



BROOKS MCCORMICK JR
**ANIMAL LAW &
POLICY PROGRAM**
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-2023

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Introduction and Executive Summary

As we conclude the eighth year of the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program and fourth year of the Animal Law & Policy Clinic, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has supported our work. Our steadfast commitment to analyzing and improving the treatment of animals through the legal system has been possible because of you.

This year was marked by several notable achievements, including our successful efforts to defend, California’s sales ban on animal products produced through certain forms of intensive confinement at the U.S. Supreme Court. Our amicus brief, written in the Clinic, presented the justices with images and descriptions of the intensive confinement of pigs and the egregious suffering it causes. Our brief engaged with the complex arguments of the dormant commerce clause while also giving the justices an unflinching picture of the actual conditions in which these animals are forced to live. Our highlights of the year also included favorable rulings in our ongoing campaign to enhance the psychological welfare of primates utilized in research, and the introduction of a new seminar on farmed animal law, created and taught by our Faculty Director, Professor Kristen Stilt.

In February, the Harvard Law Bulletin featured a 10-page article about our work entitled “All Creatures Great and Small.” This was followed by a full front-page article in the Harvard Crimson, published at Harvard College, which celebrated the achievements of our Animal Law & Policy Clinic. We never miss a chance to talk about the urgent agenda of animal law, and the author of the Harvard Crimson article is now considering pursuing a career in this field.

This report highlights the achievements and progress made in the previous academic year on behalf of animals. We cannot overstate the value of our work

at Harvard Law School (HLS). HLS alumni include some of the most influential people in the world, and we have the chance to educate them about the many ways in which human treatment of animals is morally and ethically wrong and bad for both human and nonhuman animals. HLS alums include industry leaders around the world, U.S. Presidents, and 21 U.S. Supreme Court justices. With more than 1,790 current students representing 120 countries and 12,000 living alumni, our Animal Law & Policy Program is uniquely positioned to speak directly to the world leaders of today and tomorrow.

We are grateful to you for allowing us to do what we do best. Every day we strive to achieve impactful litigation with tangible outcomes, to educate and inspire students and individuals around the world, to produce scholarly work that reaches a wide audience and charts new paths, and to engage in policy work to identify crucial problems and provide roadmaps for policymakers.

Our Program and Clinic rely solely on donations from individuals and institutions to carry out this work. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors, without whom our work would not be possible. These donors include:

- **Bob Barker**
- **Virginia Coleman**
- **Simone Friedman**
- **Brad Goldberg**
- **Phillip and Lynne Himelstein**
- **Ariel Nessel / Mobius**
- **Charles Thomas**
- **Animal Welfare Trust**
- **Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy**
- **Stray Dog Institute**
- **Anonymous**



People

Animal Law & Policy Program Faculty and Staff

The Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program is led by Harvard Law School Professor **Kristen Stilt**, who launched the Program in 2014. The Program’s Executive Director **Chris Green** has worked with Professor Stilt since 2015, supported by Program Administrator **Ceallaigh Reddy** who continues to manage all administrative and organizational needs, **Sarah Pickering** who promotes the work of both the Program and Clinic as Communications Director, and Marina Apostol who supports the Clinic. In addition, Associate Director of Policy & Research **Ann Linder** managed the Program’s live animal markets project, assisted by Research Editors and Writers **Bonnie Nadzam**, **Valerie Wilson McCarthy**, and **Caroline Merrifield**.

For the fourth consecutive year, Professor **Katherine Meyer** served as the Director of our Animal Law & Policy Clinic alongside Clinical Instructor **Rachel Mathews**, Clinical Fellow Rebecca Garverman, and Clinic Research Assistant **Ashton Macfarlane**, a JD/PhD student at Harvard Law School. For the third year, we were delighted to host a Lecturer on Law **Eric Glitzenstein** who taught Wildlife Law. In May 2023, **Kelley McGill**, a graduate of Harvard Law School joined the team as Regulatory Policy Fellow.



Kristen Stilt
Faculty Director



Chris Green
Executive Director



Katherine Meyer
Clinic Director



Eric Glitzenstein
Lecturer on Law



Ceallaigh Reddy
Program Administrator



Sarah Pickering
Communications Director



Rachel Mathews
Clinical Instructor



Rebecca Garverman
Clinical Fellow



Carney Anne Nasser
Clinic Research Fellow



Kelley McGill
Regulatory Policy Fellow



Ashton Macfarlane
Clinic Teaching Assistant



Ann Linder
Associate Director of Policy & Research



Nirva Kapasi Patel
Global Policy Fellow



Valerie Wilson McCarthy
Research Editor



Bonnie Nadzam
Writer & Editor



Caroline Merrifield
Research Editor

Visiting Fellows

In addition to our core team, each year the Animal Law & Policy Program hosts Visiting Fellows. These appointments provide opportunities for outstanding scholars from a range of disciplines and legal practitioners to spend a semester or academic year working on their own research, writing, and scholarly engagement on projects in the field of animal law and policy. After being chosen via a formal application and selection process, Fellows 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. Some of our Visiting Fellows come to us on sabbatical from their home institutions, while others are “post-docs,” starting their fellowships after completing Ph.D. or comparable programs. This past year we hosted 12 Visiting Fellows.

The work of the Visiting Fellows and Researchers garnered significant media coverage over the past year, drawing public attention to animal law and policy issues, including in The Lancet Planetary Health, The New Republic, Vox, and Forbes.

Our 2022–2023 Visiting Fellows are listed alphabetically below with their research project titles.



Odile Ammann
Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, Criminal Science, and Public Administration of the University of Lausanne (Switzerland)
The Power of Agricultural Interest Groups in Legislative Processes



John Bliss
Assistant Professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law
The Animal Lawyer



Polina Bochenkova
Independent Researcher
How Can a Country Build Political, Cultural and Market Power to Transition Away from Animal Agriculture? A Case Study of The Netherlands



Danielle Diamond
Attorney, Community Organizer and Environmental Policy Advocate
Transformative Rural Justice for All: Across Differences of Social Space, Time, and Species



Jan Dutkiewicz
Postdoctoral Fellow at the Swiss National Science Foundation
Politics and the Law in the Age of Food Animal Obsolescence



Macarena Montes Franceschini
Attorney and Independent Researcher
Nonhuman Animal Personhood: Moral and Legal Implications



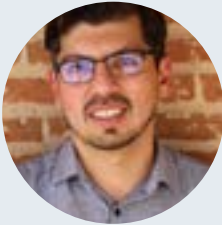
Tony Gerrans
Executive Director of African Operations Humane Society International
Does Climate Change Litigation Present Legal and Policy Opportunities to Challenge Intensive Animal Agriculture: A Review of Global Developments with Specific Attention to the South African Context



Che Gossett
Racial Justice Postdoctoral Fellow at the Initiative for a Just Society at Columbia Law School
Abolition, Law, and Animality



Helen Harwatt
Senior Research Fellow, Energy, Environment, and Resources at Chatham House
Assessing the Impacts of Food Systems on Environmental Sustainability, Public Health, and Ethics



Iván Sandoval-Cervantes
Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)
“Dead Letter”: Animal Law, Activism, and Mexican Politics



Carlos Contreras López
Attorney
Assessing the Impacts of Food Systems on Environmental Sustainability, Public Health, and Ethics



Michelle Sinclair
International Animal Welfare Program Manager
Chinese Livestock Leaders Perception of the Feasibility and Usefulness of National Animal Welfare Legislation

Program Work and Achievements

The Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program and the Animal Law & Policy Clinic had an eventful year of scholarly activity, research, online events, and litigation. Below we outline many of our accomplishments on behalf of animals.

Proposition 12 Report

The day before the Supreme Court heard arguments in the case National Pork Producers Council v. Ross, Harvard Law School Professor Laurence Tribe, one of the world’s leading constitutional scholars, weighed in on the case in an **op-ed** he co-authored with ALPP’s Executive Director **Chris Green** and **Kelsey Eberly**. Kelsey is our former ALPP Legislative Policy Fellow and author of our **60-page report**, released in August 2022, entitled “Potential Reverberations of Pork Producers’ Commerce Clause Challenge Before the Supreme Court.”

On May 11, 2023, in a momentous win for the animal protection movement, the U.S. Supreme Court **upheld the constitutionality** of **Proposition 12**. Reacting to the decision, Clinical Fellow Rebecca Garverman, who worked on an **amicus brief**, which our Animal Law & Policy Clinic also filed in the case, said: “The Supreme

Court’s recent ruling on Prop 12 is a resounding affirmation of States’ ability to make moral choices about what ends up on the shelves of in-state stores. With Proposition 12, the citizens of California went to the ballot box to provide overwhelming support for an initiative that bans the products of cruel confinement practices.”

Rebecca worked with Clinic Director Katherine Meyer on the brief, which was filed in August 2022 on behalf of a coalition of animal protection organizations and law professors, including San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF SPCA), the San Diego Humane Society, Marin Humane, Mercy for Animals (MFA), Rise for Animals, the Justice for Animals Program at the University of San Francisco’s School of Law, and Professor Douglas A. Kysar at Yale Law School.



Live Animal Markets Project

The Animal Law & Policy Program continues to lead a multi year research analysis of global policy responses to live animal markets and the role they play in zoonotic disease transmission, which now includes more than 15 institutional partners in over a dozen countries.

In the summer of 2023, ALPP and New York University plan to release the U.S. section of this research as a stand-alone report via an exclusive with The New York Times. The 170-page report was researched and written by ALPP’s Ann Linder, Valerie Wilson McCarthy, Chris Green, Bonnie Nadzam, Kristen Stilt, and Dale Jamieson of the Center for Environmental and Animal Policy at New York University. The report will be independently reviewed by Kelsey Eberly, Doug Kysar, Carney Anne Nasser, Jonathan Pekar, and Delcianna Winders.

Both the U.S. country report and the forthcoming multi country report aim to provide a comprehensive assessment that will aid policymakers considering regulatory action, contribute to public education about zoonotic risks, and serve the human health and animal protection NGO communities. Contributors to the forthcoming multi-country report include New York University’s Center for Environmental and Animal Protection, the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law, Lewis & Clark Law School’s Center for Animal Law Studies, NALSAR School of Law in Hyderabad, the Universidad del Pacífico’s Environmental Management Clinic, the University of Ghana, the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, the University of Victoria Faculty of Law, Yale Law School’s Law, Ethics & Animals Program, and Zhongnan University of Economics and Law in Wuhan, China.

Brooks Animal Law Digest

Clinical Research Fellow Carney Anne Nasser conducts research on the latest advancements in animal law, policy, environmental matters, food regulations, and administrative law. She gathers this information to create weekly summaries encompassing federal and state case law updates, ongoing legislative efforts, regulatory actions, scholarly publications, and international news relevant to animal law. The resulting Brooks Animal Law Digest, compiled by the Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy, is freely distributed to benefit the wider animal welfare community, including practitioners, academic clinics, programs, and scholars.

These regular updates encompass 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. The Brooks Animal Law Digest is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to keep up to date on the latest developments in animal law and policy. Anyone interested can [subscribe to the Brooks Animal Law Digest](#) via its website.



Animal Law & Policy Clinic

In 2019, the Brooks McCormick Jr Animal Law & Policy Program launched the Animal Law & Policy Clinic to provide students with direct, hands-on experience in animal advocacy on behalf of farmed animals, wildlife, animals used in research, entertainment, and in other forms of captivity, using strategies including litigation, legislation, administrative practice, and policymaking. Under the supervision of the Clinic Director and staff, the Clinic operates like a public interest law firm with students taking on real-world cases that impact animals. In the four years since its founding, the Clinic was directed by Katherine Meyer, one of the most experienced animal protection litigators in the country. Professor Meyer was supported by Clinical Instructor Rachel Mathews, Clinical Fellow Rebecca Garverman, Regulatory Policy Fellow Kelley McGill, and Clinic Teaching Assistant Ashton Macfarlane. The students are also given an opportunity to take media training and interface with the media.

