



CENTER FOR
ANIMAL LAW STUDIES
Lewis & Clark Law School

2025-2026 Academic Year
**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



WELCOME

Welcome to our 2025-2026 Year in Review!

Looking back on the past year, I am so inspired by how far the animal law movement has come and how critical a role the Center for Animal Law Studies (CALS) continues to play in pushing it forward. As you'll see in the pages that follow, our faculty, students, and alumni are tackling some of the most urgent legal challenges facing animals today.

Every year, our reach grows, and so does our impact. Today, Lewis & Clark Law School animal law alumni span 36 countries across six continents. That global footprint is fueled by our academic excellence. It is also made possible by our commitment to providing life-changing scholarships, enabling dedicated advocates from around the world to pursue advanced degrees and protect animals where they need it most.

Inside this report, you will find key highlights, major program announcements, and updates from across our community from the 2025-26 academic year. You will also get a look at our comprehensive curriculum, meet some of our remarkable scholarship recipients, and see the global reach of our alumni network in action.

Every course we offer, every student we train, and every policy we influence is part of building a more compassionate world. Thank you for reading and being an integral part of the CALS community!

With gratitude,



Megan Senatori
Executive Director
Center for Animal Law Studies



SCHOLARSHIPS FUEL ANIMAL PROTECTION AROUND THE WORLD

We offer full and partial scholarships for students because the opportunity to study animal law remains out of reach for far too many advocates. These scholarships enable both U.S. and international students



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to gain the deep knowledge and hands-on training they need to become legal experts. After graduation, they use these tools to pioneer or expand the field of animal law in their home communities. Equipped with specialized knowledge, leadership skills, and cultural competence, our graduates drive real-world change, advancing legal protections in the regions where animals need them most.



Dr. Alba Michelle Gonzalez, '24 MSL, United States (Puerto Rico)
Rascal Unit, Founder and Medical Director

“Without this scholarship I would not have been able to pursue the Animal Law MSL program. This opportunity has made me a stronger animal advocate by giving me tools I did not possess. It also allowed me to meet incredible people involved in animal law, both instructors and peers. I have become a much better advocate for animals by understanding the legal system and using the knowledge gained to work with prosecutors in animal cruelty cases and work with attorneys and advocates in the improvement of laws protecting animals.”



Giulia Malerbi, '23 MSL, Italy
Head of Global Policy, Aquatic Life Institute

“This scholarship gave me the freedom to fully commit to my [MSL] degree while continuing my advocacy at the highest levels. Having the chance to study while actively representing animals in global policy spaces has been invaluable—I’ve been able to approach complex challenges with greater confidence, precision, and authority. Since graduating, I have been applying my legal training directly in my advocacy work—developing and influencing policy proposals, contributing to global successful legislative campaigns (such as preemptive bans on octopus farming), and integrating animal welfare into climate, ocean, and food systems governance.”



Dulki Seethawaka, '25 LLM, Sri Lanka
Senior Executive Researcher (Specialising in Animal Laws), Centre for Environmental Law and Policy, University of Colombo

“This scholarship opportunity has not only shaped my education but has also strengthened my determination to dedicate my life to protecting animals. Since I began my studies, I have become even more aware of the many ways animals in Sri Lanka are mistreated. This has made me realise how much work lies ahead, and I am committed to doing my part.”

Educating the next generation of animal law advocates and advancing animal protection through the law.

