

**2006-2007 SECTION ANNUAL REPORT  
STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

**Section Name:** Animal Law Section

**Mission Statement:** The Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, the State Bar's website, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter. Membership in the Section is open to all members of the State Bar of Michigan. Statements made on behalf of the Section do not necessarily reflect the views of the State Bar of Michigan.

**Officers and Membership:**

*Chair:* Kieran P. Marion

*Council Members:* A. Rose Stern (Chair-Elect); Anna Scott (Secretary); Don Garlit (Treasurer); Jennifer Pearce, Sharon Noll Smith, Suzanne Stephan, Amy Slameka (07); Brandon Scott, Barbara Goldman (08); Pam Amato, Bee Friedlander, Allie Phillips, David Wallace (09); M. Jean Ligon (Ex-Officio)

**2006-07 Council Meeting Schedule (date and location):**

2006 Annual Meeting (Ypsilanti, MI) 9/14/06

Quarterly Meeting – (Lansing, MI) 1/20/07

Quarterly Meeting (Teleconference) 3/6/07

Quarterly Meeting (Scheduling Currently) 6/07

**Events/Seminars:**

1. The section Council's Symposium Committee is currently working on scheduling our Annual Symposium for October 2007 at the MSU College of Law. Historically this has been held in the spring, but the Council voted to move it to the fall to accommodate changing logistics.
2. The section will also host it's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Reception for Legislative Staff at the end of the summer, prior to annual meeting. The reception has been very useful in the past in helping to educate the non-elected legislative community about the section and it's mission, and about it's ability to serve as a resource on animal law issues.

**Article VIII, § 1**

*Every Section and State Bar entity so directed by the Board of Commissioners or Representative Assembly shall annually make a written report containing a summary of its activities during the association year which shall be submitted to the Secretary on or before May 31. Annual reports may not exceed five 8 1/2" x 11" pages unless a waiver of this limitation is approved by the Executive Director.*

1. The section has taken a formal position on several pieces of legislation introduced in the State Legislature this year. These include:

- Senate Bill 350 (Sen. Valde Garcia) – Creates an animal welfare fund to provide funds to promote sterilization and adoption of dogs and cats.

- House Bill 4139 (Rep. Rick Jones) - Requires registering as a sex offender for committing sodomy with an animal. Rep. Jones was also the recipient of the section's Brandi Award for his sponsorship of the legislation.

- House Bill 4218 (Rep. Robert Jones) – Requires public schools to provide alternatives to dissection for students that are morally opposed.

- House Bill 4550 (Rep. John Espinoza) – Revises sentencing guidelines for certain crimes involving animal abuse to reflect increased penalties.

- House Bill 4551 (Rep. John Espinoza) – Provides for increased penalties for abuse of animals under certain circumstances.

- House Bill 4552 (Rep. Pam Byrnes) – Revises penalties for animal cruelty to allow for consecutive sentencing.

The section is also tracking several other pieces of legislation that have either been introduced recently, or have begun to move through the legislative process recently. More formal positions are expected.

2. Based on formal positions taken on bills, section representatives have appeared at legislative committees to offer testimony and insight on several pieces of legislation where needed.

3. The section continues to liaison with related organizations to help promote our mission and advance the status of animals and animal law in Michigan through education and public policy.

4. As mentioned above, the section continues a practice implemented last year of delegating certain functions to a committee structure. In addition to our standing Legislative Committee and Prosecutors Committee, we have formed a Symposium Committee to plan and build upon the section's Annual Symposium. We also have an Annual Retreat Committee to analyze and suggest a revised format for the section's in-person retreat meeting.

5. The section will once again publish it's newsletter this summer.

6. The section continues to work with the Animal Legal Lifeline, to help people looking for attorneys with animal expertise find help for niche or specialized cases.

Please submit your report via e-mail to [smcmann@mail.michbar.org](mailto:smcmann@mail.michbar.org)

***Resources Provided by the State Bar of Michigan*** Meeting space at the State Bar building; staff support; space for annual legislative aide meeting.

***Future Goals and Activities:***

1. Fall Symposium at MSU College of Law (see above).

2. Future legislative monitoring and activity as appropriate (see above), including annual staff reception.
3. Newsletter publication.

***Chair/Co-Chair Contact Information:*** Kieran P. Marion, Chair (312-988-9029 or [kieran.marion@nccusl.org](mailto:kieran.marion@nccusl.org)); A. Rose Stern, Chair-Elect ( 517-482-2400 or [arstern@loomislaw.com](mailto:arstern@loomislaw.com) )

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***Sections and Committees Administrator***