

About the Author

Barbara J. Gislason is internationally known as a pioneer in the practice area of animal law; she received the Outstanding Recognition Award for Laying the Foundation for the Success of the Animal Law Committee and Its Mission to Create a Just World for All from the American Bar Association (ABA) Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS). Ms. Gislason earned her B.A. at Carleton College and her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law. She has been an American Bar Foundation Fellow, a Super Lawyer, and a Leading American Attorney. She practices in the areas of family law, animal law, and intellectual property law.

After launching animal law in the professional bar of her home state of Minnesota, Ms. Gislason brought animal law to the national bar. She became the mother of animal law in the ABA. Through TIPS, she was able to found and lead the TIPS Animal Law Committee (ALC) and gather and retain the best and brightest animal lawyers from four continents. Under her leadership, the ALC flourished. She created, served as Editor-in-Chief, and contributed to the ALC newsletter, as well as *Tort Trial & Insurance Law Journal*, *The Brief*, and *TortSource*. She is now a TIPS Fellow and Uniform Law Commission Liaison.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, Ms. Gislason created the ABA Animal Disaster Relief Network and convened the ABA Select Legal Panel on Emergency Management. She was a principal drafter and proponent of the adopted ABA Resolution titled *Model Act Governing Standards for the Care and Disposition of Disaster Animals*. She served as the ABA Section of Family Law (SFL) Liaison to the ABA Special Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness; she also founded and chaired a related SFL task force. Ms. Gislason served as an Observer for the Uniform Law Commission Family Law Arbitration Drafting Committee. By Presidential appointment, she now serves on the ABA Special Committee on Bioethics and the Law.

Ms. Gislason also served as an ABA Advisor to the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) regarding the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act (UEVHPA) uniform law and led the effort that enabled the portability of veterinary licenses, along with medical licenses, across state lines in a disaster context. As the result of this effort, she was the subject of the feature story for *DVM Magazine*, the premier publication of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Ms.

Gislason served on a disaster-related U.S. Department of Justice project advisory committee and participated in a U.S. Department of Homeland Security project and working group. She appeared in the documentary *Left Behind without a Choice*, and her work is described in the book *Rescued: Saving Animals from Disaster*.

The *New York Times*, *ABA Journal*, and *Maddie's Fund* newsletter have acknowledged Ms. Gislason's contributions to animal law. Following Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Phil McGraw called her the "top animal advocate attorney in the country" on his television show *Dr. Phil*.

She has held other national leadership positions, including for the ABA Intellectual Property Law Section, where she serves on Council and has led a variety of task forces. She has also served as Minnesota State Chair of the American Bar Foundation Fellows and received a distinguished national leadership award.

Ms. Gislason has lectured at a wide variety of international and national conferences and annual meetings. They include the following:

- ABA Section of Family Law Spring Meeting
- ABA Section of International Law Spring Meeting
- ABA Presidential Select Program on Freedom of Speech
- American Animal Hospital Association Annual Meeting
- American Veterinary Medical Law Association Annual Meeting
- Animal Legal Defense Fund Harvard University Animal Law Legal Conference
- Columbia Law School Joint Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and Columbia Science and Technology Organization Program
- Humane Society of the United States Disaster Conference
- Lewis & Clark Law School Animal Law Conference
- University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) International Animal Law Conference
- Union Internationale des Avocats Congresses in Miami, Dresden, Macau, Florence, Valencia, and Budapest
- Union Internationale des Avocats Seminars in Hefei, Budapest, and Minneapolis

With regard to international leadership positions, Ms. Gislason serves on the Board of Directors of the Paris-based Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA), is President of the UIA Biotechnology Law Commission, and is President of the UIA U.S. National Committee. She has also lectured on American democracy to prominent bar associations in Algeria.

She has presented pet-related webinars and programs sponsored by the ABA Solo, Small Firm, and General Practice Division and ABA TIPS as well as the

National Business Institute. Ms. Gislason contributed to the ABA Dispute Resolution Section Newsletter on the subject of pet custody mediation.

In addition to the above efforts, Ms. Gislason has long been active in the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) Family Law Section, where she served on the Legislative Committee and chaired the Blue Ribbon Panel on the Rules of Professional Conduct. She has made CLE presentations for the MSBA Family Law Section, Animal Law Section, and the Probate and Trust Law Section. She long served on the Hennepin County Minnesota District Court Mediator and Referee Panel, where she helped resolve family law and other civil disputes at the pretrial stage. She was instrumental in the passage of the pet trust law in Minnesota.

Ms. Gislason is in private practice in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In family law, she handles custody, child support, spousal maintenance, property and business disputes, and cases involving domestic violence. For animal law, her caseload ranges from custody and ownership disputes, transactional matters, and veterinary malpractice to harassment, dangerous dog proceedings, zoning violations, and more. In intellectual property law, she represents authors, artists, entertainers, and businesses.

In her personal life, Ms. Gislason is often in the company of dogs. She is also an avid reader, world traveler, and innovator. She frequents coffee shops that attract philosophers, authors, and retired academics. For more information, go to <http://www.gislasonlaw.com/>.