Learn more about our work at: www.CenterForAnimalLawStudies.org

2025-2026 Academic Course Offerings

Fall 2025:

- ▶ Animal Law Clinic - Raj Reddy & Joyce Tischler (IP)
- ▶ Animal Law Fundamentals- Raj Reddy (IP)
- ▶ Animal Law Fundamentals - Pamela Frasch (OL)
- ▶ Animal Law Legislation and Lobbying - Russ Mead (IP)
- ▶ Aquatic Animal Law - Hira Jaleel (OL)
- ▶ Companion Animal Law - Russ Mead (IP)
- ▶ Crimes Against Animals - David Rosengard (OL)
- ▶ Emerging Topics in Animal Law: Insect Law - Raj Reddy (OL)
- ▶ Farmed Animal Protection Project - Hira Jaleel (IP)
- ▶ Global Wild Animal Law - Erica Lyman (OL)
- ▶ Industrial Animal Agriculture Law - Hira Jaleel (IP)
- ▶ International Animal and Environmental Law Clinic - Erica Lyman (IP)
- ▶ Introduction to US Legal Studies - Kaitilyn Bestor (OL)
- ▶ Legal Research: Animal Law - Kaitilyn Bestor (IP)

Spring 2026:

- ▶ Animal Law Clinic II - Raj Reddy & Joyce Tischler (IP)
- ▶ Animal Law Fundamentals - Pamela Frasch (OL)
- ▶ Animal Law Legislation and Lobbying - AJ Kroboth (OL)
- ▶ Animal Law Trial Advocacy - Russ Mead (IP)
- ▶ Animal Legal Philosophy - Raj Reddy (IP)
- ▶ Animal Legal Philosophy - Rebecca Critser (OL)
- ▶ Aquatic Animal Law - Hira Jaleel (IP)
- ▶ Crimes Against Animals - Jake Kamins (IP)
- ▶ Emerging Topics in Animal Law: Animals, the Law & Modern Media - Pam Byce (OL)
- ▶ Farmed Animal Protection Project II - Hira Jaleel (IP)
- ▶ Industrial Animal Agriculture Law - Cynthia von Schlichten (OL)
- ▶ Introduction to US Legal Studies - Kaitilyn Bestor (OL)
- ▶ Nonprofit Animal Law - Russ Mead (IP)

Summer 2026:

- ▶ Animal Law Trial Advocacy - Sarah Thompson
- ▶ Food Law - Kaitilyn Bestor & Pamela Frasch
- ▶ The Law & Ethics of Animal Testing - Rebecca Critser & Dr. Paul Locke

IP = In Person OL = Online



GLOBAL REACH

The Animal Law Program continues to elevate the animal law field by fostering its development around the world. Our alumni hail from 36 countries around the globe, and our reach is growing!



INTERACTIVE MAP

Check out our interactive map for the bios of our alumni by country.



Australia
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China
Finland
France
Hungary
India

Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Malaysia
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria

Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
Tanzania

Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom
(England)
United Kingdom
(Scotland)
United States
Zimbabwe

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2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL IMPACT FOR ANIMALS



Announcing the 2025-26 CALS Global Ambassadors

Our fifth cohort of CALS Ambassadors has been selected to lead innovative projects that advance animal protection and animal law worldwide. Through the Global Ambassador Program (GAP), CALS empowers animal law JD, LLM, and MSL alumni to take their advocacy and education around the world, supporting projects that create meaningful, lasting impact for animals and the communities that care for them. [Read more](#)



Introducing our 2026 Animal Law Award Winners

Meet this year's graduating Animal Law Award recipients: Camille Bond (JD), Vivian González Méndez (LLM), and Laurisa Schutt (MSL). Nominated by CALS faculty for their steadfast commitment to the field, these three remarkable graduates blend deep legal knowledge with impactful real-world advocacy. We are delighted to celebrate their achievements and honor their work advancing animal law. [Read more](#)



Announcing the Africa Animal Law Collaborative

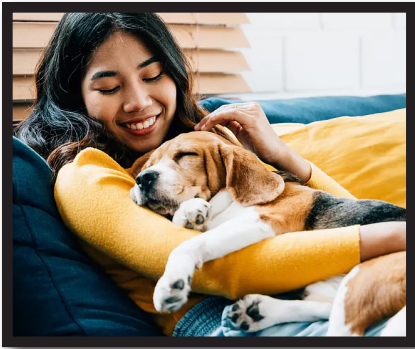
The Africa Animal Law Collaborative is a strategic initiative designed to cultivate, connect, and sustain a new generation of animal law leaders dedicated to protecting Africa's animals. Co-led by CALS and the Alliance for Human Animal Coexistence, working with African non-partner organizations, this cross-border coalition will combine education, mentorship, advocacy, capacity, and judicial/prosecutorial training. It centers African leadership to drive long-term, community-led change for animals across the continent.