My time in the clinic has been life changing. Director Kathy Meyer showed me how to be an effective voice for our nonhuman neighbors in and outside the courtroom, and in the face of a sixth mass extinction event, little has seemed more important to me since.

- Ben Rankin '23

The following describes the Clinic's work and achievements for animals over the past academic year, with many cases still ongoing. You also can read an inspiring blog post by Kira Horowitz (J.D. '25) who called [New Avenues for Animal Advocacy](#) about the Clinic, which she was inspired to take after [her older sister Dana's experience doing so](#).

My experience in the Clinic was outstanding. I enjoyed every part of the process and made significant progress in each of the projects I worked and in my personal skills as a lawyer.

The Fall Semester 2022

In the Fall Semester of 2022, Rachel Mathews, previously a senior attorney with the PETA Foundation, joined the Clinic as a Clinical Instructor. We were fortunate to welcome back Rebecca Garverman, Class of 2021, as our Clinical Fellow, reflecting on the increasing popularity of the Clinic.

The Semester commenced with the Clinic actively engaged in preparing and subsequently submitting an [amicus brief](#) to the Supreme Court of the United States in support of Proposition 12. Rebecca and Clinician [Ashton Macfarlane](#) (J.D. '23) collaborated on drafting the amicus brief.

In October, the City of Cambridge became the fifth municipality in Massachusetts to ban the sale of fur.

The Clinic supported the ordinance with [a written submission](#) detailing the gratuitous cruelty of the factory farms that breed and slaughter animals for their fur, and 3L [clinician Arlene Lopez testified](#) at the City's hearing on the matter.

In November, on behalf of several conservation groups, the Clinic submitted [a listing petition](#) to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to reclassify the Florida manatee as an "endangered" species due to adverse human and environmental impacts, which are causing a precipitous decline in the population. The impact was so great that the FWS provided supplemental food to manatees in Florida who are starving from a lack of sea grass. The petition necessitated an extensive examination involving both scientific aspects and pertinent legal frameworks. Led by clinician [Ben Rankin](#) (J.D. '23), the students dedicated two semesters to preparing the petition and received assistance from clinicians Max Hantel, Babs Tsao, Max Lupin, and Savanna Bergeron.

On behalf of Rise for Animals and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the Clinic also continued to litigate the case against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) challenging its refusal to improve the standards for the psychological wellbeing of primates used in research. You can read our [opening brief](#) and [reply brief](#) on our website.

On behalf of the same clients, we continued to litigate our [related case against the USDA](#) challenging its secret inspection policy under which it no longer conducts full annual inspections of each research lab subject to the Animal Welfare Act, but instead does only partial inspections of labs accredited by the industry-dominated Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), which represent the majority of labs in this country. The Clinic received the official Administrative Record and will be filing its opening brief during the spring 2023 semester.

The Clinic also boldly challenged the horrific vision research being performed on baby monkeys in the laboratory of Dr. Margaret Livingstone at Harvard Medical School. These publicly funded experiments are not only cruel but present serious animal welfare concerns. In October 2022, the Clinic sent [a letter to the Medical School's official Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee](#) (IACUC) expressing its concerns and calling on the Committee to halt these experiments.



We also continued to advocate on behalf of cephalopods—octopuses, squid, and cuttlefish. With the assistance of one of our clients, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), we helped generate a letter from Senators and Congresspeople urging the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to grant our pending petition to amend the definition of “animal” used by NIH to include cephalopods so that these animals will receive basic humane treatment when used in research. Two of our clinicians, Hallie Aylesworth (J.D. ’24) and **Asha Ramakumar** (J.D. ’23), participated with PCRM in **a webinar for Congressional staffers** on the matter. Following the webinar, **a letter was signed by 19 federal lawmakers** in support of amending the policy to include cephalopods.

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity, the Clinic continued to litigate a Freedom of Information Act case against the FWS to obtain access to information maintained in the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) database concerning the import and export of wildlife. As a result of the litigation, the FWS has disclosed thousands of pieces of information, and we continue to advocate for disclosure of additional information that has been withheld from the public on the grounds that it would reveal “confidential commercial information.”

The Clinic also continues to advocate for the tule elk who live in Tomales Point in Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California. The elk have been dying of starvation and dehydration because they do not have access to habitat south of a human-erected fence that was constructed decades ago by the National Park Service designed to protect livestock. The Clinic submitted comments on the National Park Service’s proposed General Management Plan revisions, which the Park Service is considering in direct response to the Clinic’s lawsuit. Due to the lawsuit and local advocacy efforts, the Park Service is now providing supplemental water to the elk. The Clinic is engaged in exciting policy initiatives that involve the public trust doctrine, hunting and trapping, roadside zoos, rulemaking petitions, wildlife “roundups,” and other matters that cannot be publicly disclosed at this time.

The Spring Semester 2023

The Clinic was extremely busy in the spring semester with many important developments in its cases and projects to protect animals in captivity and the wild. We also had our highest-ever number of students taking the Clinic due to its ever-growing popularity and impact—16 Clinicians and two Research Assistants.

On May 11, 2023, the Clinic received excellent news that the Supreme Court had rejected the pork industry’s attempt to derail Proposition 12. In a **divided opinion**, the Court rejected the pork industry’s arguments that the Initiative violated the Dormant Commerce Clause of the Constitution. The Clinic contributed to this ruling by submitting an amicus brief on behalf of a coalition of animal protection groups. In addition to arguing the constitutional law principles at issue in the case, **the brief** explained to the Court

how much pain and suffering confinement practices cause pigs. Acknowledging that Proposition 12 serves legitimate “moral and health interests,” the Court refused to strike down the Initiative. The amicus brief was prepared by Clinical Fellow **Rebecca Garverman** and **Clinician Ashton Macfarlane** (J.D. ’23).



The Clinic also received great news in its primate psychological wellbeing case. On March 23, 2023, Judge Julie R. Rubin of the federal district court in Maryland **granted summary judgment** to the Clinic’s plaintiffs, Rise for Animals, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, in its case challenging a decision by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to deny a petition to improve the psychological wellbeing of primates used in research. The Court not only found that the Clinic had established sufficient Article III standing, but that it also was correct on the merits—i.e., the USDA unlawfully refused to improve the relevant standard. Indeed, Judge Rubin held that the USDA “based its denial on facts known by it to be false,” and separately chastised the agency for its “failure to address even one comment (or category of comment) [of the 10,000 comments submitted in support of the Petition] in its denial.”

In the course of her opinion, Judge Rubin also expressed concern about the USDA’s new policy under which it no longer conducts full annual inspections of all research facilities—a sentiment that bodes well for the Clinic’s separate challenge to that policy which is also before Judge Rubin, who wrote that “the court rejects the notion that substituting a severely abridged version of proper, full annual inspections is consistent with AWA’s expression of congressional intent to protect the welfare of animals in research settings.”

In this related case challenging the USDA’s secret inspection policy, whereby it no longer conducts full inspections of research facilities to ensure that they adhere to all applicable Animal Welfare Act (AWA) standards, the Clinic filed its opening summary judgment brief. The brief, drafted by Clinicians Max Hantel (J.D. ’23), Benson Beidler (J.D. ’24), and Dana Horowitz (J.D. ’22), demonstrates that the Plaintiffs (Rise for Animals and ALDF) have standing and that the new secret policy violates the plain language of the Animal Welfare Act.

The Clinic, in its continuing effort to save the Florida manatee from extinction, on May 2, 2023, sent a **60-day notice letter** to the FWS for failing to meet its duty under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to determine whether the Clinic’s November 21, 2022, Petition to Reclassify the Manatee from “threatened” to “endangered” is “warranted” under the ESA—the first step to changing the listing status of the species. The notice letter, which is a requisite prelude to suing the agency under the ESA, was sent on behalf of the Clinic, the Center for Biological Diversity, the Miami Waterkeeper, Save the Manatee, and an individual activist. Graduating student Ben Rankin took the lead on this, with help from fellow student Savannah Bergeron (J.D. ’24) who is an eighth-generation Floridian.

We initially hoped that the Service would respond to our petition quickly, given the overwhelming scientific evidence showing that manatees need increased protection. But as no response came, and manatee populations continued to decline, it became clear that more must be done to protect these beloved gentle giants.

- Savannah Bergeron ’24

Credit: Laura Lee Cascada / The Every Animal Project / We Animals Media

In April, the Clinic submitted **comprehensive comments** to the USDA in response to an advance notice of proposed rulemaking related to public contact with wild and exotic animals and enrichment for all species. The comments advanced arguments under the AWA and ESA and urged the USDA to ban public contact with captive wild animals, impose heightened training requirements for all personnel that handle wild and exotic animals, and require enrichment for all regulated species. Elizabeth Duncan (J.D. '23), Andrew Slottje (J.D. '23), and Hallie Aylesworth (J.D. '24) prepared the submission.

On behalf of Hawaii-based clients For the Fishes, Pono Advocacy, and Moku o Keawe cultural practitioner Mike Nakachi, the Clinic filed complaints with Hawaii's **Department of Land and Natural Resources** (DLNR) and the **Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority** (NELHA) requesting investigations into Kanaloa Octopus Farm, a petting zoo that uses dozens of wild-caught octopuses for tourist interactions and captive breeding experiments. Using public records and social media, the Clinic's investigation revealed that the Farm routinely possesses undersize octopus and has likely unlawfully acquired animals. The letters argue that the DLNR and NELHA must fulfill their duties under Hawaii's Constitution to prevent unjustifiable harm to public trust resources (including octopuses and their ecological niche), and to protect Native Hawaiian cultural beliefs and practices. Noam Weiss (LL.M. '23) and Ricardo Diaz Alarcon (LL.M. '23) led the investigation and drafting.



In February, the Clinic and the Wild Minds Lab at the University of St. Andrews School of Psychology and Neuroscience in the UK sent a **letter to the National Institutes of Health** (NIH) urging it to review and terminate its ongoing funding of cruel experiments on nonhuman primates at Harvard Medical School and elsewhere. More than 380 scientists, doctors, and academics from around the world joined the request to NIH, including renowned primatologists Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. Ian Redmond, and Harvard's Dr. Richard Wrangham. Clinical fellow Rebecca Garverman prepared the letter alongside graduate research student Gal Badihi and Dr. Catherine Hobaiter of the Wild Minds Lab.

On June 14, 2023, the Clinic submitted **a lengthy petition** to Harvard University's Office of Sustainability urging it to adopt a policy that would require the use of bird-safe windows in the construction of all new buildings on campus. Over a billion birds are killed every year in North America by colliding with windows—the second greatest cause of bird mortality next to

cat predation. The submission also asked Harvard to monitor existing buildings to identify the most problematic ones for bird collisions, with an eye toward retrofitting those buildings with bird-safe glass. As the submission explained, other universities, such as Yale, Cornell, Princeton, and the University of Pennsylvania, have already instituted a program to use bird-safe glass on new buildings. The proposal is particularly important because Harvard is directly on the Atlantic Flyway that birds use for migration each year. The submission was made on behalf of the Clinic, the American Bird Conservancy, Dr. Scott V. Edwards, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology and Curator of Ornithology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, Nina-Marie Lister, Visiting Professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, and Jeremiah Scanlon, a former student in the Clinic who proposed the project as his final writing assignment! The submission was drafted by Research Assistant, Allyson Gambardella (J.D. '24), with the assistance of Rachel Landry (J.D. '23).

