

Contact: David Wallace
(517) 334-6060 ext. 827
Tom Boven
(616) 842-3030

Prosecutor and Assistant Prosecutor Receive Prestigious Brandi Award

Battle Creek, Michigan – July 21, 2003 – John Hallacy, Calhoun County Prosecutor, and Katherine Miller, Calhoun County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney were jointly presented the Brandi Award by the Animal Law Section of the Michigan State Bar.

The Brandi Award is presented by the Animal Law Section to legal professionals that make outstanding contributions to animal law. This year, these two prosecutors were chosen for their work in bringing individuals that harm animals to justice. Since Mr. Hallacy was elected the Calhoun County Prosecutor, his office has made the commitment and the dedication to protect the county's abandoned and abused animals. Ms. Miller has been instrumental in doing the day to day work on these emotionally draining cases.

Bee Friedlander, Chairperson of the Animal Law Section, noted that persons that harm animals are ones that need to be brought to justice because of the connection between animal abuse and harming people. "Study after study has demonstrated animal abuse can be a strong indicator of a person's propensity towards violence. Abusing animals does not dissipate those violent emotions, it may fuel them. Vigorous prosecution of these types of cases is one way to stop the cycle."

Mr. Hallacy has been the Calhoun County Prosecutor since January 1, 2001. Katherine Miller was appointed an assistant in May of 2001. Since his election to office, he received the 2001 Humane Ethics Award from the Calhoun Area Humane Society, and Mr. Hallacy and Ms. Miller jointly received the 2002 Humane Ethics Award from the Calhoun Area Humane Society.

The Brandi Award was first awarded in 1997 to the Honorable Judge Kaye Tertzag, Wayne County Circuit Judge for his opinion to allow a jury to consider non-economic damages for the death or injury of a companion animal. In 2002, District Judge Steven Servaas and Circuit Court Judge David Soet were co-recipients in animal Cruelty Cases. This is the first time a prosecutor has received the award.