly relevant to animals.

Congratulations to this year's winners of the Animal Law & Policy Program Writing Prize:

Lia Anderson, JD '27

BaMoozled: The Making and Milking of Mammy

Samantha M. Goerger, JD '25

For the Benefit of All the People: Combating Factory Farm Pollution with Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment

Derek J. Simshauser, JD '25

State Bans on Cell-Cultivated Meat and the Dormant Commerce Clause

This year, the Program awarded the prize to Lia Anderson (JD/MDiv '27), along with two other recipients. The following is an excerpt from her paper investigating parallels between depictions of Black women and dairy cows.

“...As a result of these advertisements [of Aunt Jemima and Elsie the Borden Cow] and their associated imagery, I aim to demonstrate that consumers are assuaged into believing that the product being sold, and later consumed, was produced without exploitation. Consequently, the unjust conditions endured by the depicted individuals persist, compromising the development of legal remedies and policy proposals that would address and potentially ameliorate the exploitation that these individuals have been subjected to. These images do more than depict: they reshape, reinforce, and reaffirm. The myths constructed by these images are themselves destructive; influencing consumer’s perceptions, and in doing so, shaping the way in which the law can be conceived of as a tool to address the most urgent issues of our time; issues which demand action informed by a vision imbued with clarity—both factual and moral.

Evil begins neither with an institution nor with an individual, but with an idea. Images—one of the most effective ways to communicate an idea—possess the ability to shape an individual’s present perception and future vision. Nevertheless, social change necessitates an unobstructed witnessing, for identifying the most pressing issues of our time requires preemptively acknowledging what is.

No one forgets the feeling of being bamboozled. No feeling is more visceral; none more real. In the moment following it, one often experiences a sense of helplessness in lieu of the hopefulness that once provided a mooring during the years preceding it—the moment that exposed a crack in the image that was once believed to be reality.

This crack—although revealing an inconceivable number of injustices—simultaneously offers an opening, granting one the opportunity to rectify what had, for years prior, gone unnoticed. It is only during such moments—when reality is seen for what it is—that one is able to imagine what reality could be.”

...from “BaMoozled: The Making and Milking of Mammy”

by Lla Anderson
HLS/MDiv Class of ‘27





HARVARD ANIMAL LAW SOCIETY

The Harvard Animal Law Society (HALS) works to protect animals through the legal system, collecting resources for students and helping each other learn and advocate on behalf of animals. Throughout the year, HALS hosts social and academic events and attends conferences with animal law professionals from around the country. Student representatives also collaborate closely with our Program, which provides financial and other forms of support.

The Animal Law Society has four major goals:

1. To support HLS students interested in animal protection law;
2. To engage the HLS community with issues facing animals, and educate its peers and community on how the law can help or hurt;
3. To serve delicious vegan meals (HALS welcomes meat-eaters, vegetarians, and vegans alike—and promises that everyone will love their food!); and
4. To work to protect animals, especially via the legal system.

The 2024-2025 HALS President Lia Anderson shared some reflections about the year:

Over the course of the academic year, I had the extreme pleasure of serving as President for the Harvard Animal Law Society. Even with a partially full board amid many campus-wide challenges last year, we were able to hold more events than many of the organizations on the law school campus. We are indebted to ALPP for its support, and endlessly grateful, thereby, for all who support ALPP. Including an exhaustive list of all of our events and gathering would take up too much space, but some highlights of our programming included the following:

- Co-hosting a lecture and writing workshop with Matthew Halteman, Calvin University Philosophy Professor and author of *Hungry Beautiful Animals* in conversation with ALPP’s very own Bonnie Nadzam;

- Hosting climate, vegan, and human activist, Christopher Eubanks, who discussed the intersections between speciesism and other forms of systemic bias;
- Co-hosting Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, founder of Selah Carefarm, a first of its kind sanctuary for healing traumatic grief of human and nonhuman animals in a shared space;
- Collaborating with Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School on a number of animal and environmental advocacy-related events;
- Hosting our annual Farm Sanctuary trip to Unity Farm Sanctuary in Sherborn, MA, and
- Co-hosting Animal Law Week with ALPP.

Tom Woollard / We Animals

“HALS’ impact on the Harvard community is palpable. Many of my peers have expressed to me that our events have changed the way that they see nonhuman animals, and resultantly, they have felt encouraged to critically interrogate and consider ways in which to improve their relationship to nonhuman animals. Furthermore, my time as a HALS member has inspired me to start an organization at Harvard Divinity School composed of individuals whose theological perspectives are informed by their relationship to nonhuman animals and the environment. In creating this organization, I aim to utilize the lessons that I have learned as a HALS board member to carve out a space at Harvard Divinity School where we find ways to address these issues. And of course, I look forward to future collaborations with HALS.”

— Lla Anderson, 2024-2025 HALS President

Animal Law Week 2025 Recap

In March, ALPP and the Harvard Animal Law Society (HALS) held the annual **Animal Law Week** at Harvard Law School. Approximately 375 individuals attended our five panels. The week opened and closed with explorations of humans' use of birds and other animals, from a Monday afternoon discussion of the pandemic potential of avian influenza to a candid conversation on Friday about the impacts of corporate and government policies on poultry farming in the U.S. The talks on the days in between covered solutions for endangered wildlife, animal festivals, and careers in animal law. Those unable to attend any of these panels in real time or wishing to watch any of them again can find the recordings [here](#).