In March, the Clinic joined the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in submitting comments on a proposal by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s (FWS) to revise a special rule governing trade in African elephants under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Although the rule would strengthen protections for these animals, it would still allow imports of elephants captured for zoos and killed by trophy hunters. Our comments argue that capturing elephants for captive display and killing them for sport are antithetical to the conservation of the species and legally indefensible under the ESA. The comments were authored by PAWS Director of Science, Research, and Advocacy Catherine Doyle, Clinical Instructor Rachel Mathews, Clinical Fellow Rebecca Garverman, and clinic student Jeremiah Scanlan (JD ’24).

Clinician and Florida native Savannah Bergeron also took the lead on filing open records requests with both the FWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to obtain information on whether the FWS is planning to delist the Florida panther—i.e., take it off the list of endangered species—on the ground that it is not a true separate species as distinguished from other cougar species that still exist in the southeastern part of the country. As a result, Savannah received valuable information regarding the taxonomy of the panther and the agency’s potential plans to try to delist it. All this information will be extremely valuable to continued efforts to keep the panther listed as “endangered,” with all the attendant protections to which it is entitled under the ESA. This is the second semester in which Savannah advocated for animals in her home state.

On February 27, 2023, Judge Haywood S. Gilliam, federal district judge for the Northern District of California, ruled against us in the Clinic’s Tule elk litigation. He held that the National Park Service’s organic statute, which provides that the Park Service (NPS) “shall revise” all General Management Plans for national park units, including the Point Reyes National Seashore, in a “timely manner” does not impose a mandatory duty on the NPS that can be enforced by the Court. Because Judge Gilliam’s ruling is at odds with a ruling of another judge on the same Court, as well as much of the pertinent case law defining what constitutes a mandatory duty that may be enforced under the Administrative Procedure Act, we have now appealed that decision on behalf of several California activists and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Our Clinical Fellow, Rebecca Garverman, is taking the lead in drafting the appellate brief, which is due at the end of July 2023. In the meantime, the NPS has now announced plans to consider removing the fence at the southern border of Tomales Point, which would allow the elk to disperse to other areas of the seashore for much needed forage and water. We also continued to work on many more projects on behalf of animals used in research, animals used for “entertainment,” animals hunted for “game” and “recreation,” and farmed animals.



Teaching

Teaching students all facets of animal law is one of the four fundamental pillars of the Program. At the most basic and essential level, we offer students courses that will educate, inspire, and challenge. We now regularly offer Animal law, Wildlife Law, and Farmed Animal Law, in addition to the seminar attached to the Clinic. Professor Stilt has also begun offering a Writing Group on Law in the Anthropocene. Next year, Professor Stilt will teach a new Reading Group on the Rights of Nature.

Farmed Animal Law Course

I was privileged to be part of Harvard’s first-ever Farmed Animal Law and Policy class, taught by Professor Kristen Stilt. Professor Stilt’s passion for an underdiscussed and overlooked topic made itself evident from the very first day of class, when we delved into questions of animal cognition and ethics. Our momentum only increased as the weeks passed and we surveyed what Professor Stilt eloquently described as the “vast, complex, and interconnected” global animal farming system, “a large, tangled knot with no obvious beginning or end.” We always kept the law foremost in mind, close-reading U.S. regulations like the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act and international parallels like the EU’s code of animal welfare. Still, the paucity of extant regulations that affect farmed animals meant that our class delved deep into questions of policy, science, and philosophy as well. We developed a real esprit de corps as the semester progressed, and I often felt as though the seminar was an island of open inquiry in an ocean of inattention. As part of Professor Stilt’s class, we were free and encouraged to earnestly debate and explore the fundamental cracks at the foundation of modern industrial animal agriculture. I’m grateful to Professor Stilt for her fearless intellectual leadership and generous approach to pedagogy. Her teaching and scholarship have inspired me to pursue farmed animal welfare as an area of intellectual and moral interest.

- Isabella Nilsson ’24

During the Fall of 2022, Professor Kristen Stilt designed a new seminar, **Farmed Animal Law**. As she introduced the class to the students in the syllabus, the topic of farmed animals is vast, complex, and interconnected, a large, tangled knot with no obvious beginning or end. The topic implicates animal welfare, human health, and environmental health, to name just some of the most obvious connected areas. And while we might think of the final “products” of meat, dairy, and eggs as relatively homogenous, in cartons and containers and plastic covered trays, the lives of the animals whose bodies produced those products differ dramatically from place to place and context to context.

Wildlife Law Course

“ This class has really developed my understanding of the laws that impact animals and the way the administrative state runs. Eric is an incredible teacher and litigator, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to learn from him. ”

“ Having no background in wildlife law, I didn’t know exactly what to expect, but this has been one of my favorite classes I’ve taken here at HLS! ”

“ I took the plunge on environment-related classes this semester out of a sincere curiosity to learn more about an area of the law with which I’d had little to no previous contact. I learned so much from the lectures, the class materials and discussions, and guest speakers. I certainly have a deeper appreciation for the challenges and triumphs of the environmental movement especially in the area of wildlife conservation, and I am very thankful for that! ”

Also in Fall 2022, Visiting Lecturer Eric Glitzenstein taught a survey course on Wildlife Law with an emphasis on the federal laws that are intended to protect wildlife. Topics addressed included the history of federal and state wildlife regulation with a particular focus on the principal federal statutes that regulate human interactions with wildlife, including such statutes as the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The course also addressed the constitutional underpinnings of federal wildlife regulation and current controversies regarding the scope of federal wildlife protection laws. Guest speakers included Ted Amdur, an expert on climate modeling, Damian Schiff, a lawyer

with the Pacific Legal Foundation who argued the most recent Clean Water Act/wetlands case in the Supreme Court, and Rebecca Garverman, who co-authored the Animal Law & Policy Clinic’s amicus brief for the Supreme Court case upholding the California proposition requiring better conditions for pigs in industrial agriculture.



Animal Law Course

“ Professor Stilt’s animal law class has been instrumental in forming my vision for a career in law. She has presented animal law as a way to mobilize the most compassionate parts of ourselves, and as one of many ways to engage the law to do good. As a student in the divinity school, the class was an interesting introduction to what law school can be like, and a welcoming environment where we created valuable discourse and shared unique perspectives. ”
- Rajeed Persaud, Harvard Divinity School student

Professor Stilt regularly teaches Animal Law in the spring semester, and that placement is intentional. First-year J.D. students may take one elective in the spring semester, so by placing Animal Law in the spring first-years who came to law school interested in the topic or who are curious can take the course. By taking the class in their first year, students are ready to enroll in the Clinic, take additional animal law-related classes, and do independent research and writing by the start of their second year. Students who work in animal law-related positions the summer after their first year greatly benefit from taking the course before beginning that work.

The Animal Law course literally changed the course of my life. Prior to enrolling in it, I was uncertain about my “why” for going to law school. That all changed when I first met Professor Stilt, who, after noticing that I looked a bit downcast while standing in line at the HLS bookstore, walked over to me and asked me if I was okay. Then, after hearing that I studied environmental issues in undergrad and was vegan, Professor Stilt suggested that I might be interested in her Animal Law course. Though the deadline for registration had already passed, I decided to switch from another course to the Animal Law one. My life hasn’t been the same since. The Animal Law course transformed me. Now, not a day goes by where I don’t think and talk about the plight of animals, especially those in factory farms. I am now an extremely proud Board member of the Harvard Animal Law Society and will be a Teaching Fellow for the course this upcoming Spring semester. Furthermore, my internships from here on out will be solely in the Animal Law realm, and I am no longer uncertain about my “why”. I will be an Animal Law litigator when I leave HLS, and I am so deeply grateful to Professor Stilt and ALPP for welcoming me into this incredible world.

- Lla Anderson '25

The class was an introduction to the large and amorphous field of law referred to as “animal law.” It surveyed areas of the law that affect nonhuman animals and their treatment by humans. The class began with some big definitional and philosophical questions about animals: Who are they? What are they? How can we as lawyers understand them as clients?

The class then covered different contexts in which animals encounter humans and human-made law: as victims of crimes, as human companions, as sources of food, as research subjects, as sources of entertainment, as hosts of zoonotic diseases, and as victims of war, to name just a few. The focus of the course was U.S. law with some attention to comparative and international law.

Animal Law & Policy Clinic Seminar

“The Clinic seminar is fantastic! It combines all the best material from environmental and administrative law into one course that then focuses on animals. That is a dream class, and I’m so thrilled to be part of it.”

- Ashton Macfarlane



“It’s hard to know where to start in terms of what I’ve learned from Professor Meyer, as there seem to be new and fascinating litigation stories at every meeting and in every class! I would say (1) knowing the rules, (2) knowing the judge, and (3) finding the best ways to get a win or a soft loss when the cards are stacked against you in suits against agencies. Also, her enthusiasm for the intricacies of the APA, FOIA, and the substantive statutes is delightful and infectious (I love those statutes too, but now appreciate them even more!). I am so thankful to be in the Clinic this term and am looking forward to the next half of the semester and the work beyond.”

The **Animal Law & Policy Clinic Seminar** is the required classroom component for students enrolled in the Animal Law & Policy Clinic. In the course, Clinic Director Katherine Meyer introduced students to the overarching issues that nonhuman animal law advocates face in their work, including Article III standing, Administrative Procedure Act review, rulemaking petitions, open-government laws, and basic litigation, legislative, administrative, and organizing strategies. The seminar also taught students how to pursue advocacy under several substantive areas of the law, including (but not limited to) the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Animal Welfare Act, the Humane Slaughter Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Wild Horse and Burros Act, and state animal cruelty codes.

The Clinic Seminar also brought in several practitioners from the field each semester who shared their extensive experience with the students. The guests this past year and the topics they discussed included:

Elisabeth Custalow

Senior Counsel and Director, Regulatory Affairs, PETA Foundation
Animals in Labs

Eric Glitzenstein

Director of Litigation, Center for Biological Diversity
Protecting Animals in the Wild

Danny Waltz

Managing Attorney, Animal Legal Defense Fund
Public Nuisance and Enforcement of State Animal Cruelty Laws

Bill Eubanks

Eubanks and Associates
The National Environmental Policy Act and Wild Horse and Burro Act

Cheryl Leahy

Executive Director, Animal Outlook
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and Ag-Gag

Carolina Maciel

Director, Humane Society International, Brazil
International Law

Brittany Peet

General Counsel, PETA Foundation
Captive Animal Law Enforcement

Emily McCormack

Animal Curator, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge
Law and Practicalities of Animal Rescue

Laura Hagan

Massachusetts State Director, Humane Society of the United States
Initiatives and Proposition 12

Anna Frostic

Senior Vice President of Programs and Policy, Humane Society
International
International Laws for the Protection of Animals

Eric Glitzenstein

Director of Litigation, Center for Biological Diversity
The Endangered Species Act



Writing Group: Law and the Anthropocene

In the fall and spring of 2022, Professor Kristen Stilt led an upper-level J.D. and LL.M. writing group. This course brought together students who were drafting independent papers under Professor Stilt’s direction and created a community of writers. The topics all centered on the theme of the writing group, which was Law and the Anthropocene. Students drafted papers on the dairy industry, the Kobe beef industry in Japan, comparative constitutional law in Latin America, the manatee crisis in Florida, and animal law jurisprudence in India, to identify a few.



1L Reading Group: Law and the Anthropocene

Professor Stilt regularly offers a reading group to 1Ls in the fall semester. These reading groups are offered by HLS to provide an informal setting for new students to meet fellow first-year students with common interests and get to know a law school professor early in their first year. This reading group in Fall 2022 covered animal rights, climate change litigation, and the rights of nature. The 1L students who take Professor Stilt’s reading group often go on to take Animal Law and related classes and enroll in the Clinic, so this is a fantastic opportunity for students to get involved with the animal law community from the very beginning of their law school career.

