

CARNEY ANNE NASSER

EXPERIENCE

Michigan State University College of Law

East Lansing, MI

Ass't Clinical Professor and Director, Animal Welfare Clinic, 2017 - present

- Devise and deploy creative legal strategies to advance the legal interests and welfare of animals; supervise student attorneys in the dynamic, multidisciplinary practice of animal law on the local, state, and federal level, including practice before federal agencies, preparation of CITES resolutions and comments in preparation for CoP18, and preparation of comprehensive legislative and policy strategies.

PETA Foundation

Washington, DC/New Orleans, LA

Associate Director, Captive Animal Law Enforcement, 2016-2017

Litigation Counsel, Captive Animal Law Enforcement, 2010-2014

- Worked to develop litigation and other creative legal strategies on the local, state, and federal level to address inherent cruelty associated with the use of wild and exotic animals for circuses, entertainment, and private ownership.
- Oversaw regulatory strategy to curtail the exploitation of captive exotic animals. Prepare comments and petitions for rulemaking to federal agencies, including comments opposing issuance of Endangered Species Act permits for taking and other commercial activity involving endangered species, requests for revocation of U.S. Department of Agriculture licenses based on licensees' violations of the Animal Welfare Act, Endangered Species Act, and Lacey Act, and petitions for rulemaking requesting enhanced minimum requirements for keeping wildlife in captivity.
- Acted as the legal specialist for regulatory matters concerning the federal Animal Welfare Act, Endangered Species Act, Lacey Act, and Captive Wildlife Safety Act, with extensive focus on tigers, lions and other exotic cats, elephants, and chimpanzees.
- *Ray and Harrison v. Jambbas Ranch Tours, Inc. et al.*, 12 CVD 669, Cumberland County, NC: litigated first-ever application of North Carolina's civil cruelty to animals law to captive wildlife and obtained a successful result, including, *inter alia*, court order to rehome a bear from private owner's neglect to a reputable wildlife sanctuary and permanent injunction prohibiting all defendants from ever acquiring custody or ownership of a bear again. Took lead on preparation of pleadings, discovery requests and responses, motion practice, hearing attendance, expert witness interviews, preparation of final orders, and participated in all aspects of the actual rescue and transport itself.
- Researched and provided support for law enforcement officers, city attorneys, and other local officials for enforcement of animal cruelty and other applicable laws for animals used in circuses and other entertainment.

- Worked with localities on development of stronger animal protection laws, consideration of land use permits for private ownership of exotic animals, and proper enforcement of existing animal protection laws.
- Prepared and provided oral and written testimony for pending legislation impacting animal welfare.
- Acted as media spokesperson on a wide range of legal topics concerning captive exotic animals for television, radio, and print media outlets in the U.S. and internationally; prepared sound bites and press statements.
- Reviewed press releases and blogs and assisted with the preparation of official organization statements on breaking news matters concerning exotic animals.
- Attended animal law conferences and present continuing legal education segments pertaining to legal issues impacting captive wild animals.
- Worked with independent exotic animal experts in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to obtain accurate assessments of animal welfare concerns relating to animals used for entertainment that can be provided to local, state, and federal agencies for appropriate enforcement action.
- Prepared training materials for local law enforcement in preparation for inspection of elephants, tigers, and other exotic animals used in circuses.
- Prepared complaints to local, state, and federal agencies concerning violations of applicable laws impacting animals who are used for circuses, roadside zoos, and other exhibitions.

Animal Legal Defense Fund

San Francisco Bay Area, CA/New Orleans, LA

Senior Counsel for Wildlife and Regulatory Affairs

2014-2016

- Developed and executed creative legal strategies on the local, state, and federal level to address inherent cruelty associated with the use of wild and exotic animals for circuses, entertainment, and private ownership and efforts to combat the illegal trafficking of endangered species and canned hunting.
- Supported and consulted on matters concerning animals in entertainment, captive wildlife, and endangered species; including litigation, legislation, and investigations.
- Acted as ALDF's liaison in coalitions and with other groups on matters pertaining to captive wildlife and wildlife conservation.
- Built and maintained relationships with captive exotics experts in the zoological and sanctuary communities.
- Identified and recommended strategic opportunities to further ALDF's mission where captive wildlife and wildlife conservation was concerned, including spearheading ALDF's effort to gain membership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and attending CITES CoP 17 in Johannesburg, SA as an approved observer.
- Managed legal and logistical execution for each rescue/transport involving captive wildlife, including by securing appropriate sanctuary placement, veterinary inspections, and permits.
- Identified key concerns/trends in wildlife exploitation, strategies to combat the exploitation of wildlife by species, and prioritize species concerns accordingly.