[Read more](#)

Educating the next generation of animal law advocates and advancing animal protection through the law.

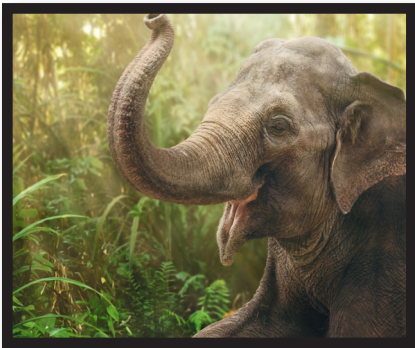
Learn more about our work at: www.CenterForAnimalLawStudies.org

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL IMPACT FOR ANIMALS



Animal Law Clinic Students Help Draft Groundbreaking Colorado Law

Faculty and students in the Animal Law Clinic powered a major legislative victory in Colorado through their dedicated legal work. HB26-1229, “Supporting the Human-Animal Bond,” formally recognizes that the relationship between people and their companion animals directly improves health and longevity. Affirming this connection in law marks a historic, bipartisan victory for humans and the animals who enrich their lives. [Read more](#)



Bridging the Gaps in Global Animal Law: Introducing Animalex

CALS and the Centre for Professional Legal Education at Bond University have unveiled Animalex, a groundbreaking global resource library and networking hub. Designed specifically for animal law educators, researchers, advocates, attorneys, and students worldwide, Animalex offers free access to a curated collection of animal law-focused research, scholarship, and educational materials. [Read more](#)



CALS Executive Director Megan Senatori Receives ABA Excellence in Animal Law Award

Megan Senatori, executive director of CALS, was honored with the Excellence in the Advancement of Animal Law Award. Presented by the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section Animal Law Committee, the prestigious award recognizes Megan’s outstanding contributions to advancing the humane treatment of animals through the law. [Read more](#)

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2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL IMPACT FOR ANIMALS



CALS Launches Comparative Report to Curb the Expansion of Industrial Animal Agriculture

CALS' Farmed Animal Protection Project released a landmark report titled "A Comparative Analysis of Litigation Strategies in Brazil, India, Mexico and Zimbabwe." This first-of-its-kind project examines how courts are addressing the rapid industrialization of animal agriculture in four populous low- and middle-income countries, offering critical insights for advocates and policy-makers to help curb factory farming in regions where it is growing fastest.

[Read more](#)



Animal Law in Action: Key Takeaways from The 2025 Animal Law Conference

In October 2025, the 33rd Annual Animal Law Conference brought together over 500 animal law attorneys, students, academics, and advocates dedicated to animal protection. Co-presented by CALS and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the event was an inspiring weekend of networking, learning, and collaboration focused on navigating the ever-changing field of animal law.

[Read more](#)



Reflections on CITES at 50

Every few years, the Conference of the Parties meets to review the implementation of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). These gatherings provide a critical opportunity to work with governments and advocates to protect wildlife, both plants and animals, from exploitation and illegal trade. Professor Erica Lyman, Director of the Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment — a collaboration of CALS and the Environmental Law Program — shares her insights and looks to the future of CITES. [Read more](#)