In the Media

Program

🕒 October 2022

US Supreme Court to hear case on California’s ban on extreme confinement crates

The Guardian
On October 3, The Guardian quotes Kelsey Eberly, Legislative Policy Fellow at the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard Law School. “The constitution does not guarantee the right to pork producers to have an uninhibited national market.”

Next on the Supreme Court Docket: Farm Animal Welfare

Civil Eats
On October 5, Civil Eats referred to ALPP’s report that includes an extensive list of laws that would be challenged if the Court decides to overturn Proposition 12.

The Supreme Court is about to decide the fate of millions of pigs

Vox
On October 9, Vox quotes Executive Director Chris Green, who says, “What may seem like a small, incremental change on paper, to the life of that pig, it’s immense.” While the ruling in a conservative-dominated Court will not be delivered for months, Green said to Vox, “Anyone who says they know what’s going to happen is lying to you or themselves.”

Op-Ed: The Supreme Court shouldn’t meddle with California’s standards on meat and eggs

Los Angeles Times
On October 10, Harvard’s Lawrence Tribe, Chris Green, and Kelsey Eberly co-authored an opinion in the Los Angeles Times that emphasizes the role of state legislatures and Congress to regulate interstate commerce. They write, “It makes good sense for California to require out-of-state businesses that want to sell their meat products there to comply with the same standards as businesses in California.”

California Pigs to Have Their Day in Supreme Court

Newsweek
On October 10, in an article about the case involving the pork industry challenge to California’s Proposition 12, Newsweek quotes Executive Director Chris Green. “California pork producers have had to meet these requirements for several years, but in 2018 California consumers overwhelmingly voted to apply the same standards to any such products sold within the state regardless of where they were produced.” According to Green, the case “strikes at the very heart” of voters’ and states’ ability to determine their own health, safety, and welfare standards.

Should California’s Animal Welfare Laws Affect National Pork Production? The Supreme Court is About to Decide

Ambrook Research
On October 11, Ambrook Research quotes Chris Green, Executive Director of the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program, who said, “This is a case with potential ancillary impacts that could go far beyond animal welfare into everything from climate to consumer protection to every element of economic regulation.”

Pork industry lawsuit draws new attention to cruel conditions in North Carolina

Civil Eats
On October 31, The News and Observer quotes Chris Green, Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Program, who said the pork industry “sort of shot themselves in the foot” by pressing this case to the top of the legal system. “The more the public learns, the more turned off they are by the idea that they are contributing to that kind of suffering.”

As Supreme Court Hears Prop 12 Arguments, a New Investigation Looks into Gestation Crates

Sentient Media
On October 11, Sentient Media quoted Kelsey Eberly, Legislative Fellow of Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program, who said, “The pork producers is asking the Supreme Court to strip states of their ability to not only ban cruel and unsafe products but also combat climate change, protect consumers from financial scams and much more, whenever regulation economically inconveniences out-of-state industries.”

🕒 December 2022

From Jainism to Activism with Nirva Patel

Our Hen House
On December 10, Nirva Patel was interviewed on the Our Hen House podcast where she talked about Jainism, activism, and pursuing a career in animal protection.



🕒 January 2023

The biggest animal welfare crisis you’ve never heard of

Vox

On January 16, Vox quoted Ann Linder, Research Fellow at Harvard Law School: “Stress lowers immunity, and poor ventilation in trucks also helps spread... there is a real risk of pathogens lingering on surfaces, so you are potentially bringing healthy animals into a contaminated environment, and then locking them in there.”

Have we reached ‘peak meat’? Why one country is trying to limit its number of livestock

The Guardian

On January 16, The Guardian quoted Dr. Helen Harwatt, a senior research fellow at Chatham House and ALPP climate policy fellow. “We tend to only see technological approaches to reducing nitrogen at the point of production or leakage to the environment, rather than reducing the amount of agricultural production.”

New Year promises won’t resolve our meat problem

The New Statesman

On January 18, The New Statesman quoted Dr. Helen Harwatt, a senior research fellow at Chatham House and ALPP climate policy fellow. “We need to transform the entire system—from what we grow, how we grow it, to what we consume and how much of it we consume.”

Moo-ving Away from Meat: The Netherlands’ Quest to Limit Livestock

One Green Planet

On January 23, One Green Planet quoted Harvard climate policy fellow, Dr. Helen Harwatt who commented on the significant environmental impacts of livestock. “The major difference to previous measures is a reduction in livestock numbers.”

🕒 February 2023

All Creatures Great and Small

Harvard Law Bulletin

On February 14, Harvard Law School’s Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program and the affiliated Animal Law & Policy Clinic were included in a 10-page feature in the Harvard Law Bulletin. “It’s a really intellectually engaging field of law. You are dealing with difficult legal questions because the doctrine is not always clear. It’s also philosophically very interesting, because you are thinking about whose bodies should be protected, whose rights should be safeguarded,” said Asha Ramakumar J.D. ’23. “And when you incorporate nonhuman animals, who can’t speak for themselves, how do you know what their best interests are? How do you do right by them?”

New Year promises won’t resolve our meat problem

The New Statesman

On January 18, The New Statesman quoted Dr. Helen Harwatt, a senior research fellow at Chatham House and ALPP climate policy fellow. “We need to transform the entire system—from what we grow, how we grow it, to what we consume and how much of it we consume.”

Blind spots in biodefense

Science

On February 16, Science journal published an article co-authored by Ann Linder, a research scholar at Harvard Law School’s Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program and Dale Jamieson, a professor at New York University, calling for the integration of multiple agencies to better combat the threat of zoonotic diseases.

The U.S. is alarmingly unprepared for zoonotic diseases

Earth.com

On February 16, Earth.com mentioned research co-authored by ALPP Associate Director of Policy and Reseach Ann Linder, which calls for a

“One Health” approach to recognize the interconnection between the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment.

U.S. Still Unprepared to Handle Future Spread of Zoonotic Diseases with New Biodefense Strategy

Revyuh

On February 16, Revyuh published an article highlighting an editorial published in Science magazine by ALPP’s Ann Linder, and NYU’s Dale Jamieson.

U.S. has ‘blind spots’ in its preparations for zoonotic diseases, experts warn

UPI

On February 16, UPI mentioned an editorial published in the academic journal Science and co-authored by ALPP’s Ann Linder and Professor Dale Jamieson, an expert on environmental and animal protection. The authors urge the Biden administration “to confront these risks.”

Forget nuclear war or global warming: America is still ‘fundamentally unprepared’ for zoonotic diseases—the biggest threat to humankind, says analysis by Harvard and NYU

DailyMail.com

On February 23, DailyMail.com published an article referencing an editorial published in Science and co-authored by ALPP Associate Director of Policy and Research Ann Linder and Professor Dale Jamieson of NYU. “The first step in implementing such an approach would be to create a high-level process for integrating the broken mosaic of multiple agencies, with their unclear and sometimes competing mandates, into an effective, comprehensive regime,” said Linder and Jamieson.



🕒 March 2023

The US may be vulnerable to zoonotic diseases, NYU, Harvard researchers say

Washington Square News

On March 2, NYU News referenced an editorial co-authored by Ann Linder, a research fellow at Harvard’s Animal Law & Policy Clinic and Dale Jamieson, a professor at NYU. The piece criticized the U.S. government’s National Biodefense Strategy for not including new policies for zoonotic disease prevention and thereby ignoring potential zoonotic disease threats. “What is needed is not simply for agencies to do their jobs better or to paper over the gaps, but a fundamental restructuring of the way that human-animal interfaces are governed,” Jamieson and Linder wrote.

Point Reyes rule elk herd recover after die-off during drought

Marin Independent Journal

On March 26, Marin Independent Journal referenced the Clinic’s filing in 2021 of a federal lawsuit alleging the Point Reyes National Seashore was negligent in its elk management and violated federal laws.

🕒 April 2023

Inside the Harvard Law School Clinic Advocating for Animal Rights

The Harvard Crimson

On April 21, The Harvard Crimson published an article highlighting the work of Harvard Law School’s Animal Law & Policy Program. Professor



Credit: Jo-Anne McCarthur / ZOOCHECK / We Animals Media



Stilt, the faculty director of the Program, said she wants to see the program and clinic grow internationally.

🕒 May 2023

Supreme Court Upholds Prop 12

Sentient Media

On May 12, Sentient Media referenced a 60-page report authored by ALPP Legislative Policy Fellow Kelsey Eberly on a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold Proposition 12. The report catalogued state laws and local ordinances that would have been impacted if the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the pork producers. Eberly states, “The pork producers are asking the Supreme Court to strip states of their ability to not only ban cruel and unsafe products but also combat climate change, protect consumers from financial scams, and much more, whenever regulation economically inconveniences out-of-state industries. These arguments lack any foundation in the Constitution.”

USDA inaugurates new Kansas facility to study animal diseases

UPI

On May 24, UPI referenced an editorial published in the academic journal Science and co-authored by Associate Director of Policy and Research Ann Linder and Dale Jamieson, an expert on environmental and animal protection at NYU. The editorial was based on research from the Live Animal Markets Project led by Linder and began with a criticism of a biodefense document known as NBS-22. “NBS-22 focuses primarily on bioterrorism and laboratory accidents, neglecting threats posed by routine practices of animal use and production inside the United States,” Linder and Jamieson wrote in the editorial.



🕒 June 2023

Experts gather on Capitol Hill to condemn dangerous EATS Act

A Humane World, Kitty Block’s Blog, The Humane Society of the United States

On June 21, Executive Director Chris Green, joined with business, legal, economic, and government experts to make the case against the EATS Act for its potential to strip all states of their authority to enact standards to address food safety, public health, and animal welfare.

Congress Asked to Help Stop Ecosystem Collapse in the Farm Bill by Preserving Local Authority to Restrict Pesticides

Beyond Pesticides

On June 26, Beyond Pesticides referenced prior legislative analysis of the King Amendment, by Associate Director of Policy & Research Ann Linder. The report provides critical support as groups push to strengthen the Farm Bill’s protection against ecosystem collapse. The pesticide industry, this time through the EATS Act, attempts to undo decades of local protection designed to protect not only their residents from hazardous chemicals in their environments but also essential pollinators, birds, insects, and animals.

Clinic

🕒 October 2022

Supreme Court justices appear skeptical of California animal welfare law

Los Angeles Times

On October 10, the Los Angeles Times quotes Katherine A. Meyer, Director of the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic, on the reaction of Supreme Court justices when reviewing California’s animal welfare law. “The citizens of California do not want to be complicit in patronizing or condoning the abuse and cruel treatment of these intelligent, social animals,” said Meyer. “Californians should be able to decide not to be complicit in such blatant cruelty to animals with respect to food products sold in their state.”

Marin tule elk herd gets emergency water supplies

Marin Independent Journal

On October 17, the Marin Independent Journal provided an update to the lawsuit filed against the National Park Service by the Clinic in response to the massive die-off of tule elk trapped behind a fence at Tomales Point at Point Reyes.

🕒 November 2022

Endangered status sought for manatees as hundreds starve

Associated Press

On November 21, the Associated Press referenced the petition filed by a coalition including the Clinic against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to correct its mistake of taking manatees off the endangered species list in 2017.

Petition seeks endangered species protection for manatees

South Central Florida Life

On November 22, South Central Florida Life reported on the unusual mortality of the Florida manatee, which represents over 13% of the subspecies’ estimated population. The article cites the petition filed by a coalition that includes the Clinic.

Alarming manatee death toll in Florida prompts calls for endangered status

The Guardian

On November 25, The Guardian reported on the petition submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by a coalition of advocates including the Clinic to restore the status of the Florida manatee to endangered.