Monday: ALPP Research Fellow Bonnie Nadzam engaged with Ann Linder, Research Scholar with the Law, Environment & Animals Program at Yale Law School, Tufts University's Dr. Jonathan Runstadler and Dr. Wendy Puryear, and NPR's William Stone in a discussion of the science of avian influenza and its spread among wildlife, media coverage of outbreaks, and federal policy responses. Watch the recording [here](#).

Tuesday: Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor of Law and Clinic Faculty Director Mary Hollingsworth moderated a compelling conversation with leading wildlife attorneys, Erica Fuller and Ramona McGee, who shared their insights on protecting some of the world's most endangered species and on navigating challenges in a changing legal landscape. Watch the recording [here](#).

Wednesday: Elizabeth MeLampy '21 discussed her soon-to-be released first book, *Forget the Camel* (Apollo 2025), with ALPP Faculty Director Professor Kristen Stilt, who had the opportunity to read an advance copy. Their exchange raised illuminating questions, explored themes revealed in the book, such as what value animal festivals hold for humans and what different kinds of festivals (e.g., the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race or Groundhog Day) reveal about human values, and probed the complex intersection of animal welfare and cultural tradition. Watch the recording [here](#).

Thursday: HALS President Lla Anderson '25 moderated a rich exchange with animal law professionals Tené Johnson, Alysson Gambardella '24, Melissa Alpert '17, and Isabella Nilsson '24, who shared their career journeys and ideas for ways students and activists can champion animal welfare and rights in myriad settings, from non-profit advocacy to private practice and much more. Watch the recording [here](#).

Friday: Amanda Hitt, champion for food system whistleblowers, and Craig Watts, a former contract chicken farmer, shared a candid and informative exchange, educating participants on the realities for poultry growers and their complex relationships with the birds they raise, American consumers, and the corporations and subsidies propelling the industry. Watch the recording [here](#).

Graduate Students

In addition to HLS's robust and vibrant J.D. students, the school also offers two graduate degrees, LL.M. and S.J.D. The LL.M. is a one-year program mainly for students whose first law degree is from a country other than the U.S. The S.J.D. is a highly competitive doctoral-level degree that involves additional coursework, extensive preparation for oral exams in three of four fields, and the research and writing of a substantial dissertation. Students seek a S.J.D. mainly to obtain law school teaching positions in the U.S. and around the world.

Professor Stilt supervises LL.M. and S.J.D. students, and they go on to make their mark on the world in important ways, whether through advocacy work or in academia. This year, she supervised LL.M. students Yu-Wei Chen and Biyuan Hu (who was subsequently accepted into the S.J.D. program at HLS). Her S.J.D. student Sam Bookman completed his dissertation, titled "Reimagining Environmental Constitutionalism," received his degree, and accepted an assistant professorship at the University of Melbourne.





PRESENTATIONS

Our faculty, staff, and Visiting Fellows share their research with audiences across campus and around the world, sparking conversations that influence scholarship, policy, and practice. ALPP considers this outreach essential to its mission: ensuring that innovative animal law and policy research reaches the widest possible audience. Through dedicated funding, we help Visiting Fellows participate in conferences, workshops, and symposia that might otherwise be out of reach—amplifying their voices and expanding the impact of our collective work. Continued support makes it possible for ALPP to sustain and grow this vital exchange of ideas on a truly global scale.

Kristen Stilt

Stilt, Kristen. “Someone.” Keynote address at the Helsinki Animal Law Conference, University of Helsinki Faculty of Law, August 12–14, 2024.

Stilt, Kristen and Montes, Macarena. Guest Lecture, “Animal Rights and Rights of Nature,” Jill Lepore’s and Jim Salzman’s Rights of Nature course at Harvard Law School, October 7, 2024.

Stilt, Kristen. “Someone: Emerging Animal Rights in the Anthropocene.” Presentation at the Legal Theory Workshop, Fordham Law School, April 3, 2024.

Stilt, Kristen. “Human Rights in the Era of Humans.” Presentation at the 40th Anniversary of Human Rights at Harvard Law School, panel: Investing in a Just Future: (Re)Imagining the Field, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA.

Stilt, Kristen. “Meat and Zoonotic Disease.” Presentation at the Defund Meat Conference, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany, January 2024. (An amended version published as “Avian Flu Shows the Need for Transformative Meat Governance,” *Verfassungsblog*, October 3, 2025.)

Stilt, Kristen, and Nadzam, Bonnie “Someone.” Presentation at the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program Workshop, Harvard Law School, December 3, 2024.

Stilt, Kristen, and Macarena Montes Franceschini. “Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature.” Presentation at the Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Workshop, February 7, 2024.

Stilt, Kristen. “Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature.” Presentation at the Harvard Law School Faculty Workshop, February 22, 2024.

Kristen Stilt’s **presentation** of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act was recorded and published by the Brooks Institute’s Animal Law Fundamentals series. In the video, Professor Stilt discusses the Act, which sets out to reform and regulates the slaughter of animals for human consumption. She traces the Act’s legislative origins, from congressional visits to slaughterhouses and studies of animal experiences of fear and pain, to the compromises that were struck with industrial producers, animal advocates, and religious groups. She explores the legal and ethical tensions embedded in the language of the Act, including definitions of “humane” and “suffering.” Finally, she examines legal challenges to the Act and issues with enforcement, as well as what the Act does and does not cover. The video is accompanied by a long-form paper further analyzing the Act.

Nirva Patel

Patel, Nirva. “Jain Principles, Animal Law, and Veganism: Living an Engaged Jain Life” hosted by the Arihanta Institute, November 28, 2024.

