

“Barbara Gislason, the founder of the American Bar Association’s focus on animal law, has crafted a unique, well-researched, and groundbreaking book about companion animals. I recommend it to anyone with a curious mind.”

—Linda Klein, ABA President 2016–2017

“This persuasive and inspiring book is the work of a lawyer who turns her passion into powerful advocacy. Barbara seeks justice for companion animals who become members of the family. This original, well-crafted, and practical book is well worth the read for lawyers around the world who care about protecting and caring for our most loyal friends who have no voice of their own.”

—Laurel Bellows, ABA President 2012–2013

“Having attended the same high school and law school as Barbara Gislason, I have been intrigued by her development as a thought leader on animal subjects. She has written a fascinating book about companion animals, and it will be useful to family law practitioners and ADR professionals embroiled in pet custody disputes. This carefully crafted book is unique on the world stage and I recommend it.”

—Nancy Zalusky Berg, President of the International Academy
of Family Lawyers

“There was a time when women and children were considered chattels. But for the forward thinking of a few that grew into the enlightenment of multitudes, I could not have voted, become a lawyer, or had the privilege of serving as a chair of the ABA Section of Family Law. These are the thoughts that sprang to mind when Barbara Gislason outlined the labor of love she undertook when she embarked on writing the definitive book on pets in the law. *Pet Law and Custody* is a must-read for family lawyers who want to serve the interests of clients who are not content to settle for recitations that the animals in their families are property and who want to learn how to make a case for rights where none exist.”

—Anita Ventrelli, Chair, ABA Section of Family Law 2008–2009

“Having long served on the board of an internationally recognized veterinary group, I observed a change in veterinary core beliefs. We recognized and adopted policies that animals are sentient. Lawyers, like health professionals, are aware of scientific breakthroughs and changing their core beliefs, too. In this seminal book by Barbara Gislason about companion animals, the ethical and moral quandaries applicable to both professions are understood and amplified. I am thrilled to recommend this indispensable resource for my colleagues, and those interested in understanding how the legal system can be improved.”

—Kate Knutson, DVM; Past President, American Animal Hospital Association;
Past President, Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics

“Barbara Gislason is a pioneer in the field of animal and pet law. I know because I was there early on when she faced much criticism, even derision, as she struggled to get proper recognition for this emerging discipline. But she persisted and is now internationally recognized for her efforts. She shares her experience and insights in this informative book that captures the legal aspects and emotional nuances of animal law. When representing a client with legal issues involving animals, a lawyer is well advised to have this book close at hand.”

—Justice Paul H. Anderson, Minnesota Supreme Court 1994–2013

“Long aware of her national leadership in animal law, I applaud Gislason’s groundbreaking and unique book. In addition to providing practical advice and intriguing case law analysis, she offers a compelling vision as to where companion animals, as family members, rightfully belong in 21st-century jurisprudence. I foresee that Barbara Gislason’s book will earn its place on the world stage.”

—Ellen Rosenblum, Oregon Attorney General

“A creative exploration of pet law and custody issues for a wide-ranging audience. The book is both visionary—in exploring the changing role of our pets in society and in the eyes of the law—and practical—in providing real-world advice to advocates via case summaries, practical pointers, and appendices filled with useful litigation tools.”

—Daina Bray, Chair of ABA Animal Law Committee;
General Counsel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare

“A comprehensive and well-researched book on pet custody is long overdue. *Pet Law and Custody* provides readers with important practical advice about what to do if a dispute arises. I’m certain this unique book will propel much needed change in companion animal law.”

—Marc Bekoff, Author of *The Animals’ Agenda: Freedom, Compassion,
and Coexistence in the Human Age*

“I am not familiar with any other book that unpacks the complexity of laws affecting pet custody disputes. In particular, this book offers extensive information about how ADR processes such as arbitration and mediation can be used in resolving these kinds of conflicts. I recommend this excellent book to my peers.”

—Barbara Atwood, Chair, Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act Drafting Committee;
Professor Emerita, University of Arizona Rogers College of Law

“This book stands as the definitive study of the status of pet law and custody. Barbara Gislason’s scholarship expands beyond that and offers cogent and compelling arguments for redefining the status given to pets within our legal system—going beyond the restrictive ‘property’ classification—and offers bold arguments of why companion animals should be considered as our family members legally and morally. This visionary book offers a thrilling prospect of what the future holds for us and our dog companions.”

—Claudia Kawczynska, Editor-in-Chief, *The Bark*

“I applaud Barbara Gislason for writing this fascinating book about companion animals. As a family lawyer in London, I was intrigued to learn about the complexity of all the law in the States. I have invited this author to address the Family Law Commission of the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) at its 61st Congress. I recommend this book to family lawyers everywhere with a curious mind.”

—Simon Bruce, President of the UIA Family Law Commission

“Once upon a time nonhuman animals were nearly invisible to law. No more. Today they are everywhere in law and perhaps no more often than in cases resulting from their status as family members. Barbara’s book provides an excellent roadmap for those who need to know what to do when their nonhuman family member is in the middle of a legal problem.”