Alarming manatee death toll numbers in Florida push calls for endangered status

Florida Insider

On November 27, the Florida Insider reported on the tremendous effort of advocates and a coalition including the Clinic that petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify the Florida manatee as endangered. According to the petition, “A growing human population and increased commercial development will only exacerbate these existing threats, and the ongoing effects of climate change...will compound the damage to the manatees’ critical habitat.”

Environmentalists: Manatees are “endangered”

Axios Tampa Bay

On November 23, Axios Tampa Bay published an article on the petition filed by the Clinic along with the Center for Biological Diversity, Miami Waterkeeper, Save the Manatee Club, and nature enthusiast Frank S. Garcia. The petition urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reclassify the Florida manatee from threatened to endangered.



December 2022

Time Running Out to Save the Manatees, Effort Launched to Classify Them as Endangered

Beyond Pesticides

On December 5, Beyond Pesticides published an article referencing a coalition of advocates, including Harvard’s Animal Law & Policy Clinic, to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the endangered status of Florida manatees.

Environmental groups push to return manatees to endangered status

Anna Maria Island Sun

On December 12, the Anna Maria Island Sun quoted student attorney Ben Rankin, “West Indian manatees from Florida to the Caribbean are facing drastic threats from habitat loss, boat strikes, pollution, climate change, and toxic algae blooms.”

Countries meet to save nature and wildlife. These 17 Southeastern turtles got a win.

The Post and Courier

On December 15, The Post and Courier published an article featuring student attorney Ben Rankin, who helps file complaints against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after the agency failed to respond to a public records request for the LEMIS data for Southeastern turtles.

January 2023

Cephalopods are ‘incredibly intelligent.’ Wildlife advocates are urging regulators to do more to protect them

The Boston Globe

On January 23, the Boston Globe reported on the work of the Clinic and a coalition of advocacy groups, including the New England Anti-Vivisection Society, to push for regulators to do more to protect cephalopods based on intelligence studies. In a letter to the NIH two years ago, the coalition urged the NIH to regulate experiments that deprive cephalopods of food, shock them with electric pods, and use invasive procedures that could cause pain.

Grizzly bear recovery plan can’t be targeted in lawsuit—appeals court

Reuters

On January 9, Reuters mentioned the amicus brief written by Harvard Law School’s Animal Law & Policy Clinic in the case filed on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity against the U.S. Interior Department and Fish and Wildlife Service for its denial to add several new laws in the western United States as potential recover-zone habitats for the threatened grizzly bear.

February 2023

Jane Goodall Among 380+ Scientists Demanding End to ‘Cruel’ Harvard Monkey Experiments

Common Dreams

On February 8, Common Dreams published an article regarding the letter led by the Clinic and the Wild Minds Lab at the University of St. Andrews School of Psychology and Neuroscience along with 380 signatories, including Jane Goodall, urging the National Institute of Health officials to “review protocols and justifications related to the funding of unethical experiments on macaque monkeys and other nonhuman primates taking place at Harvard Medical School.”

National Park Service Plan for Northern California Tule Elk Cleared by Judge

Missoula Current

On February 28, the Missoula Current quoted Katherine Meyer, Director of the Animal Law and Policy Clinic. “Our clients are extremely disappointed in the court’s ruling which is in direct conflict with an earlier ruling by another member of the same court, Judge Armstrong, who had already ruled that the Park Service has a mandatory duty to revise its general management plans for all units of the National Park system.”

March 2023

Tule elk advocates appeal court loss in challenge to NPS

Politico

On March 19, Politico reported the appeal to the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals filed by the Clinic

to challenge the National Park Service’s alleged failure to revise its 1980 General Management Plan for the Tomales Point portion of the national seashore.

Point Reyes rule elk herd recover after die-off during drought

Marin Independent Journal

On March 26, the Marin Independent Journal referenced the Clinic’s filing in 2021 of a federal lawsuit alleging the Point Reyes National Seashore was negligent in its elk management and violated federal laws.

USDA Must Revisit Decision Over Research Primates Care

Law 360

On March 28, Law 360 published an article whereby a Maryland federal judge stated that the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s justification to not consider upgrading its standards for the mental wellbeing of primates used in lab research “approaches absurd,” and pointed to its own internal documents about a “severely abridged inspection program and untrue public assertions.

USDA Acted Unlawfully in Denying Petition to Improve Lab Primates’ Treatment Judge Rules

IFL Science

On March 30, IFL Science reported on the Harvard Law School’s Animal Law & Policy Clinic’s victory in a ruling against the USDA for unlawfully denying a petition on behalf of clients Rise for Animals and the Animal Legal Defense Fund to improve the treatment of primates in animal research. “Based on her ruling, the USDA must now give serious consideration to improving the psychological welfare standard for primates,” said Kathy Meyer, Director of Harvard Law School’s Animal Law & Policy Clinic.

Federal Judge Rules USDA Acted Unlawfully: Huge Win for Animal Law Clinic in Psychological Wellbeing of Primates Case

One Green Planet

On March 31, One Green Planet highlighted the ruling by a federal judge in Maryland in favor of the Clinic that filed a petition to improve the psychological wellbeing of primates used in research. Filed on behalf of the Clinic’s clients Rise for Animals and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the case marked the first lawsuit filed by the Clinic in 2019.

April 2023

There’s Nothing Ethical About Experimenting on Monkeys

The Harvard Crimson

On April 6, The Harvard Crimson published an op-ed by Erin Sharoni, a second-year Master’s student in Bioethics at Harvard Medical School, in which Sharoni calls attention to the “cruel, unnecessary, and morally indefensible” animal research conducted by Professor Margaret S. Livingstone. Sharoni references a letter that was written by Harvard Law School’s Animal Law and Policy Clinic and the University of St Andrews’ Wild Minds Lab to the National Institute of Health asking them to stop funding nonhuman primate experiments at Harvard Medical School.

Marin activist challenge dismissal of Point Reyes tule elk neglect case

Marin Independent Journal

On April 28, the Marin Independent Journal reported on the Clinic’s filing of an appeal on behalf of activists who claim that the National Park

Service violated the Administrative Procedure Act and was negligent in a massive die-off of tule elk in the Point Reyes National Seashore’s Tomales Point Preserve which is fenced off from the rest of the park.

May 2023

Groups to sue federal officials over manatee protection

Associated Press

On May 2, the Associated Press, reported on the announcement by several groups including the Clinic to sue federal wildlife officials for their failure to protect the West Indian manatee following record death rates in recent years.

Conservation Groups to Sue Over Florida’s Starving Manatees

Gizmodo

On May 3, Gizmodo reported on the filing of a notice of intention to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Clinic, along with others, filed the notice due to the lack of response to an earlier petition urging the agency to investigate the classification of the Florida manatee from “threatened” to “endangered.” “We initially hoped that the Service would respond to our petition quickly, given the overwhelming scientific evidence showing that manatees need increased protection,” said Savannah Bergeron, a student attorney at the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Clinic. “But as no response came, and manatee populations continued to decline, it became clear that more must be done to protect these beloved gentle giants.”

Harvard clinic appeals ruling in elk lawsuit

Point Reyes Light

On May 3, Point Reyes Light reported on the Clinic’s appeal of the dismissal of a lawsuit alleging that mismanagement by the National Park Service caused a die-off of tule elk at the Point Reyes National Seashore.

‘The legacy I hope to leave’

Harvard Law Today

On May 10, Harvard Law Today published a student spotlight on Harvard Law student Barbara Tsao whose love of wildlife and the environment motivated her to enroll in the Animal Law & Policy Clinic at Harvard Law School. In the Clinic, Tsao urged the Fish and Wildlife Service to classify the Florida manatee as endangered. “[I]t was incredibly rewarding to advocate for these majestic animals,” said Tsao.

Groups Announce Intent to Sue Fish and Wildlife Service Over Failure to Protect Manatees

Beyond Pesticides

On May 16, Beyond Pesticides reported the notice of intent to sue by the Animal Law & Policy Clinic, Center for Biological Diversity, Miami Waterkeeper, and Frank González Garcia against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) when the agency failed to respond to a petition sent by the groups last fall. “It has been months of agony and unjustified time lost for manatees in Puerto Rico,” said Gonzáles who is concerned about the recent fatal accidents and unprecedented toxic water discharges that threaten the survival of manatees.

Range War Court Battle Pits Elk Against Cattle at Calif. Public Seashore

The Messenger

On May 21, The Messenger quotes Clinical Fellow Rebecca Garverman about the appeal of a judgement by Judge Haywood Gilliam of the

U.S. District Court of Northern California who ruled that the initial lawsuit failed to present a viable legal basis to challenge the agency’s wildlife management decisions in the case of the starving and dying tule elk population at Point Reyes National Seashore. Garverman states that Gilliam “got the law wrong” and that the “Park Service has a ‘mandatory duty’ to protect the elk, and it’s clearly failing to do so”.

June 2023

Point Reyes National Seashore to propose removal of elk fence

The Press Democrat

On June 9, the Press Democrat reported on the consideration by the Point Reyes National Seashore to remove a two-mile fence across Tomales Point which is believed to have restricted a population of tule elk to limited resources and subsequent die-offs. The article references Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program’s plaintiff, Jack Gescheidt, an activist and tule elk consultant.

Harvard Law School Clinic Calls for New Bird Safety Measures in University Building Standards

The Harvard Crimson

On June 17, the Harvard Crimson reported on Harvard Law School’s Animal Law & Policy Clinic’s letter to Harvard’s Office for Sustainability urging the school to incorporate bird safety measures into its Sustainable Building Standards. “I’d heard that one of the leading causes of death for birds—at least human-caused causes—is collision with buildings, said Jeremiah Scanlan, a third-year Law School student whose final project inspired the letter. “It’s also a very solvable problem, people know how to do this. Other universities—even some cities—have thought about doing this.”

Animal Law Podcast #97: The Case of the Miserable Monkeys and the Apathetic Agency

The Animal Law Podcast

On June 28, Clinic Director Kathy Meyer talks with Mariann Sullivan of Our Hen House Animal Law Podcast, about the shocking failures of the APHIS to ensure psychological enrichment for primates in research labs. While required to conduct annual inspections under the Animal Welfare Act, the Clinic discovered that such inspections were severely limited in scope and did not include full inspections of every lab and every animal.



Visiting Fellows

October 2022

Cattle industry sees red over Google flagging beef emissions

Climate Wire

On October 14, Climate Wire published an article regarding Google’s proposed tech feature that would automatically display the emission intensity of certain ingredients when its users search for recipes. The article quotes Visiting Fellow Jan Dutkiewicz who said, “Foregrounding the environmental impact of various everyday commodities as people are Googling them strikes me as on balance a good idea.”

Cultured meat needs a race to mission not a race to market

Nature Food

On October 18, Visiting Fellow Jan Dutkiewicz, along with others, published an article in Nature Journal arguing that the focus of cultured meat must shift to a higher, mission-based standard based on transparency and collective processes.

The Vegan Protestors Spilling Milk in Supermarkets Are Right

The New Republic

On October 20, Visiting Fellow Jan Dutkiewicz published an article in The New Republic defending a public demonstration for its ability to encourage eating less meat.

November 2022

In state-level midterms in Midwest, Big Ag favors Republicans, incumbents and governors, data shows

Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting

On November 3, an analysis of OpenSecrets.org revealed the political campaign donations by agricultural corporations. The article quotes Jan Dutkiewicz, a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School, who linked Governor Jim Pillen with rhetoric aimed at “firing up a certain segment of the conservative base.”

How the Meat Industry Undermines Effective Climate Policy

The New Republic

On November 14, Visiting Fellow Jan Dutkiewicz published an article in The New Republic where he discusses the funding of questionable research and lobbying to keep meat reduction off the table.