Patel, Nirva. Guest lecture. Professor Nadine Dolby’s Animals & Society class, Purdue University, April 17, 2025.

Patel, Nirva and Procaccianti, Rob. Public Presentation, Plant Week, Brown University’s Chapter of Allied Scholars for Animal Protection, Brown University, April 14, 2025.

Ann Linder

Linder, Ann. Panel event on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, Climate, and Public Health, Stanford Law School, October 11, 2024.

Linder, Ann. “Zoonotic Disease and Live Animal Markets in New York.” Participant in *NYC NOW* podcast featuring Governor Kathy Hochul, March 14, 2025.

Linder, Ann; Runstadler, Jonathan; Puryear, Wendy, and William Stone. “Has the Next Pandemic Already Begun?” Panel on the science and spread of avian influenza, Harvard Animal Law Week, March 3, 2025.

Linder, Ann. “Has the Next Pandemic Already Begun?” Presentation on avian influenza delivered to the Climate and Energy Policy Program, Stanford University, March 25, 2025.

Bonnie Nadzam

Nadzam, Bonnie. “Animal Chaplaincy in the Anthropocene.” Presentation at the Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Workshop, February 14, 2024.

Nadzam, Bonnie and Kristen Stilt. “Someone.” Presentation at the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program Workshop, Harvard Law School, December 3, 2024.

Nadzam, Bonnie and Matthew Halteman. Q&A on Craft and Rhetoric of “Hungry Beautiful Animals,” Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program Workshop, Harvard Law School April 2025.

Pablo Castelló

Castelló, Pablo; Lla Anderson; and M.H. Tse. “Is Seeing Believing? Art, Narrative, and False Advertising in Advocacy,” The Canadian Animal Law Conference held at Toronto Metropolitan University in Toronto, September 29, 2024.

Castelló, Pablo. “Why Seeing Is Not Believing and Why Believing Is Seeing: On the Politics of Sight.” Virtual lecture, University of Victoria Faculty of Law, February 10, 2024.

Amy Fitzgerald

Fitzgerald, Amy. “Intimate partner violence, animal abuse, and custody considerations,” for the Canadian Bar Association and as part of the [webinar](#) “Fighting over Fido - The Intricacies of Pet Custody in Family and Civil Law - Views from across Canada.”

Jo-Anne McArthur / Te Protejo / We Animals

Macarena Montes

Montes, Macarena. “Rights in Focus: Personhood, Animal Collectives, a Healthy Environment” Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program (ALPP) at Harvard Law School, September 28 2024.

Montes, Macarena and Kristen Stilt. Guest Lecture, “Animal Rights and Rights of Nature,” Jill Lepore’s and Jim Salzman’s Rights of Nature course at Harvard Law School, October 7, 2024.

Montes, Macarena. “[Speciesist Language in the Law](#)” at the IX Animal Law Colloquium (Central University and Atacama University, Chile), based on the chapter she co-authored with philosopher Paula Casal in the book *Especismo y Lenguaje*.



Montes, Macarena. Guest Lecture. Delcianna Winders' Animal and the Law course at Vermont Law and Graduate School. Macarena taught a class session on animal rights and rights of nature, November 19, 2024.

Montes Franceschini, Macarena. "Animal Rights Jurisprudence." Class taught at the International Centre for Animal Rights and Ethics, February 15, 2024.

Montes Franceschini, Macarena. "Animal Personhood and Rights of Nature." Guest lecture for Professor David Dana's Animal and Wildlife Law and Policy course, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, February 26, 2024.

Montes, Macarena and Kristen Stilt. "Naturalized Rights of Animals, Animalized Rights of Nature." Presentation at the Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Workshop, February 7, 2024.

Montes, Macarena. "Animal Rights Jurisprudence in the Global South [Conference presentation]. Colloquium on Transforming Animal Protection Legislation in South Africa: A Constitutional Imperative" Hybrid event organized by the Animal Law Project, the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC) at the University of Johannesburg, Animal Law Reform South Africa, and Humane World for Animals South Africa. May 6, 2025.





PROGRAM EVENTS

Each year, the Animal Law & Policy Program hosts a series of lectures, discussions, and other events exploring critical and emerging questions relevant to the field of animal law. These events bring experts to HLS and draw large audiences of students, faculty, staff, and members of the Cambridge and Boston communities. Given the career paths of our students, we know that our events are providing future leaders of the world with important and inspiring talks and lessons.

November 2024

The Endangered Species Act: The Next 50 Years

A conference titled “The Endangered Species Act: The Next 50 Years” was held on November 16, 2024. The ALPP hosted the event, which was co-sponsored by the Brooks Institute, the Harvard Animal Law Clinic, and Harvard Law School’s Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic. Our panelists explored the Act’s successes and challenges over the past 50 years and its future directions. The conference brought together scholars, policymakers, and advocates to collectively assess lessons learned and to propose innovative strategies for the next 50 years, focusing on adaptive management, climate resilience, and community engagement. The conference fostered interdisciplinary dialogue, seeking to shape future conservation efforts, and ensure the ESA continues to protect biodiversity in a changing world. The event brought together approximately one hundred leading scholars, policymakers, and advocates to reflect on the successes and challenges of the ESA with specific panels on:

1. **Lessons Learned:** David Adelman, Jane Davenport, Murray Feldman, Tim Preso, & Gary Frazer
2. **Effectiveness:** Mary Hollingsworth and Andrew Mergen
3. **Underutilized Authorities:** Eric Glizenstein, Mary Hollingsworth, Ben Jesup, Delcianna Winders, & Shampa Panda
4. **Climate Related Challenges and Comparative Approaches to Conservation:** Amy Cordalis, Tim Male, James Salzman, Rachel Silverstein, & Lisa Van Atta
5. **Private Land Ownership & Conservation (HCPs, ITPs) and Captive Bred Wildlife Permitting; ESA Enforcement:** Kristen Floom, Katherine Meyer, Shennie Patel, & Gina Shultz

Recordings of the panels are available in their entirety at The Brooks Institute website.