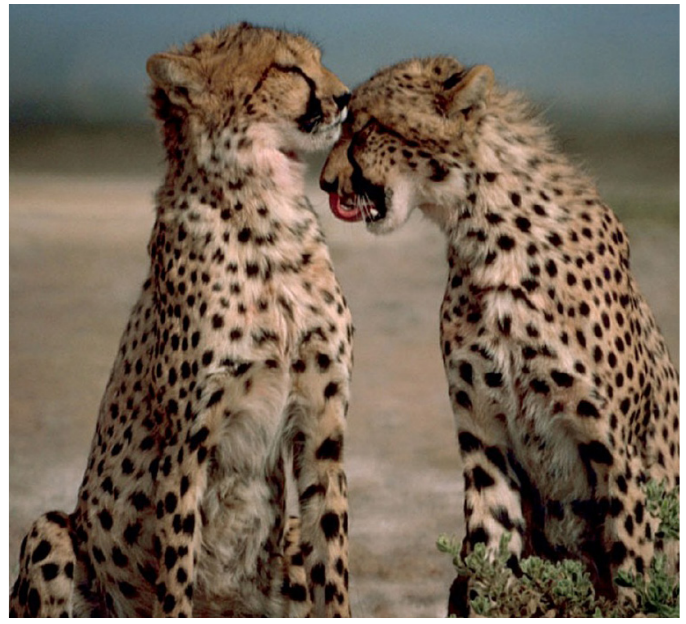
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2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL IMPACT

FOR ANIMALS



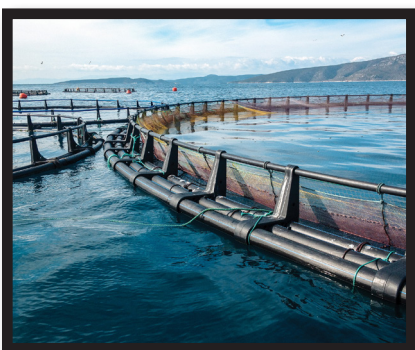
CALS Launches Food System Reform Fellowship

Lewis & Clark JD alum Sarah Rae ('25) is serving as the inaugural fellow for the newly launched Food System Reform Fellowship, working with US Senator Cory Booker's office until February 1, 2027. Under the supervision of Senator Booker's counsel, Sarah focuses on key initiatives around food system reform, nutrition, and animal welfare, conducting legal research, drafting letters and legislation, preparing materials for meetings and committee hearings, and supporting stakeholder engagement. [Read more](#)



The Mother of Animal Law Prepares for her Next Chapter: Joyce Tischler Announces Her Retirement

After nearly five decades of trailblazing advocacy and scholarship, including seven years as a Professor of Practice at Lewis & Clark Law School, Joyce Tischler retired on June 30, 2026. Affectionately known as the "Mother of Animal Law," Joyce is widely recognized by the animal law community for her pivotal role in transforming a virtually-nonexistent field into a global movement. We are grateful she is part of our CALS community. [Read more](#)



Making Waves: Key Takeaways from the 2026 International Aquaculture Law & Policy Symposium

This June, CALS hosted an inaugural International Aquaculture Law & Policy Symposium at the University of Birmingham, England, with co-hosts Aquatic Life Institute and the Multispecies Collective. The event brought together policymakers, scholars, and advocates from over 20 countries to explore the rapidly-developing field of industrial animal aquaculture law and policy. Participants learned from leading experts and workshopped strategies aimed at advancing aquatic animal protection, reforming policy, and curbing industry expansion. [Read more](#)

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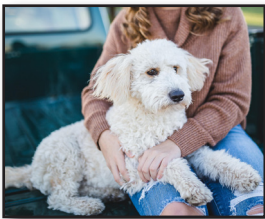
Learn more about our work at: www.CenterForAnimalLawStudies.org

EXPERIENTIAL PROGRAMS

Translating Classroom Knowledge into Real-World Impact

Through CALS' hands-on experiential offerings, our students gain essential, firsthand experience while driving tangible legal protections for animals. These opportunities empower the next generation of animal law leaders to bridge theory and hands-on advocacy.