January 2023

Midwest states court indoor hog and poultry production, despite the millions of gallons of manure

KCUR: NPR

On January 9, KCUR referenced the research and analysis of Visiting Fellow Danielle Diamond who found that most right-to-farm litigation is happening in the Midwest, and CAFOs are the most likely to win such lawsuits.

Will 2023 be the year food plays a role in sustainability policy?

Food Dive

On January 31, Jan Dutkiewicz, Visiting Fellow in the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program, was quoted in the article which makes a connection between food and sustainability. “People treat it as a bit of a hot potato,” said Jan Dutkiewicz. “You can acknowledge that it’s a problem, but then you want to pass it on, rather than dwell on it because it’s a politically unpopular thing to deal with.”

February 2023

China’s Pig High-Rises Are Horrifying. So Are America’s Factory Farms

The New Republic

On February 15, The New Republic published an article written by Visiting Fellow Jan Dutkiewicz on how the origin story of factory farming takes place in the United States.

The Bird Flu Outbreak Has Taken an Ominous Turn

Wired

On February 16, Wired quoted Visiting Fellow Jan Dutkiewicz on the outbreak of H5N1 which has spread to 60 countries, according to the World Organization for Animal Health. “When there’s public discussion of addressing zoonotic disease, it almost immediately turns to vaccination, preparedness, biosecurity—but no one discusses addressing the root cause,” said Jan.

Is The Media Based Against Plant-Based and Cell-Cultured Meat?

Forbes

On February 20, Forbes quoted Jan Dutkiewicz, political economist and visiting fellow at Harvard law, on his response to an article published in Bloomberg earlier that week that explored the link between cell-cultured meat and cancer. “This is

the stupidest premise for an article ever: There is no proof this product is cancerous, but here’s an article about why we should maybe be scared.”

🕒 April 2023

The viral story of a girl and her goat explains how the meat industry indoctrinates children

Vox

On April 5, Vox published an article by Jan Dutkiewicz and Gabriel Rosenberg on the ideology of the 4-H program’s ideology that “teaches young people how to manage the emotional dissonance that can result from sending a beloved companion animal to a grisly fate.”

Why Right-Wingers Are So Afraid of Men Eating Vegetables

The New Republic

On April 17, Jan authored an article for The New Republic about the culture of meat eating and the deadly impact of such politics on health.

🕒 May 2023

Universities should lead on the plant-based dietary transition

THE LANCET Planetary Health

On May 8, the journal LANCET Planetary Health published an article co-authored by Visiting Fellow Jan Dutkiewicz and others that urges universities to update their practices and policies to adopt more plant-based dishes to help shift food consumption towards nutritional needs without relying on animal products.

ALPP Student Writing Prize

One of the goals of the Program is promoting student research and writing. Accordingly in May, we judged our eighth HLS **Animal Law & Policy Writing Prize**, an annual competition that awards \$1,000 for the best student paper related to animal law written in conjunction with a course, seminar, clinic, or as an independent study project at the Law School. This year the award went to two students:

Savannah Bergeron (J.D. ’24) for “It’s Not Easy Being Green: The Food and Drug Administration’s Duties Under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act When Approving New Drugs and Biological Products”

Asha Ramakumar (J.D. ’23) for “Towards Interspecies Reproductive Justice: An Ecofeminist Discursive Analysis Exploring the Parallel Reproductive Commodification of Women and Dairy Cows”



Policy and Practice

The Animal Law & Policy Program receives many requests each year to share its expertise informally and formally on aspects of animal 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 insight.

Professor Kristen Stilt | Faculty Director

Outside Harvard, Professor Stilt spent much of the past academic year collaborating with Professor Anne Peters, Director and Scientific Member at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, and former ALPP Visiting Researcher Saskia Stucki, Senior Research Fellow, also at the Max Planck Institute, as co-editors of the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law. They intend the Handbook to be a comprehensive reference work that authoritatively establishes the new field of Global Animal Law through curated chapters by 120 leading animal law experts and scholars. The goal of the project is to map the field’s contours, identify relevant legal principles and concepts, and establish a platform for further legal research.

Professor Stilt also continued to devote a substantial amount of her time to developing the animal law and policy academic and practice community through her work with the Brooks Institute, serving on the Executive Committee, the Scholars Committee, and as a member of the Leadership Committee of BASAN. The Scholars Committee follows the latest developments in animal law and policy; surveys, reviews, and advises the Brooks Institute on programs and projects to advance academics and scholarship in animal law, animal policy, and related interdisciplinary animal studies; and plans scholarly gatherings. BASAN is a network of academics and their institutions with the mission of advancing scholarly knowledge and academic opportunities in animal law, policy, and related animal studies. The goal of BASAN is to facilitate interdisciplinary research and collaborations across universities.

Program Events

During the 2022–2023 academic year, the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program hosted and co-sponsored numerous events. These included presenting more than a dozen animal law speakers to the broader Law School and Harvard communities. While the in-person attendance for the past year’s events reached hundreds of people, we were able to reach even more via Zoom. Many of our lectures and events are collaboratively co-sponsored by the student-run **Harvard Animal Law Society**, along with other partnering research programs, institutions, and organizations. Our most notable events from this year are described in more detail below.

Animal Law & Policy Workshop Series

During the past academic year, more than a dozen participants participated in ALPP’s **Animal Law & Policy Workshop Series** to review and critique drafts of each other’s scholarship in progress.

In addition to the Program’s faculty, staff, visiting affiliates, HLS S.J.D. and LL.M. students, and Harvard University graduate students, we also welcomed the J.D. Student Board of the Harvard Animal Law Society to participate, along with others from outside the immediate Harvard community.

The authors and topics covered this year included:

Kristen Stilt

October 25, 2022

Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Halal Certified: Animals, Religion, Business, Politics, and the Race to Save the World through the Food We Eat

November 8, 2022

Vanessa Gischkow-Garbini

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Can Animals Be Refugees?

Danielle Diamond

November 15, 2022

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Transformative Rural Justice

November 29, 2022

Polina Bochenkova

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
The Impact of War on Animal Lives

Vanessa Gischkow-Garbini

December 13, 2022

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
One Good Turn Deserves Another: The Necessary Dialogue between Animal Protection and Environmental Justice

February 8, 2023

Che Gossett

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
The Genre of the Animal

Jan Dutkiewicz

March 22, 2023

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
An Industry Like Any Other

March 29, 2023

Yi Jian

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Zodiac 12: A Documentary Film

Anthony Gerrans

April 19, 2023

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Does Climate Change Litigation Present Legal and Policy Opportunities to Challenge Intensive Animal Agriculture? A Review of Global Developments with Specific Attention to the South African Context

May 9, 2023

Macarena Montes Franceschini

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Solomonic Judgments: Against the Best Interest of the Chimp

May 11, 2023

Carlos Contreras Lopez

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Vivotecnia: the laboratory of horrors; and Perspectives on the Recognition of Animal Sentience in Spain

Training Workshops for Fellows

Shannon Sowards

March 1, 2023

Harvard Director of the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects
Training on institutional review boards (IRBs)

September 20, 2022

Sarah Pickering

Communications Director, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Training on optimizing a LinkedIn profile

October 4, 2022

Sarah Pickering

Communications Director, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Workshop on media training

October 11, 2022

John Tallmadge

Consultant
Workshop on developmental editing and literary coaching

October 18, 2022

Maya Bergamasco

Harvard Law School Faculty Research & Scholarly Support Librarian
Training on using SSRN

February 15, 2023

Catherine Biondo

Harvard Law School Research Librarian and Library Instruction Coordinator
Training on Zotero research tool

February 22, 2023

Jan Dutkiewicz

Visiting Fellow, Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program
Training session on strategies for being published in the popular media

Harvard Animal Law Week 2022



Each year we strive to assemble a broad range of speakers and topics for **Animal Law Week**. This year’s event from March 20–24, 2023 was our ninth annual event and featured academics, an activist, alt-protein experts, and a documentary film maker.

Here is the full list of speakers, with hyperlinks to videos of the lectures:

March 20 | **Lori Gruen**

Wesleyan University

| **Justin Marceau**

University of Denver Sturm College of Law

“Carceral Logics Human Incarceration and Animal Captivity”

March 21 | **Wayne Hsiung**

Attorney & Activist

“Animal Open Rescue on Trial in Rural America”

March 22 | **Jamie Berger**

Writer, and Producer

“The Smell of Money Documentary Lecture”

March 23 | **Deepti Kulkarni**

Covington & Burling

| **Eric Schulz**

Vice President of Upside Foods

“Achieving Regulatory Approval for Cultivated Meat”

March 23 | **Polina Bochenkova**

ALPP Visiting Fellow

| **Molly Conduit**

Photographer

“Animals in Armed Conflict”

Animal Law & Policy Speaker Series

April 20 | **Alexandra Bookis**

Senior Manager of U.S. Government Affairs, Farm Sanctuary

| **Christina Badaracco**

*Educator, dietician, and author of *The Farm Bill: A Citizen’s Guide**

“Shifting the US Farm Bill: Opportunities to Impact Communities, Food Systems, Animals & the Environment”

Bookis and Badaracco discussed the **2023 Food & Farm Act** and the next U.S. Farm Bill and the impact they may have on communities, food systems, animals, and the environment.



April 12 | **Peter Godfrey-Smith**

Australian Philosopher of Science and Writer

Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness

Peter Godfrey-Smith traces the question of inner life back to its roots and compares human beings with our most remarkable animal relatives, casting crucial new light on the octopus mind—and on our own.

Animal Law & Policy Panels

February 14

Sherri White-Williamson, Lee Miller, and Kipper Bervin

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Environmental Justice: The Impacts of Factory Farming

This talk will discuss both the impacts of CAFOs on communities through an environmental justice lens

February 8

Christine Webb, Larry Carbone, Katherine Roe, and Erin Sharoni

Nonhuman Primates in Research: The Good, Bad, and Ugly

This talk brought together experts from a broad range of academic backgrounds to discuss the current state of animal testing on nonhuman primates for medical research.

August 29

Rebecca Garverman,
Kelsey Eberly,
Cheryl Leahy,
and Kate Brindle

How to Create a Media Buzz Around Proposition 12

On August 29, 2022, Animal Law & Policy Program Fellow Kelsey Eberly and Animal Law & Policy Clinic Fellow Rebecca Garverman joined Cheryl Leahy of Animal Outlook and Kate Brindle of HSUS for a Sentient Media Writers’ Collective about how to create more media buzz around Prop 12. The panel was moderated by Sentient Media’s Managing Editor Jenny Splitter who was guest host. The panel came on the back of Sentient Media’s [coverage of our 60-page report](#) authored by Eberly that catalogued myriad, diverse state laws and local ordinances that could be imperiled if the Supreme Court rules in favor of the pork producers.

Students

The Animal Law & Policy Program works to help our students secure full-time employment after graduation, as well as summer/winter internships and in-school externships during the academic term, and this year there is much to celebrate—particularly the students who took the Animal Law & Policy Clinic.

The Clinic was thrilled that one of its Clinicians, Ben Rankin (J.D. ’23), was awarded the prestigious [Clinical Legal Education Association award for 2023](#). This award is presented annually to students from each law school for outstanding clinical work. This is the first of what we hope will be many CLEA awards presented to clinicians of the Animal Law & Policy Clinic. “Ben’s dedication to protecting the species of our planet from extinction is undeniable,” said the Clinic’s director, Katherine Meyer. “He has gone above and beyond what has been required not only to produce

exemplary work, but to help guide other students in their work, and contribute to the overall communal effort and spirit of the clinic.”



During his time with the clinic, Rankin spearheaded an effort to protect the Florida manatee from extinction, drafting a petition under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to change the manatee’s status from “threatened” to “endangered” to secure the full extent of the ESA’s protections for the species. The petition required an “extraordinary amount of work and dedication,” according to Meyer.