—Steven Wise, Author of *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals*

“This thoughtfully crafted volume reveals well that grasping the significance of animal law requires a dance of partners—practicality, compassion, legal precision, and an open-hearted vision. This accessible volume should be read by anyone who hopes to make citizens in modern societies more aware that they can foster protections for many nonhuman animals who live with, among, or near us.”

—Dr. Paul Waldau, Author of *Animal Studies: An Introduction*;
Professor, Canisius College

“I was president of the Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) when Barbara Gislason historically launched the Animal Law Committee, then Section. With great respect, I applaud her achievement in writing this comprehensive and well-researched book about companion animal law. Family lawyers, judges, and ADR professionals will find this book both interesting and useful.”

—Jim Baillie, MSBA President 2003–2004

“During the time I was executive director of the American Bar Association, Barbara J. Gislason sought my advice in bringing animal law to the ABA. I was pleased to assist her, knowing that with her brains, tenacity, and enthusiasm, she would be a trailblazer second to none. I am impressed by her book about companion animals and pet custody disputes and recommend it to lawyers and judges alike.”

—Bob Stein, Former ABA Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer

“When Barbara spoke at Harvard Law School many years ago, I knew she was a visionary. I am honored to recommend her thoroughly researched, beautifully written, and captivating book to anyone interested in the welfare of companion animals.”

—Song Wei, Dean, University of Science and Technology of China

“In 2015, I was proud to present Barbara J. Gislason with 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 ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section. Now, I applaud her achievements in writing a cutting-edge book that will be useful to family lawyers, animal lawyers, and ADR professionals alike. An essential resource for anyone interested in the intersection of the legal system with the human–animal bond.”

—Christopher Green, Executive Director, Harvard Law School
Animal Law & Policy Program

“When animal law was in its infancy, as MSBA president elect, I sponsored Barbara Gislason in her effort to launch animal law in Minnesota. This extraordinary book will forever change the place of companion animals in American life. This is a go-to book.”

—David Stowman, President, Minnesota State Bar Association 2004–2005

“I like this book because it offers extensive case analysis, practice pointers, and a vision for a better tomorrow. Family lawyers and animal lawyers alike, as well as ADR professionals, will find this book invaluable. I recommend it.”

—Richard Pena, President, State Bar of Texas 1998–1999;
President, American Bar Foundation 2008–2009

“Now that companion animals have become family members, it is time for lawyers, lawmakers, and bioethicists to reimagine animal welfare. I was impressed by this comprehensive and compelling work and recommend it to my bioethicist colleagues.”

—Jonathan Moreno, Author of *Mind Wars: Brain Science and the Military in the 21st Century*

“Barbara J. Gislason is a trailblazer on animal welfare subjects and I am proud to be her friend. Because I know her intellectually, I was not surprised by the breadth and depth of her extraordinary book. I recommend this book to primate and companion animal enthusiasts alike.”

—Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, Author of *Apes, Language, and the Human Mind*

“*Pet Law and Custody* is a groundbreaking, well-researched, and intriguing treatise on the development of custody law for the animals we love. Ms. Gislason presents a national review of pet case law, with practice pointers, and cogently analyzes past developments and discusses future trends. For both the legal practitioner and lay reader alike, this book is a must-read. You will be transformed by its contents.”

—Hon. Marilyn Kaman, ABA Observer to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and ABA Section of International Law

“Barbara Gislason’s book reflects both her expertise and compassion. Her wonderful, inspiring book will help those with pet custody disputes. A groundbreaking work and treasure trove of valuable resources, this book is an important game-changer. We enthusiastically endorse and recommend it.”

—Allen and Linda Anderson, *New York Times* bestselling authors of *A Dog Named Leaf* and founders of Angel Animals Network

“Barbara’s passion for animals and her legal skills can clearly be seen in this comprehensive book. The subject is treated in depth and rarely does an animal law-themed book include mediation, collaborative law, and arbitration. This pioneering book, thanks to its thorough reasoning, is very useful, even for a civil law lawyer like me!”

—Jean-François Henrotte, President of Euregio Arbitration Center; Secretary-General of International Center for Collaborative Law, Belgium

“This book is a full legal handbook for the human owner of companion animals. While custody disputes about companion animals are an initial focus, the book expands into a wider circle of legal issues, with topics including family law, property law, and animal cruelty. All owners of companion animals should have this as a reference guide to legal issues.”

—David Favre, Author of *Animal Welfare, Interests, and Rights*; Professor of Law, Michigan State University

“Domesticated animals and humans have a symbiotic relationship. We have bred them for thousands of years, shaping every aspect of their form for human benefit. As domesticated animals, the law has focused on animals as property. With the development of the concept of the ‘companion animal,’ there is a natural shift in the legal framework to acknowledge the complexity of the relationship. *Pet Law and Custody* is a substantial advance in framing these relationships in the context of ethics, laws, and symbiotic relationships between species.”

—Stephen M. Hewitt and Mercedes K. Meyer, Owners/Breeders/Handlers

“Cat lovers will appreciate Barbara Gislason’s comprehensive analysis of the law impacting our beloved companion animals. It is an imperative resource not only for lawyers, but laypeople and mystery fiction authors like me. I know my readers will especially value the section on wills and trusts involving animals. Thank goodness the animals have found a strong new and authoritative advocate.”

—Carole Nelson Douglas, Author of *Midnight Louie Feline PI* series