- Published scholarly and peer-reviewed articles concerning captive wildlife and the law.
- Prioritized ALDF's regulatory submissions and serve as point person for ALDF's submissions to administrative agencies, including comments and petitions for rulemaking.
- Served as in-house legislative and regulatory expert; prepared comments to agencies and petitions for rulemaking on the federal and state level.
- Served as litigation counsel in multiple federal Endangered Species Act cases and helped shape and execute legal and communications strategies.
- Provided written and oral testimony to federal, state, and local legislative bodies on captive exotic animals issues.
- Helped draft and revise proposed legislation and acted as ALDF's in-house legislative strategist.
- Hired and managed professional lobbyists to represent ALDF's interests on a variety of legislative matters, including leading a successful effort to ensure that the California Coastal Commission imposed a breeding ban on SeaWorld San Diego's coastal zoning permit.
- Authored blogs pertaining to timely legal concerns relating to captive wildlife and international wildlife conservation matters for the ALDF website.
- Served as ALDF's spokesperson for the media and other audiences regarding matters concerning captive wildlife, particularly where animal behavior, husbandry, species-specific concerns, or legal knowledge is an asset.
- Identified opportunities to engage law student members of ALDF's chapters of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and oversaw student pro bono projects.

Tulane University Law School

New Orleans, LA

Adjunct Lecturer at Law, Public Interest Career Advisor, 2012-2014, 2009-2010

- Taught Tulane's upper-class Animal Law Seminar, a course focusing on cases involving constitutional law, criminal law, torts, and administrative law in which animals play a central role. Areas of particular focus included application of animal cruelty laws, the federal Animal Welfare Act, and the Endangered Species Act as applied to animals used for entertainment, food, and laboratory experiments.
- Provided career counseling to law students with interests in pursuing wide range of public interest-related legal careers, fellowships, and internships; assisted public interest student groups (including Tulane chapters of the National Lawyers Guild, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, Public Interest Law Foundation, Lambda Law, and Environmental Law Society) devised, promoted, and executed public interest-related programming and events; networked with Louisiana legal and political community as well as the national public interest legal community.
- Served as de facto faculty advisor for the Tulane chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund; obtained administration approval of animal rights-related legal opportunities for law student fulfillment of Tulane's mandatory pro bono requirement.

Humane Society of Louisiana

New Orleans, LA

Board of Directors, 2009-2010

- Strategized with other board members and assisted in the decision-making of the state's only humane advocacy organization, including fund-raising, risk management, and oversight of the organization's shelter for rescued animals.
- Reviewed police reports, prepared press releases, submitted public records requests, and liaised with law enforcement and district attorney's offices regarding status of state-wide animal cruelty prosecutions.

Dallas City Attorney's Office

Dallas, TX

Assistant City Attorney, 2007-2008

- Managed high volume compliance and criminal nuisance abatement litigation docket in State District Court including first chair hearing and trial experience, representation of Police Chief at administrative hearings and management of high-volume Dallas Urban Rehabilitation Docket. Responsible for reparation of pleadings, witness preparation, motion practice, and first chairing bench trials.

DeHay & Elliston, LLP

Dallas, TX

Associate, 2004-2006

- Provided full-scale case management for environmental and toxic tort litigation practice group including discovery, depositions, motion practice, comprehensive review and analysis of expert medical reports and records, jury selection, and second chair trial experience. Extensive discovery experience, including depositions of plaintiffs, plaintiffs' spouses, fact witnesses, and medical experts.

Hermes, Netburn, O'Connor & Spearing, PC

Boston, MA

Associate, 2003-2004

- Litigation practice, including discovery and depositions for busy insurance coverage and general civil litigation firm and provided risk management advice for institutional clients.

EDUCATION

The George Washington University

Washington, D.C.