“This Conference took place just as the current White House Administration began taking dramatic steps to weaken the ESA, for example, a set of rulemaking and procedural changes announced in spring 2025 that would sharply limit habitat-based protection and narrow when federal agencies must consult under the ESA; a proposed rule to rescind the regulatory definition of “harm” (e.g. to habitat); narrowing when and how informal and formal consultations under the ESA are performed; allowing expedited/alternative procedures during declared national energy emergencies, and more. The organizations and individuals who work on these issues, and who came together with great determination at this Conference, have since then been showing critical solidarity in defending the statute, conserving biodiversity, and working together to stave off the worst attacks.”

— Kathy Meyer, Inaugural Director, Animal Law & Policy Clinic

March 2025

Animal Law Week

- **Monday, March 3, 2025** – *Has the Next Pandemic Already Begun?* Presented by Dr. Jonathan Runstadler, Dr. Wendy Puryear, William Stone, & Ann Linder. Moderated by Bonnie Nadzam.
- **Tuesday, March 4, 2025** – *At the Brink: Pioneering Solutions to Protect Endangered Wildlife.* Presented by Ramona McGee & Erica Fuller. Moderated by Mary Hollingsworth.
- **Wednesday, March 5, 2025** – *Are You Not Entertained?* Kristen Stilt in conversation with Elizabeth MeLampy.
- **Thursday, March 6, 2025** – *Careers in Animal Law.* Presented by Tené Johnson, Alysson Gambardella, Melissa Alpert, & Isabella Nilsson. Moderated by Lla Anderson.
- **Friday March 7, 2025** – *Full Disclosure: A Poultry Farmer Speaks Out Amid Potential Policy Collapse and Evolving Threats to American Farmers.* Presented by Amanda Hitt & Craig Watts.

In the Spring, we hosted two remarkable speakers whose work investigates the profound relationships between human and nonhuman animals, inviting discussion of the complex and deep cultural, ethical, and spiritual aspects of human perception and treatment of animals.

SPRING 2025

April 2025

Matthew Halteman: “The Joyful Case for Going Vegan”

In April this year, author and Professor of Philosophy Matthew Halteman read from and discussed his new book, *Hungry Beautiful Animals*. “When you first hear the word ‘vegan,’” he asks, “what comes to mind? Is it an angry person chiding you for what is on your plate? Are you convinced that veganism is about condemnation and shame?” Dr. Halteman persuaded in a dynamic, hours-long roundtable with visitors, students, fellows, faculty and staff that it might be the case that joyful veganism is the most effective way to expand the movement. “Curiosity, as opposed to condemnation, [can be] the new calling card of vegans.”

April 2025

Joanne Cacciatore: “Human and Animal Expression of Traumatic Grief from Catastrophic Loss”

In April, together with the Harvard Animal Law Society, the Program hosted the visionary Dr. Joanne Cacciatore, Founder of Selah Carefarm in Sedona Arizona, the first therapeutic carefarm in the world for traumatic grief based on a framework that incorporates 40 domestic and farm animals rescued from abuse, torture, neglect, and homelessness. A vegan for over 50 years, Dr. Jo, as she is called, is also a Professor in the School of Social Work and Senior Global Futures Scholar at Arizona State University, where she is spearheading the Graduate Certificate in Trauma and Bereavement, and working on opening a new university center that will feature human-animal relationships. She talked to us about the animals she lives with, the studies she and her colleagues have undertaken in relation to the emotional lives of animals, the ways that both human-animals and non-human animals grieve, and heal, and the deep and ineffable relationship between these animals and the humans who visit Selah Carefarm amidst traumatic grief.

“ **My speaking event at Harvard was the academic highlight of an already rich year...** ”

I arrived at ALPP braced for pure rigor—Harvard Law School! I discovered instead hospitality so freeing it felt like family: a vegan feast, birthday sundaes, a pewter pebble bearing “Joy,” the theme of my lecture and workshop. This fellowship allowed me to be the sharpest, most imaginative version of myself. And if the event and dialogue felt more like reunion than some academic proving ground, it was no less Harvard for that, generating, so far, collaborations that are rigorous indeed—with ALPP faculty, staff, students, and alumni, prospects for a Chinese translation of my book, and invitations to present in venues as diverse as other law schools, sanctuaries, and even a governor’s mansion. ALPP’s community, reach, impacts, and mission continue to extend way beyond the event itself, and these collaborations touch lots of different kinds of places—places where there is dirt and mud, places where the china matches the rugs.

— Dr. Matthew Halteman





IN THE PRESS

The work of ALPP faculty, staff and Visiting Fellows received significant coverage in the media this year, including journalism in the *New York Times*, *Vox*, and many other news outlets. The list below is not exhaustive, but represents some of the impact and reach of our research this year.