Assisting Ben with the project was Barbara (Babs) Tsao (J. D. ’23) whose commitment to the school and her fellow students was captured in a fantastic piece by Harvard Law Today titled [The Legacy I hope to leave](#). It was Babs’s love of wildlife and the environment motivated her to enroll in the Animal Law & Policy Clinic, where she helped draft the petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the Florida manatee, “These animals have been declining

unprecedented loss of seagrass; it was incredibly rewarding to advocate for these majestic animals,” she says.

Along with Irene Kwon, [Babs won the Westfall Memorial Award](#), which recognizes a student or students with outstanding contributions to creating community within their first-year section and class.

There were also several Public Service Venture Fund (PSVF) award winners among our students. Ben Rankin was awarded a PSVF to pursue public interest law along with fellow Clinicians Rachel Landry and Shashank Vura. Ben will be working as a fellow for the Center for Biological Diversity’s Environmental Health Program in Portland and Shashank will be working as a fellow at Earth Justice Oceans Program in San Francisco this summer. Rachel received the Harvard Law Review Public Interest Fellowship and will be focused on immigration law with the Innovation Law Lab in Seattle. Ricardo Díaz-Alarcón (LL.M. J.D. ’23) was also [awarded a PSVF](#) and will work with Piper Hoffman at the animal protection organization Animal Outlook. Ricardo worked with fellow LL.M student Noam Weiss in the Clinic, who was a recipient of the Dean’s Awards for Community Leadership. Noam co-founded and organized a series of socio-political discussion events for LL.M students. Noam and Ricardo’s work with the Animal Law & Policy Clinic led to NELHA choosing not to renew the rental agreement of Kanaloa Octopus Farm.

In addition to these awards, we are delighted to report that Max Hantel (J.D. ’23) received a Clerkship with Judge Josephine Stanton in the federal district court for the CD of California, starting in September 2024, and former student and Harvard Animal Law Society co-president Andy Stawacz (J.D. ’21) will be clerking for Judge Veronica Rossman in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. Currently, [Andy is a Legal Fellow at the Institute for Policy Integrity](#) at New York University School of Law. These are all just some of the highlights relating to current and former students.

Scholarship and Presentations

ALPP Faculty, Staff, and Fellows

Beyond facilitating the scholarship of others in the animal law and policy community, Faculty Director Kristen Stilt and the Program’s staff, Visiting Fellows, and Visiting Researchers further conducted academic research, produced published scholarship, and presented publicly on a wide variety of animal law and policy topics.

Professor Kristen Stilt | Faculty Director

Publications

“Animal Rights Through the Rights of Nature: The Ecuadorian Constitutional Court’s Ruling on Estrellita the Woolly Monkey,” [ReVista Harvard Review of Latin America](#) (with Macarena Montes) (2023).

Works in Progress

Articles

Naturalized Animal Rights (co-authored with Macarena Montes).

“Case Note: Estrellita,” in The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law, ed. Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki (with Macarena Montes) (book chapter, forthcoming).

Books

Food, Faith, and the Future of Planetary Health (book manuscript, under contract with Oxford University Press).

The Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law (ed. with Anne Peters and Saskia Stucki, under contract with Oxford University Press).

Animal Law & Policy Coursebook (co-authored with Justin Marceau and intended for use at undergraduate, graduate, and law school level courses).

The Animal Lawyer (co-authored with John Bliss and Justin Marceau, under contract with Oxford University Press).

Presentations

“A New Approach to Habeas Corpus for Animals,” Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics Summer School (August 15, 2022).

“Animal Rights and the Rights of Nature,” North American Animal Law Conference, University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, Canada. (September 16, 2022).

Session titled “Salmon and Wild Rice: From Plate to Plaintiff,” ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, Annual Meeting (September 22, 2022).

“Rights of Nature, Rights of Animals,” Comparative Constitutional Law Workshop, UCLA Law School (January 7, 2023).

“Animal Rights and the Rights of Nature,” NYU Animal Studies (with Macarena Montes) (March 8, 2023).

Chris Green | Executive Director

Publications

Essays and Op-Eds

“The Supreme Court Shouldn’t Meddle with California’s Standards on Meat and Eggs,” Los Angeles Times (with Laurence Tribe and Kelsey Eberly) (October 10, 2022).

Papers, Presentations, Panels

“Alternative Animal Advocacy: Channeling Public Sentiment into Substantive Welfare Advances,” Oxford Animal Ethics Summer School (August 10, 2022).

“Strengthening Anti-Confinement Laws in the US: Proposition 12 and Supreme Court Litigation,” Canadian Animal Law Conference (September 18, 2022).

“Cultivated Protein Regulation & Labeling,” Momentum FoodBev Exchange Symposium (October 25, 2022).

“Ag-Gag Anti-Whistleblower Laws: Rise, Fall, & Re-Birth,” Animal & Natural Resource Law Review 2023.

Symposium, Michigan State University College of Law (March 24, 2023).

Legislative Analysis of the “Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression Act,” Briefing to House and Senate Agricultural Committee Staff, U.S. Congress (June 20, 2023).

Guest Lectures

In the Animal Law & Policy Clinic Seminar, Harvard Law School (March 29, 2023).

Katherine Meyer | Clinical Director

Guest Lectures

Presented to Columbia Law School’s Animal Law Society about using the Endangered Species Act to protect listed species in captivity. (February 15, 2022).

Lectured in Professor Stilt Animal Law Class, on the Animal Welfare Act (with Rachel Mathews) (February 28, 2023).

Gave an ESA/captive wildlife presentation to the Center for Biological Diversity’s lawyers (for CLE credit) (Spring 2022).

Taught a class about the Animal Welfare Act to Scott Beckstead’s Animal Law Class at Willamette University College of Law (November 7, 2022).

Held a webinar with students for the Physicians for Responsible Medicine, on cephalopods (September 2023).

Ann Linder | Associate Director of Research & Policy

Publications

“Exotic Pets First Brought Monkeypox to the U.S., 19 Years Later We Still Barely Regulate Them,” San Francisco Chronicle (August 15, 2022).

“Blindspots in Biodefense,” Science AAAS (with Dale Jamieson) (February 16, 2023).

Work in Progress

“Global Report: Animal Markets and Zoonotic Disease,” Harvard Law School (forthcoming).

Papers, Presentations, Panels

“Roundtable on Preventing the Next Pandemic: What Substantive Elements Must Be Included in a Pandemic Instrument?” Geneva, hosted by Nina Jamal with FOUR PAWS for UN member states and their health attachés (July 12, 2022).

“From Science to Policy: How the Pandemic Instrument Can Prevent Pandemics and Enable Equity,” in conjunction with the Consortium of Universities for Global Health 2023 Conference on “Global Health at a Crossroads: Equity, Climate Change & Microbial Threats” in Washington, D.C., hosted by members of the NGO community (April 12, 2023).

“Animal Industries and Zoonotic Disease Risk,” Stanford Law School (April 26, 2023).

Guest Lectures

“A Global Vision for Animal Protection in the 21st Century,” Geeks in Suits Podcast (February 9, 2022).

Co-Course Director, Animal Law course, Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine (Fall 2022).

Rachel Mathews | Clinical Instructor

Publications

Articles

Book Review, 25 J. Int’l Wildlife L. & Pol’y 187 (2022) (reviewing Rosemary-Claire Collard, Animal Traffic: Lively Capital in the Global Exotic Pet Trade, Duke Univ. Press 2020, ISBN 978-1-4780-1092-0), <https://doi.org/10.1080/13880292.2022.2103920>.

Blog Posts

“Clinic, PAWS Push Feds to End African Elephant Capture, Trophy Hunting,” ALPP Blog (March 20, 2023).

Papers, Presentations, Panels

“Status of Elephants in Entertainment,” Performing Animal Welfare Society’s International Captive Wildlife Conference, Sacramento, California (November 11–12, 2022).

Guest Lectures

In the Animal Law course, Harvard Law School (February 28, 2023).

In the Animal Law & Policy Course, Wesleyan University (April 25, 2023).

Kelley McGill | Regulatory Policy Fellow

Publications

Federal Regulatory Comments

Comment on U.S. Food & Drug Admin, Labeling of Plant-based Milk Alternatives and Voluntary Nutrient Statements; Draft Guidance for Industry, Docket No. FDA-2023-D-0451, Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Clinic (April 24, 2023).

Comment on U.S.D.A., Voluntary Labeling of FSIS-Regulated Products with U.S.-Origin Claims, rule proposed on Mar. 13, 2023, Docket No. FSIS-2022-0015, Harvard Law School Animal Law & Policy Clinic (June 7, 2023).

Bonnie Nadzam | Writer & Editor

Publications

Books

Fatted Calf (novel, forthcoming).

Articles

“How to Live With Disappointment,” Conjunctions, Issue 79 (Fall 2022).

“How to Bear the Ending When You’ve Not Yet Begun the, Conjunctions, Issue 79 (Fall 2022).

How to Demonstrate Your Love, Guernica, forthcoming.

(Contributor): “Blindspots in Biodefense,” Science. Vol 379, Issue 6633, p. 621, DOI: 10.1126/science.adg9237 (February 16, 2023).

Works in Progress

How to Cook for Your Friends, How to Be the Pig, How to Go Extinct, How to Let Go, How to Confront Your Fantasies About Who You Think You Are, How to Address Endless Longing.

Sacred Bird (essay, co-authored with Ann Linder, forthcoming).

Dangerous Game of Chicken (essay, co-authored with Ann Linder, forthcoming).

Guest Lectures

“Storytelling and the Pluriverse,” Center for the Humanities, Wolfson College, Cambridge University, Cambridge UK (January 2023).

“Agency and Hope: Storytelling and Forms of Fiction Amidst Climate Change,” for the Institute for Religion in an Age of Science, Star Island, NH (June 2023).

Polina Bochenkova | Visiting Fellow

Publications

Works in Progress

“Russia” in Oxford Handbook on Global Animal Law, ed. Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, Saskia Stucki (Oxford University Press).

Sixteen months of the full-scale war in Ukraine lived by animals: interactive map (live August 15, 2023).

Animals in Armed Conflicts Archive (aac-archive.org, access currently restricted, public on August 20, 2023).

Story map: Animals during war as seen by animals and told by people.

The tragedy of Kherson flood and overlooked environmental losses of the Russian war in Ukraine (article, work in progress).

Papers, Presentations, Panels

“Animals in Armed Conflicts: The Full-Scale War in Ukraine,” Harvard Law School, panel during Animal Law Week (March 24, 2023).

Guest Lectures

“Animals in Armed Conflicts: Nine Years of Military Aggression of Russia in Ukraine through the Eyes of the Animals,” in the Animal Law course taught by Professor Stilt, Harvard Law School (April 12, 2023).

Danielle Diamond | Visiting Fellow

Publications

Books

Empty Fields, Empty Promises: A State-by-State Guide to Understanding and Transforming the Right to Farm. Loka Ashwood, Aimee Imlay, Lindsay Kuehn, Allen Franco, and Danielle Diamond. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill (forthcoming 2023).

Book Chapters

“Agricultural Exceptionalism, Environmental Injustice, and U.S. Right-to-Farm Laws.” Danielle Diamond, et al. (2 ELR 10727, September 2022), in Zoning and Planning Law Handbook, Prt. 5, Chapter 17. Patricia E. Salkin, ed. (Thomson-West, 2023).

Articles

“Agricultural Exceptionalism, Environmental Injustice, and U.S. Right-to-Farm Laws.” Environmental Law Reporter. Danielle Diamond, Loka Ashwood, Allen Franco, Lindsay Kuehn, Aimee Imlay, and Crystal Boutwell (9:52 ELR 10727, September 2022).

Works in Progress

ALPP Fellowship book project: Transformative Rural Justice for All: Across Differences of Social Space, Time, and Species.