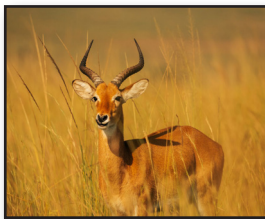
This year, our students:



Represented real-world clients in policy, legislative, and transactional work in the **Animal Law Clinic**. Students helped draft and pass historic Colorado legislation codifying the human-animal bond as a social determinant of health, submitted testimony supporting Hawaii's proposed ban on commercial octopus farming, and contributed to the Animal Legal Defense Fund's national Crime Data Project.



Advanced protections for farmed animals and built a more transparent food system through the **Farmed Animal Protection Project**. Students opposed federal rules accelerating slaughter line speeds, co-authored a landmark report on factory farming litigation across four countries, and prepared a Food and Drug Administration petition challenging misleading eco-claims on aquatic animal products.



Worked to protect wild animals and the environment through the development, implementation, and enforcement of international law as part of the **Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment**. Student work supported efforts to address illegal trade in shark fins; adoption of new legislation in the European Union to address the illegal wildlife trade; adoption of a new treaty to address plastic pollution, and more.

Makaela Whalen ('26, JD), who was a student in the Animal Law Clinic, worked on the Colorado bill and shares: "This incredible clinical opportunity gave me experience in drafting bills, providing testimony, and working directly with a client. This project also gave me the chance to learn more about the legislative process and see how it can be a powerful pathway to protecting human health and animal well-being."

Educating the next generation of animal law advocates and advancing animal protection through the law.

Learn more about our work at: www.CenterForAnimalLawStudies.org

Support the Future of Animal Law

CALS educates and empowers advocates through the most comprehensive animal law curriculum in the world. As a self-funded center within Lewis & Clark Law School, we rely on the generosity of donors to offer multiple advanced legal degrees and numerous hands-on learning opportunities. Your gifts directly fuel our programs and provide life-changing scholarships, giving passionate animal advocates the chance to pursue a career devoted to animal protection.

By creating more scholarships, our hope is that promising candidates are able to matriculate, receive a high quality education, graduate, and become impactful leaders in the field of animal law in their home states and countries. Scholarships are life-changing for individual scholarship recipients and transformative in helping to address the full range of animal protection issues that require change across the globe. Interested in creating a scholarship to advance animal protection? Contact Megan Senatori, Executive Director of the Center for Animal Law Studies at megansenatori@lclark.edu.

WAYS TO GIVE

Online:

Visit our website at: https://law.lclark.edu/centers/animal_law_studies/supportus/

By Check

Make checks payable to Center for Animal Law Studies and mail to: Center for Animal Law Studies, Attn: Lindsay Kadish, 10101 S. Terwilliger Blvd., Portland, OR 97219

By Wire Transfer

Please contact Lindsay Kadish at lkadish@lclark.edu for our bank details.

Foundation grants, gifts, or securities:

Contact Lindsay Kadish at lkadish@lclark.edu for information on giving online or via check.

Create a Legacy

Protect animals for generations to come through our Animal Law Legacy Program by including CALS in your estate plan.

Center for Animal Law
Studies at Lewis & Clark Law
School EIN: 93-0386858

Educating the next generation of animal law advocates and advancing animal protection through the law.

Learn more about our work at: www.CenterForAnimalLawStudies.org

ANIMAL LAW LEGACY PROGRAM

Create A More Compassionate World For Animals

Imagine a world where animals are safe and loved. It's a world where animals are recognized as sentient beings and their interests respected in legal systems around the world. Animals need lawyers because our legal system routinely fails to consider their interests. At the **Center for Animal Law Studies** (CALS), our legacy is to educate the next generation of animal law advocates and advance animal protection through the law. Together, we can create a more compassionate world for animals.



Make plans today

To create a legacy for animals, please visit
www.AnimalLawLegacyProgram.org or
contact us at CALSLegacyProgram@lclark.edu.



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