The New York Times

On September 9, the *New York Times* featured our NYU and Harvard Live Animal Markets Project report. The story, which appeared on the front page of the *Science Times*, urges reforms to improve animal health and welfare to make these markets safer and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. It also quotes Ann Linder: “We use and consume animals here at higher levels than almost any other country on Earth. There is a real failure to look inwardly and really candidly at our own risk here in the U.S.”

The Nation's Health

In October, the American Public Health Association featured ALPP's work on zoonotic disease and animal industries in its publication, *The Nation's Health*. The article, which quotes ALPP's Associate Director of Policy and Research, Ann Linder, discusses some of the most important conclusions drawn from ALPP's [U.S. report](#). *The Nation's Health* reaches a broad public health audience.

Reuters

On November 7, ALPP Faculty Director Kristen Stilt was quoted by *Reuters* in a piece about the \$300,000 settlement that a family in Northern California received from Shasta County after the daughter's 4-H goat, Cedar, was sold at a livestock auction for a county fair in 2022 and slaughtered over the protests of the family. Cedar was taken from a farm in Sonoma County by Shasta County deputies without a warrant. Advancing Law for Animals represented the family, which alleged 15 causes of action, including state and federal constitutional violations, in the complaint it filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Professor Stilt noted in her comments to Reuters that these constitutional claims were one key to the settlement's large amount. She stated that unlike typical property damage claims involving pets, constitutional claims such as wrongful search and seizure enable jurors to “consider what they think a pet's real value is to the family,” meaning they “are not cabined in by the property language.”

The New York Times

On November 20, Ann Linder was cited in *New York Times* article “What Trump’s Return Could Mean for Animals.”

The Religion News Service

On November 27, *The Religion News Service* featured Nirva Patel about the ways in which some Jain Americans are choosing to celebrate Thanksgiving without harming animals.

Vox

A December 7, *Vox* article on new constitutional protections for animals adopted by Mexico quoted Professor Kristen Stilt and Rights of Nature Fellow Macarena Montes. Both Professor Stilt and Macarena expressed concerns about the implementation and enforcement of the constitutional provisions.

Faunalytics

In January 2025, *Faunalytics* published a concise summary of our Live Animal Markets Project report.

National Geographic

National Geographic quoted Professor Stilt in its recent article “Whales could one day be heard in court—and in their own words.”

The Gothamist

On March 14, *The Gothamist* cited Ann Linder and our Live Animal Markets Project in an article about live markets in New York City.

Bloomberg

On April 8, *Bloomberg* cited ALPP’s 2023 EATS Act report, authored by Legislative Policy Fellow Kelley McGill, in an article about the legislation, which was reintroduced as the “Food Security and Farm Protection Act.”

The New York Times

On April 29, *The New York Times* quoted Ann Linder in an article exploring the fate of laboratory animals amid research cuts.

“Ann Linder, an Associate Director at the Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School, worries that the fate of many lab animals will come down to the ‘whims and temperaments’ of individual researchers and lab employees. ‘Without oversight, some of those decisions will be poor ones, and many will be made out of callous necessity, without regard for the welfare of the animals in question.’”

— Emily Anthes, “Lab Animals Face Being Euthanized as Trump Cuts Research,” *The New York Times*, April 29, 2025



NEW PROJECTS & GRANTS

In June, Open Philanthropy announced a \$350,000 grant, enabling us to develop a Global Farmed Animal Assessment, which will assess farmed animal legal protections around the world, with the goal of continuous improvement.

The Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability at Harvard University announced the award of a seed grant to ALPP. With this seed grant, the Animal Law & Policy Program will host a workshop with the goal of bringing together key members of the global climate change and Rights of Nature movements who have indicated an interest and desire to work together to address common goals, such as the devastating effects of industrial animal agriculture on climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. The Animal Law & Policy Program aims to become Harvard’s hub for teaching, research, scholarship, and policy that connects rights of nature, climate change, sustainability, and animal rights.

“In most places, nature is considered property. Environmental law generally puts humans at the center, protecting the environment for the purpose of protecting humans. The rights of nature (RoN) movement has emerged as a corrective to this anthropocentrism. RoN advocates for a paradigm shift in people’s understanding of humans’ relationship with nature by granting rights to nature as a whole or to natural entities such as rivers, forests, and animals. RoN views nature as a subject rather than property, recognizing the interconnection of all living beings. This view has been associated with Indigenous peoples’ worldviews for generations, and many Indigenous communities have been crucial actors in the development and spread of RoN globally. Advocates have achieved remarkable success. For example, Ecuador recognizes RoN in its Constitution, and perhaps Ireland and Aruba will become the next to do so. Bolivia, New Zealand, Spain, Uganda, and Panama have recognized RoN in legislation, while higher courts in countries such as Colombia, Bangladesh, and India have recognized RoN in cases regarding rivers. Yet RoN and climate change remain distant in terms of legal representation, advocacy, research, and scholarship.”

— Kristen Stilt



STAYING IN TOUCH



Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals

LONG-LASTING IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

After more than a decade of ALPP courses, programming, outreach, policy, practice, publications, and more, it is becoming increasingly clear just how much community we are building—including with other institutions of higher education, both nationally and globally. The long-term effects of time in Animal Law class, at the Workshop table, among Visiting Fellows discussion and social engagements, and in events such as Animal Law Week and the 50-Year Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act are measurable in real ways. The energy we are generating is cumulative, and we encourage all of you who have been a part of the growth of this Program so far to reach out and to stay in touch.