Guest Lectures

In the Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic Seminar, Vermont Law & Graduate School (October 6, 2022).

Jan Dutkiewicz | Visiting Fellow

Publications

Articles

“Cultured Meat Needs a Race to Mission, not a Race to Market.” Nature Food. 3: 785–787 (2022). Dwayne Holmes, David Humbird, Jan Dutkiewicz, Yadira Tejeda-Saldana, Breanna Duffy, and Isha Datar. .

“Universities should lead on the plant-based dietary transition.” The Lancet Planetary Health. 7 (5), e354-e355 (2023). Jochen Krattenmacher, Paula Casal, Jan Dutkiewicz, et al.

Essays, Op-Eds, and Reviews

“The Vegan Protesters Spilling Milk in Supermarkets Are Right.” The New Republic (October 20, 2022).

“How the Meat Industry Undermines Effective Climate Policy.” The New Republic (with Spencer Roberts) (November 14, 2022).

“China’s Pig High-Rises Are Horrifying. So Are America’s Factory Farms.” The New Republic (February 15, 2023).

Spanish translation: “Cómo la industria cárnica socava la eficacia de las políticas climáticas.” El Diario (translated by Sara Hernández & Adrià Voltes) (February 27, 2023).

“The viral story of a girl and her goat explains how the meat industry indoctrinates children.” Vox (with Gabriel Rosenberg) (April 5, 2023).

“Why Right-Wingers are so Afraid of Men Eating Vegetables.” The New Republic (with Gabriel

Works in Progress

Forthcoming book chapter “The Political Economy of Cellular Agriculture.” The Technological and Scientific Foundations of Cellular Agriculture. (ed. Evan Fraser). Elsevier. Jan Dutkiewicz & Garrett Broad.

Vanessa Gischkow Garbini | Visiting Fellow

Publications

Articles

“3 becoming 1—the formula to save life on Earth” Central London Lawyer, 10-11. [Westminster & Holborn Law Society by Benham Publishing Limited - Issuu](#) (February 2023).

Works in Progress

“All Roads Lead to Sentience: The Past, Present, and Future of Animal Legal Protection in Brazil” (article, forthcoming in The Legal Recognition of Animal Sentience, April 2024).

[The Legal Recognition of Animal Sentience: Principles, Approaches and Applications: Jane Kotzmann: Hart Publishing \(bloomsbury.com\).](#)

“Introductory Course on International and National Animal Law,” Coordinator and lecturer (online pre-recorded course, forthcoming at Fundação Escola Superior do Ministério Público Law School (forthcoming, March 2024).

Yi Jian | Visiting Fellow

Papers, Presentations, Panels

Mentor & speaker, International Farm Animal Welfare Fellowship, <https://www.ifawf.org/2022-speakers>, virtual (Summer 2022).

Wet Market Reform Policy Bootcamp, a collaboration among the University of Cambridge, municipal authorities in the Chinese city of Nanjing and the Good Food Fund, virtual (September 2022).

Presented on the opening night of the Harvard Behavior Insights Student Group (BISG), Harvard Kennedy School (September 2022).

Panel with film directors of an Australian TV series, “Eating Plants,” Harvard University (September 2022).

Speaker and panelist, the Animal Vegan Advocacy (AVA) Summit, Washington DC (October 2022).

Panelist, Planetary Conversation on the Dining Table, a virtual dialogue curated by Juanzong Books Channels, one of China’s top new art and culture platform, virtual (October 2022).

Keynote Speech, the 1st China Vegan Summit, virtual (December 2022).

Panelist, International Panel of Animal Activism, Harvard University (February 2023).

Guest speaker at the Staff Family Meal of Blue Hill/ Stone Barns owned by Chef Dan Barber, New York (June 2023).

Presenter, Opening Session, on China’s meat consumption and the urge for change, the 29th Chef Culinary Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst (June 2023).

Guest Lectures

Summer program for 2023 Class of Mason Fellows (mid-career MPA, MC/MPA), Harvard Kennedy School of Government (August 2022).

Animals, the Environment, and Policies and Praxis in the Anthropocene, New York University (October 2022).

Food Systems in China, part of a credit course offered at Northeastern University (March 2023).

The Great Food System Transformation, a credit course offered to Harvard undergraduate and graduate students, Harvard University (April 2023).

Carlos Contreras Lopez | Visiting Fellow

Works in Progress

“Perspectives on the Recognition of Animal Sentience in Spain,” in The Legal Recognition of Animal Sentience: Principles, Approaches and Applications, ed. Jane Kotzmann, Marcelo Rodriguez Ferrere. Hart Publishing (book chapter, forthcoming).

“Case Note Sandra and Cecilia,” in Oxford Handbook of Animal Law, ed. Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt and Saskia Stucki (with Macarena Montes) (book chapter, forthcoming).

Papers, Presentations, Panels

“Perspectives on the Recognition of Animal Sentience in Spain” and “Vivotecnia: The Laboratory of Horrors.” Draft paper presented at ALPP workshop (May 11, 2023).

Guest Lectures

In the “Animal Law & Policy” class at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Macarena Montes Franceschini | Visiting Fellow

Publications

Articles

“Revolución judicial en Latinoamérica: Animales no humanos como personas,” 142 Revista Cultural 17 (2023), 64–65.

“Animal Rights Through the Rights of Nature: The Ecuadorian Constitutional Court’s Ruling on Estrellita the Woolly Monkey,” ReVista Harvard Review of Latin America (with Kristen Stilt) (2023).

Works in Progress

“Case Note Estrellita,” in Oxford Handbook of Animal Law, ed. Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt, and Saskia Stucki (with Kristen Stilt) (book chapter, forthcoming).

“Case Note Sandra and Cecilia,” in Oxford Handbook of Animal Law, ed. Anne Peters, Kristen Stilt and Saskia Stucki (with Carlos Contreras) (book chapter, forthcoming).

“Fatal Attractions. The Ethics of Persuasion of the Animal-Based Entertainment Industry,” in Public Relations and the Animal-Industrial Complex. Lobbying Against Compassion and the Ethics of Persuasion, ed. Núria Almiron (with Paula Casal) (book chapter, forthcoming) (London: Routledge, 2023).

“El lenguaje especista en el derecho,” in Especismo y Lenguaje, ed. Catia Faria and Núria Almiron (Madrid: Plaza y Valdés) (with Paula Casal) (book chapter, forthcoming).

Papers, Presentations, Panels

“Animal Rights and the Rights of Nature,” David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University, ReVista Harvard Review of Latin America launch (March 1, 2023).

“Animal Rights and the Rights of Nature,” NYU Animal Studies, event organized by Professor Jeff Sebo (with Kristen Stilt) (March 8, 2023).

“The Estrellita Ruling and the Rights of Animals,” Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, conference organized by Victoria Animal (with Kristen Stilt) (March 22, 2023).

Draft paper presented at ALPP workshop (May 9, 2023).

“Animal Personhood in Latin America,” William E. Doyle Inn of Court, panel featuring Professor Justin Marceau and Attorney Jake Davis (May 17, 2023).

Guest Lectures

Animal Law course, Harvard Law School (April 18, 2023).

Michelle Sinclair | Visiting Fellow

Publications

Books

“The emergence of animal welfare science and policy in Africa, Asia and Latin America” (e-publication). Eds. Rebecca E. Doyle, Maria José Hötzel, Oluwaseun Serah Iyasere, Michelle Sinclair, and Jeremy N. Marchant, published by Frontiers in Veterinary Science (2022).

Scientific Articles

“Animal welfare at slaughter: perceptions and knowledge across cultures.” Sinclair M, Hötzel MJ, Lee NYP, de Luna MCT, Sharma A, Idris M, Islam MA, Iyasere OS, Navarro G, Ahmed AA, Burns GL, Curry M and Marchant JN Front. Anim. Sci. 4:1141789. doi: 10.3389/fanim.2023.1141789 (2023).

“Consumer attitudes towards egg production systems and hen welfare across the world.” Sinclair M, Lee NYP, Hötzel MJ, de Luna MCT, Sharma A, Idris M, Islam MA, Iyasere OS, Navarro G, Ahmed AA, Curry M, Burns GL, and Marchant JN (2022) Front. Anim. Sci. 3:995430. doi: 10.3389/fanim.2022.995430.

“Opportunities for the Progression of Farm Animal Welfare in China.” Sinclair M, Lee HP, Chen M, Li X, Mi J, Chen S and Marchant JN (2022) Front. Anim. Sci.3:893772. doi: 10.3389/fanim.2022.893772.

“Cage egg producers’ perspectives on the adoption of cage-free systems in China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand.” de Luna MCT, Yang Q, Agus A, Ito S, Idrus Z, Iman RHS, Jattuchai J, Lane E, Nuggehalli J, Hartcher K and Sinclair

M (2022) Front. Vet. Sci. 9:1038362. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2022.1038362.

“Use of ‘demonstration farm’ videos to affect attitude change toward animal welfare on beef, egg, and fish farms in China.” Yang, Y., Liu, T., Nilsson, D., Hartcher, K., Shih, H.-Y., Wu, Z.-H., Liu, Z.-Y., Sinclair, M., Samayoa, X., Henning, K., & Descovich, K. (2023). Outlook on Agriculture, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00307270231173137>.

Blog Posts

“Reasons to be optimistic about animal welfare in China” Faunalytics (2022) <https://faunalytics.org/reasons-to-be-optimistic-about-animal-welfare-in-china/>

“Egg Producers Open Their Minds to Opening Hen Cages” Faunalytics (2022) <https://faunalytics.org/egg-producers-open-their-minds-to-opening-hen-cages/>

Papers, Presentations, Panels

“Opportunities to improve animal welfare in China,” Data for Animals conference, Faunalytics (2022).

“Effective animal advocacy across borders,” Stanford Medical School (2023).

“Improving international hen welfare strategy,” A World of Good (2023).



Looking Forward to the 2023–2024 Academic Year

In the coming year, the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program will host an impressive new cohort of Visiting Fellows, continue its Animal Law & Policy Workshop Series, add new course offerings, welcome guest speakers, and host events on campus. You can stay up to date with our work by signing up for our newsletter via the Animal Law & Policy Program website, which also features news about our work, information about events and opportunities, and closed-captioned recordings of our speaker series and symposia.

In the 2023–2024 academic year we will be hosting 12 Visiting Fellows.

The Fellows are listed below with their research project titles.

Visiting Fellow

Alex Blanchette

Ambitious Quitters: An Ethnography against American Industrial Meat

Visiting Fellow

Polina Bochenkova

Animals in Armed Conflicts Archive: Collaborative Multimedia Archive Documenting the Impacts of Conflicts on Nonhuman Animals.

Visiting Fellow

Macarena Montes Franceschini

Monograph “Nonhuman Animal Personhood: Moral and Legal Implications”

Visiting Fellow

Pamela Frasch

7th Edition of Animal Law Cases & Materials The Intersection of Art, the Use of Animals, and Free Speech Concepts

Visiting Fellow

Che Gossett

Abolition, Law, and Animality

Visiting Fellow

Amanda Hitt

Working with Whistleblowers to Build Strong Movements

Visiting Fellow

Yi Jian

Research and Pre-Production Planning for Zodiac 12 Documentary

Visiting Scholar

Peter Li

Meat Consumption and China’s Food Security Policy: A Critical Review

Visiting Fellow

Carlos Contreras López

Global Challenges in Animal Law

Visiting Fellow

Silvina Pezzetta

Argentina: Between the Animal Farming Intensification and the Recognition of Animal Rights

Visiting Fellow

Cleo Verkuijl

Mainstreaming Animal Welfare in Sustainable Development: Opportunities for International Action

Visiting Fellow

Dinesh Wadiwel

The Rule of Law: A Tactical Problem for Animal Advocacy



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