

September 10, 2017

Dear ABA TIPS Animal Law Committee (ALC) Members:

Thanks to you and the pioneering lawyers that have gone before us, since 2004 the ALC has given animal lawyers a seat at the table in one of the world's largest professional organizations. We have all seen the extraordinary growth of animal law over the course of our professional lives—from animal law courses and textbooks to the growth of professional associations to evolving case law—and the ALC is an important part of that movement. By building our networks and working together on the national stage, we can help shape how the law affects animals.

Thanks to the ALC and the leadership of our TIPS Council Representative Joan Schaffner and Vice Chair Rich Angelo, the ABA House of Delegates recently passed a Resolution encouraging legislative bodies and government agencies to interpret existing laws and policies, and adopt laws and policies, to allow the implementation and administration of trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) programs to promote effective and humane management of community cats. Animal advocates can use this Resolution to shape change in their local communities, and this is an example of how the ALC can affect the lives of animals. This year, we are continuing our efforts to promote animal-friendly HOD Resolutions, identifying opportunities to support animals and animal advocates in response to the devastation wrought by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and also pursuing substantive legal projects through the work of our Subcommittees (Animals in Agriculture, Animals in Research & Technology, Companion Animals, Equine Law, International Issues, Legislative, and Wildlife).

As General Counsel of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, I look forward to bringing an international focus to my year as Chair of the ALC. We are building our cooperative efforts with the new International Animal Law Committee in the ABA International Section, and look forward to our trip to Vancouver for the ABA Midyear Meeting. Our Winter/Spring Newsletter will reflect on international animal law developments.

You can share and expand your network and expertise by writing articles for the ALC newsletter, participating in ALC CLEs and Lunch and Learn programs, attending ALC business meetings, following us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#), participating in ALC public service events and engaging in our substantive legal work.

Your support, interest, ideas, talents and hard work are creating a more just world—thank you!

Best regards,



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