Please contact us to let us know how your career is developing; we are initiating efforts to maintain connections with alumni and former Visiting Fellows and Scholars:

Alumni

The Harvard Law School Association Animal Law & Policy Network is an alumni volunteer-managed organization, co-chaired by Tom Bilello ('90) and Alicia Rodriguez ('15). This year, ALPP staff will be working more closely with this group to bring alumni together. Please stay tuned for further news, and in particular, watch for:

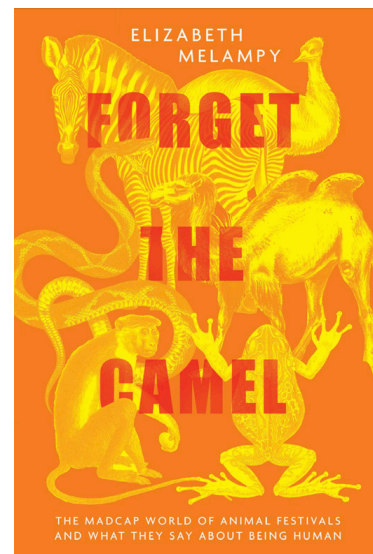
- An in-person gathering during the final day of Animal Law Week this Spring. This year, Animal Law Week, co-hosted by the Harvard Animal Law Society, will feature practicing attorneys in the field of animal law. We are currently looking for alumni sponsors to help realize a gathering on the evening of Friday, April 3, for drinks, vegan snacks, and to encourage networking and reconnecting, to foster

collaborative work and to cultivate ALPP community out in the world. Please contact Executive Director Lana Nadj (lnadj@law.harvard.edu) if you are interested in sponsoring or learning more about this event.

Alumni Features

- Elizabeth McLampy '21 authored her first book: *[Forget the Camel: The Madcap World of Animal Festivals and What They Say About Being Human](#)*, published in April 2025 by Apollo Publishers. The book journeys through eight animal festivals to consider relationships between human and nonhuman animals and the role story-telling plays in those relationships. *Psychology Today* published an interview between Marc Bekoff and Elizabeth discussing her new book.
- Former ALPP Visiting Fellow Silvina Pezzetta won the [AI Loves Animals competition](#) with her AI-created depictions blending companion animal species with farmed animal species: a parrot with a chicken, a cat with a pig, a cat with a cow, and a dog with a pig. The inaugural competition aimed to “encourage and showcase the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) to advocate for animals, particularly those used for food, clothing, research, and entertainment.”
- Professor Delcianna Winders, Director of the Animal Law and Policy Institute at Vermont Law and Graduate School and previously ALPP’s first Academic Fellow, was awarded the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section’s Excellence in the Advancement of Animal Law Award on May 8.
- M.H. Tse, S.J.D. '24 and Postdoctoral Fellow in Animal Law at the University of Toronto, was awarded a [Pushcart Prize](#) for her essay “Hello From the Children of Planet Earth,” excerpted from her dissertation and published in the *Alaska Quarterly Review*. ALPP Research Fellow [Bonnie Nadzam](#) selected the essay for publication. The same issue of the literary magazine also featured a piece authored by Ann Linder.

M.H. Tse also created and [installed an exhibition](#) with Yshia Wallace, Rachel Wallace, and Petrina Ng at the George Washington University Law School. The exhibit, titled “Grown Brutal from the Fare” was a special exhibit mounted for the Harms and Freedoms: Captivity, Natural Habitats, and Sanctuary Conference at the George Washington University Law School. The exhibit featured instruments of domestic predation drawn from the Museum’s collections touching on the themes of forced reproduction, sexual compulsion, and child separation.



FORMER FELLOWS & SOME CURRENT WORK



Some of the finest, most intelligent and committed scholars, attorneys, and activists in the field have gathered at the ALPP table to workshop each other's ideas, articles, essays, and books. Many of these ambitious projects are published before the Fellow's term is complete, while others have taken longer to come to fruition. ALPP would like to keep everyone in our community aware of each other's work and institutional whereabouts so that it is easy for you to find each other, share ideas, collaborate, and—when appropriate—return to our table, either as a speaker; to read from a newly published book; to support a student of your own; to present an innovative but as yet not fully formed idea; to share the draft of an amicus; or a new advocacy strategy... We remain here to support you however we can.

We are early in these efforts; as a start, below are samples of the phenomenal (and only the most recent) work and publications of our broader ALPP Fellows community. If you are a former Fellow and want to be included in this network, please email Lana Nadj at lnadj@law.harvard.edu, and please stay tuned for further opportunities to connect with our Fellows community.

Alex Blanchette

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Tufts University

As a Fellow at ALPP, I submitted a letter of intent for a grant application to the Mellon Foundation for a critical project on “university ecologies”: both transforming the literal physical (grass-dominated) lawns of campuses, and transforming the ways that university knowledge tends to be used to support corporate landholders (especially in animal agriculture). We received the award.

This year we're focused on working with ground keepers to reimagine our own campus in more ecologically and socially diverse ways. In 2026-2027 we'll be hosting worker groups in residence to a) challenge corporate animal production, and b) stage a lot of public debates that cut across questions of animal rights, worker rights, and ecology.

Cleo Verkuijl

Researcher in Sustainable Development, Food Systems, and One Health at the Oxford Martin School

I recently co-authored an *article* in *Nature*, “The Welfare Footprint Framework can help balance animal welfare with other food system priorities.” I was also recently cited in *this article* by Vox regarding animal welfare.