Graduate Certificate in Community Advocacy, January 2010

Tulane University Law School

New Orleans, LA

Juris Doctor, May 2003

- Editor, *The Sports Lawyers Journal*

University of California, San Diego

La Jolla, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, December 1999

- UCSD Masters Triathlon Team, Project Ohana Jamii HIV/AIDS Outreach Educator

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- [Welcome to the Jungle: How Loopholes in the Federal Endangered Species Act and Animal Welfare Act are Feeding a Tiger Crisis in America](#), 9 Alb. Govt. L. Rev. 194 (2016)
- [MSU'S Animal Welfare Clinic Roars onto the Scene](#), Michigan Bar Journal (2018)
- Featured Speaker, *Conservation, Animal Welfare & Legislation*, hosted by the Jane Goodall Institute of Nepal and the Environmental Law Committee of the Nepal Bar Association, Kathmandu, Nepal (2018)
- Featured Speaker, [Dispelling Myths About Captive Wildlife](#), Animal Legal Defense Fund webinar (2018)
- Featured Speaker, Southern University Law School Speaker Series (2017)
- Panelist, *Animal Welfare Act at 50 Symposium*, Harvard Law School (2016)
- Panelist for the Louisiana Bar Association Animal Law CLE (2016)
- Speaker, International Captive Wildlife Conference, San Andreas, California (2016)
- Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) CoP17 Treaty Meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa (2016)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii (2016)
- Participant, Wildlife in Crisis: An International Think Tank, Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica (2016)
- Judge, *National Animal Law Competition*, Harvard Law School (2016)
- *Canned Hunting and the Endangered Species Act*, The Legal Intelligencer (2015)
- Panelist, Animal Law Conference, Lewis & Clark Law School, Portland, OR (2015)
- Speaker, Big Cats in Crisis Symposium, Minneapolis, MN (2015)
- Speaker, Chicago Animal Law Symposium, Chicago, IL (2015)
- Featured Speaker, Tulane Women's Leadership Conference, New Orleans, LA (2015)
- Speaker, International Captive Wildlife Conference, Burbank, Calif. (2014)
- Panelist, Louisiana Bar Association Animal Law CLE, New Orleans, LA (2014)
- Panelist, Louisiana Bar Association Animal Law CLE, New Orleans, LA (2012)
- Panelist, Louisiana Bar Association Animal Law CLE, New Orleans, LA (2010)
- Guest lectures at Rutgers University Law School, Baylor University Law School, and Loyola New Orleans Law School

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND ASSOCIATIONS

- U.S. District Court, N.D. Texas, admitted April 2006; State Bar of Texas, admitted November 2004; State Bar of Massachusetts, admitted December 2003
- ABA TIPS Animal Law Committee; former co-chair, Animal Welfare Committee of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 2016 New Orleans Top Female Achiever Award, *New Orleans Magazine*, available at <http://www.myneworleans.com/New-Orleans-Magazine/July-2016/Carney-Anne-Nasser/>

SELECT MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Over the course of my legal career, I have acted as a media spokesperson on a wide range of legal topics concerning wildlife conservation and protection for television, radio, and print media outlets in the U.S. and around the world. A small sample of my media interviews include, but are not limited to: Tampa Bay Times, [Critics Blast Outsourcing Federal Animal Inspections](#), (Mar. 8, 2018); NBC Today Show, [LSU Rallies Around Mike the Tiger Who is Battling Cancer](#), (Sept. 10, 2016); [Criminal Podcast Episode 46: Tiger](#) (June 30, 2016); [Animal Rights Groups Decry Live Animal Mascots](#), Washington Post (June 6, 2016); [Does the California Coastal Commission Have the Authority to Ban Breeding at SeaWorld?](#) Live NPR Radio Interview (KPBS-San Diego)(Oct. 12, 2015); [Tony the Tiger to Remain at Louisiana Truck Stop for Now](#), Times Picayune (Nov. 17, 2014); Associated Press, [Regulators Cite Harrah's Act for Animal Abuses](#) (Mar. 6, 2014); CNN's "Out Front with Erin Burnett" Show: [Simpson's Co-Creator Rescues Bears](#) (Jan. 17, 2014); [More on Possible Safety Concerns at Serenity Springs](#), KRDO News Colorado Springs (Aug. 1, 2013); [Our Hen House Podcast Episode 156](#) (Jan. 5, 2013, 14:50-27:50); [Tiger Trainer No Fan of this Unflattering Spotlight](#), Sarasota Herald Tribune (Dec. 15, 2012); [Should We Ban Circus Elephants?](#), Huffington Post Live (Nov. 30, 2012); [Circus Headed to Mobile Pays Penalty](#), Fox-10 Television (Oct. 2, 2012), [Use, Treatment of Elephants Causes Brouhaha Under the Big Top](#), Lexington Herald-Leader (Sept. 5, 2012); [Ben the Bear to Stay in California](#), Fayetteville Observer (Aug. 28, 2012)