

Mindi Callison is the Founder and Executive Director of the National nonprofit organization, Bailing Out Benji which exists to provide the most current and accurate data surrounding the commercial dog breeding industry. Mindi founded Bailing Out Benji at 21 years old after falling victim to the puppy mill industry by way of a local pet store, who offered her a credit card with high interest. Upon learning about the pet store/puppy mill connection and learning about the predatory lending practices that these stores utilize to take advantage of low-income families, Mindi knew that she needed to act. Bailing Out Benji and its research have been instrumental in passing humane ordinances across the country, they have also been the driving force behind exposing the national puppy laundering scheme that is currently happening in numerous states. What started in small town Iowa has quickly grown into a national nonprofit with volunteer teams all over the country.

Elisabeth Custalow is the Manager of Regulatory Affairs in the Legal and Corporate Affairs Department of the PETA Foundation. She received her B.A. in 2001 from The College of William and Mary and her law degree in 2009 from the University of Virginia School of Law. Prior to joining the PETA Foundation, she was an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, prosecuting all manner of misdemeanor and felony offenses, including cruelty to animals. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Tony Eliseuson joined the Animal Legal Defense Fund as a Senior Staff Attorney in 2017 after a 15-year career as a litigation partner with Dentons US LLP. While at Dentons, Tony worked on several pro bono cases with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Tony handles a broad range of cases at the Animal Legal Defense Fund, from challenges to the waiver of certain animal and environmental protection laws relating to border wall construction to captive wildlife cases pending in several state and federal courts.

Tony graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2002 and obtained a B.A. in political science from Arizona State University in 1999. Tony has spent his entire professional career in Illinois, where he still resides.

Chris Green is the Executive Director of Harvard Law School's Animal Law & Policy Program. He is the former Chair of the American Bar Association's TIPS Animal Law Committee, and previously was the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Chris's own scholarship has focused on the societal and legal value of companion animals and has been published in the *Animal Law Review*. He still regularly testifies on animal protection legislation and currently is serving on a National Academies of Sciences committee assessing the Veterans Administration's use of dogs in biomedical research. Chris has consulted on animal legal issues for CNN, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, NPR, Headline News, POLITICO, Vice News, *The Atlantic*, *Bloomberg News*, *Fortune*, *Harper's*, *Huffington Post*, *Medium*, *Science Magazine*, *Smart Money Magazine*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the University of Illinois, where he created the school's first Environmental Science degree. Chris also spent several decades working in the fine arts, film and music industries, and he currently manages an Illinois farm that has remained in his family for 181 consecutive years.

Kathy Hessler is a clinical professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School. She is the first faculty member hired to teach animal law full time in a law school. She received her J.D. from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary and her LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. She is the Director of the Animal Law Clinic and the Aquatic Animal Law Initiative, as well as the faculty advisor for the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and Animal Law Review at Lewis & Clark.

Professor Hessler co-authored *ANIMAL LAW IN A NUTSHELL* (with Pamela Frasch and Sonia Waisman), *ANIMAL LAW – NEW PERSPECTIVES ON TEACHING TRADITIONAL LAW* (with Joyce Tischler, Pamela Hart, and Sonia Waisman) and the amicus briefs submitted in the *U.S. v. Stevens* and *Justice v. Gwendolyn Vercher* cases. She has written numerous law review and other articles and teaches and lectures widely across the U.S. and internationally and is working on a new book *AQUATIC ANIMAL LAW*.

Professor Hessler was a board member with the Animal Legal Defense Fund; helped found the Animal Law Committee of the Cuyahoga County Bar; was the chair and a founder of the Animal Law Section and the Balance in Legal Education Section of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS). She was also a co-chair of the Clinical Legal Education Section of the AALS and is on the board of the Center for Teaching Peace.

(Lewis & Clark Law School; Clinical Professor of Law, Director, Animal Law Clinic and Aquatic Animal Law Initiative; George Washington University, BA (1985); William & Mary Law School, J.D. (1987); Georgetown University Law Center, LL.M. (1997); worked at Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and taught at Georgetown University Law Center, Capital University Law School, University of Dayton Law School, Cornell Law School, Case Western Reserve University Law School and Lewis & Clark Law School.)

Justice William E. Holdridge has served on the Illinois Appellate Court since 1994. He is also presiding justice over the court that hears statewide appeals of Workers' Compensation and Occupational Diseases Act cases in Chicago and Springfield. Justice Holdridge is a Fellow of the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers and his courtrooms are in Ottawa, Springfield, and Chicago, Illinois.

Justice Holdridge has served as Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois court system and as a Trustee of the Illinois Judicial Retirement System. Prior to serving on the Appellate Court, he was elected a full Circuit Judge in the six counties of the 9th Judicial Circuit, where he presided over criminal and civil trials in western Illinois. Justice Holdridge was awarded a Ph.D from the University of Illinois, teaching at the university level in California and Illinois before entering the practice of law.

Justice Holdridge was chosen Alumnus of the Year of Southern Illinois University School of Law in 1998. He was awarded SIU's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award 2010.

Jane E. McBride is founder and president of Illinois Humane. Illinois Humane's primary mission is cruelty and neglect investigations, recovery of the animals who are the subject of these cases, and advocacy. Ms. McBride herself has served as an approved humane investigator since 1999. She has been directly involved in the prosecution of a variety of neglect and cruelty matters. Ms. McBride has been active in numerous state animal welfare legislative efforts, as well as work with local governmental units crafting local ordinances and spearheading private/public animal welfare initiatives.

Ms. McBride is currently chair of the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee. She is a member of the ISBA Animal Law Section Council – serving as CLE chair for the past 8 years. Ms. McBride's career practice area is environmental law. She is licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Journalism from Iowa State University. She earned her J.D. with a Certificate in Environmental and Energy Law from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Angela E. Peters earned her B.A. in Philosophy at the University of Illinois Chicago in 1973 and her J.D. at IIT-Chicago Kent College of Law in 1985. She is the principal attorney of Buffalo Grove Law Offices where her practice concentrates in international and domestic divorce/family law, criminal, civil and criminal litigation, real estate law, general practice, mediation, and pet litigation and mediation. Ms. Peters is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, North Suburban Bar Association, Northwest Suburban Bar Association, Buffalo Grove Chamber of Commerce, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Teri Ross is ILAO's Executive Director. She leads ILAO's small but mighty team of 14 staff, which is buoyed by more than 100 volunteers. She fosters strategic partnerships with local and national leaders and groups and oversees development of ILAO's new and transformed products and services. Teri is a graduate of Northwestern University and DePaul University College of Law.

Ledy VanKavage is the Senior Legislative Attorney for Best Friends Animal Society located in Kanab, Utah and a member of the ISBA's animal law section. Before coming to Best Friends Ledy was the Senior Director of Legislation and Legal Training for the ASPCA. She has helped spearhead the passage of over 50 humane state bills during her lobbying tenure and is also a past Chair of the American Bar Association's Animal Law Committee. Ledy is the recipient of the ABA's Excellence in Animal Law award for 2014 and the 2018 Wallace Award from the Wallace the Pitbull Foundation. She is a co-author of the USDOJ publication, "The Problem of Dog Related Incidents and Encounters" and is an instructor for the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. She has been interviewed on MSNBC, NPR, the Chicago Tribune, Time Magazine and the New York Times.