Finally, I am working on finalizing a report on the animal welfare — sustainable development nexus, work I dug into during my time at Harvard. My colleagues and I are looking forward to sharing it. Warm greetings from Oxford!

Peter Li

Associate Professor of East Asian Politics and Animal Policy and Law at the University of Houston-Downtown

An article I received drafting and editing assistance with, from Bonnie Nadzam and Kristen Stilt and the workshop table, was just accepted for publication. “Dog Meat Sales in China: The Legality and Politics of a Controversial Trade” will appear in the *Animal Law Review* first edition of 2026.

I am also working on:

- A monograph of China’s dog meat trade and the legal and political conflicts, utilizing all the materials I have gathered on the subject;
- Nation-building and animal agriculture: a look at China’s food security strategy; and
- Panda diplomacy and China’s quest for soft power in international politics.

Martha Smith-Blackmore

President of Forensic Veterinary Investigations

My publications and amici from 2024-2025 include:

- Smith-Blackmore, M., Montanaro, L., *Veterinary Forensics and Law* in Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Animal Law (Schaffner, J. Ed.) July 2025.
- Smith-Blackmore, M., Chapter 15: “Preparing Veterinarians to Respond to Animal Victims: Part I” in *Animals as Crime Victims: Multidisciplinary Implications of Moving Beyond the Property Paradigm*, Levitt, L., Rosengard, D., eds. Edward Elgar Publishing, Ltd. February 2024.
- Dega Mobile Vet Care; Cochrane, L.; Smith-Blackmore, M. Amici Curiae, Brief in Support of Legal Impact for Chickens. *Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Case Farms, L.L.C., Case Foods, Inc., and Case Farms Processing, Inc., Defendants-Appellees*. North Carolina Court of Appeals (COA24-673). Counsel Schietzelt, M. & Taylor L.


Recent trainings and presentations include:

- September 2025 *Animals as Victims, Property and Evidence: Key Insights from Veterinary Forensics*. Maine State Bar Association. Presentation held at PretiFlaherty, Portland, ME.
- July 2025 *The Veterinarian’s Role in the Future of Food Security – Alternative Proteins*. World Veterinary Association’s Congress, 11th One Health Summit, Washington, DC.
- June 2025 *Animals as Persons and Subjects of Rights in the Global South*, Study Weekend, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Harvard University Center for Hellenic Studies (Athens, Greece, online).

Hadar Aviram

Thomas Miller ‘73 Professor of Law, UC San Francisco Law

- “Plan B Activist Defense: Defending Animal Rights Activists in Courtrooms Hostile to Political Argumentation” is forthcoming from the *Vanderbilt Law Review*.



“My time at ALPP significantly broadened and deepened my understanding of the numerous negative impacts of industrial animal agriculture, including its effects on society and the environment, far beyond the deeply concerning aspects of the lived experiences of other animals. I gained an understanding of novel legal strategies being implemented to improve the lives of other animals. I am developing a stronger voice for speaking up for other animals in venues where it has previously been prohibitively challenging for me to speak my heart and mind, such as before the House of Delegates of the American Veterinary Medical Association. I believe the most critical aspect of the ALPP fellowship for me was building a network of friends and colleagues working in various ways to extend legal rights to other animals. It is heartening.”

— Martha Smith-Blackmore

Jan Dutkiewicz

Assistant Professor of Political Science in the Department of Social Science and Cultural Studies at the Pratt Institute

- In March 2025, Garrett Broad and I co-authored *The Flawed Ideology that Unites Grass-Fed Beef Fans and Anti-Vaxxers: From RFK Jr. To Hollywood A-listers and Democratic Senators, People Across the Political Spectrum are Jumping onto the Slippery Slope of Nature-Based Solutionism*.
- In February my book co-authored with Gabriel Rosenberg comes out from Basic Books: *Feed the People! Why Industrial Food is Good and How to Make it Even Better*.

Dinesh Wadiwel

Associate Professor in Human Rights and Socio-Legal Studies, The University of Sydney

- Wadiwel, D. (2025). “The Dairy Cow Labour Process: Notes from Marx’s Value Theory.” *Animal Studies Journal*, 14(1). At: <https://www.uowoajournals.org/asj/article/id/1545/>.
- Wadiwel, D. (2024). “Factory Farms for Fishes: Aquaculture, Biopolitics and Resistance.” In Felice Cimatti and Carlo Salzani (eds.), *The Biopolitical Animal*, (pp. 190-212). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Wadiwel, D. (2024). “Food animals as an economic class: Animals as commodities under capitalism.” In Josephine Browne and Zoei Sutton (eds.), *Human-Animal Relationships in Times of Pandemic and Climate Crisis: Multispecies Sociology for the New Normal*. London: Routledge.

“The opportunity to join ALPP as a fellow in 2021 was a turning point that led me to pursue a career change back into academia. Following the fellowship, I completed an LL.M. at Harvard Law School, and I am now a Research Fellow at the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO) at the University of Sussex in England. My work focuses on how trade agreements intersect with food systems—particularly their potential to raise or hinder protections for farm animals.”

— Carolina Maciel, Former Visiting Fellow



Pamela Frasch

The Brooks McCormick Jr. Scholar of Animal Law and Policy and Founder of the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark University

My forthcoming works include:

- “Animal Law Unveiled: Defining a New Era of Legal Advocacy” (with Birgitta Wahlberg) in the *Research Handbook on Animal Law and Animal Rights*,
- “Compassion and Justice: The Global Imperative of Animal Law Education” in the *Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law*.

My recent speaking engagements and presentations have included:

- “The Uncomfortable Future of Animal Law (Even If Everything Goes ‘Right’),” keynote lecture delivered at the University of Victoria, Canada.
- “A Cruel Canvas: Exploring Agency and the Ethical Implications of Animal Exploitation in the Arts,” keynote lecture delivered at the University of Helsinki, Finland.
- Panel moderator and speaker, 32nd Annual Animal Law Conference, Portland, OR.
- Master of ceremonies, Inaugural Animal Law Education Summit.
- “The Link Between Animal Abuse and Human Violence,” presentation at the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Symposium, Delaware.



*Finally, I also continued editorial work on the 7th edition of *Animal Law: Cases and Materials*, with the goal of ensuring the text remains an essential foundation for students and practitioners.*

Much of the work was started or deepened while a Visiting Fellow with the ALPP. I am grateful for the time I was given to pursue this work, and for the new friends and colleagues that I made during my time at Harvard.

Michelle Sinclair

International Director: A World of Good Initiative

The following list includes some of my work from the 2024-2025 year:

- Established an NGO “A World of Good Initiative” as a platform to host high-level international collaborations to improve animal welfare.
- Partnered with the federal Ministry of Food Security and Research in Pakistan to host a national forum to prioritise animal welfare and present a legislative bill proposal (Islamabad, 2024).
- Drafted an Industry Engagement Strategy for Humane World for Animals in Europe to identify mutual benefits and strategies to expedite the transition to cage-free egg production systems in the Eurozone.

Publications over the same period include:

- Jalali-Motahari, Azadeh S., Mandy B. A. Paterson, Amin Azadian, and Michelle Sinclair. “Public Perception of *Animal Welfare* in Iran.” *Animal Welfare* (in final stage of review).



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the Program will welcome new fellows, offer a wide variety of Animal Law courses to students, and continue to generate new scholarship and policy work that advances the field of Animal Law.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025-2026

We say farewell to Executive Director, Nirva Patel, who is pursuing new opportunities. We thank her for her service to the Program and the Clinic.

We welcome Lana Nadj as our new Executive Director. We are fortunate to have her join our team. Her connections with ALPP extend back to many of our previous projects. Lana has practiced as a litigator and is an experienced policy lawyer with an LL.M. from the University of Sydney and an LL.M. in Animal Law from the Vermont Law & Graduate School. Her organizational and leadership skills, enthusiasm, and warmth are already enhancing our collective work and energizing our team. Lana brings her international experience and connections to the Program as we engage plans to broaden our global reach and impact. We look forward to introducing Lana to you.

A Look Ahead at HALS in 2025-2026

The Harvard Law School Animal Law Society (HALS) continues to serve as an important community for HLS students and members of the broader Harvard community who share a passion for animals and a commitment to advancing their welfare.

This year, HALS is focusing on bringing the insights and expertise of practicing animal law attorneys to campus. One exciting panel for Fall features:

- Caitlin Hawks (Chief Program Officer, ALDF)

- Melissa Alpert (HLS '17, Staff Attorney, Humane World for Animals), and
- Stijn van Osch (Staff Attorney, Humane World for Animals).

The panelists will discuss their transitions from Big Law to public service. They will share candid reflections on the challenges and opportunities of that leap and offer advice for anyone considering a purpose-driven legal career—whether immediately or after time in private practice.

In the Spring, HALS and ALPP will co-host our annual Animal Law Week, with each day featuring practicing attorneys on different themes, including farmed animals and climate change, wildlife protection, food law and animal agriculture, and First Amendment protections tied to animal welfare advocacy.



Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals



NEW FELLOWS AND THEIR PROJECTS

Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals

In the Fall of 2025, we welcome two new Fellows to the Program. Each of these Fellows will be working to advance scholarship in the field of Animal Law through a diverse range of research and writing projects. Fellows have the opportunity to share their work in weekly workshops and to develop their ideas with support from Program faculty and staff.

Nina Kerstensteiner

Fulbright Visiting Scholar

Nina Kerstensteiner is a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Animal Law & Policy Program and a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Regensburg in Germany. Her work centers on comparative constitutional law, public law, animal law, and access to justice. She is particularly interested in the enforcement of animal law at the local, national, and international levels. She also examines strategic litigation in animal and environmental law, assessing how domestic and international court decisions shape legal frameworks.

Nina studied law at the University of Regensburg and completed a legal clerkship in Munich. She earned her *doctor iuris* at the University of Regensburg with a dissertation on strategic litigation in animal law, which was subsequently published as a scholarly monograph on animal rights and welfare. Her book received several awards, including the Winter Foundation Prize for the Rights of Nature and the Felix Wankel Junior Prize, and was a finalist for the German Thesis Award.

Debora M. Bresch

Research Fellow

As a Research Fellow at ALPP, Debora Bresch is overseeing the Farmed Animal Assessment Project. She is currently nearing completion of an LL.M. in Animal Law at Vermont Law & Graduate School as a Vermont Law Scholar and recently served as a Legal Fellow in the office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker. Debora first became involved in animal protection work during an extended stay in the Middle East and subsequently joined the ASPCA Government Affairs Department. She has since drafted and secured key animal protection laws in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, including measures to curb the sale of puppy mill dogs in pet stores, modernize cruelty law enforcement, and obtain millions of dollars for low-income spay/neuter services

and infrastructure. Debora also co-founded and served as president of CT Votes for Animals. She earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia College (Columbia University) and graduated cum laude from New York Law School.





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