



DEFENDING THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

THE ANIMAL ACTIVIST LEGAL DEFENSE PROJECT

Background

Animal rights as a gateway movement to activism

Repression shows the need for lawyers

My path through and after law school

Being a lawyer; Being a defendant

The Animal Activist Legal Defense Project





The Animal Activist Legal Defense Project



“Today’s animal rights movement is hindered by an unmet need: While relying heavily on activists and insiders to uncover wrongdoing and urge systemic reform, there has historically been a dearth of available legal support. The Animal Activist Legal Defense Project fundamentally alters this state of affairs, with significant and distinctive benefits for the future of the animal rights movement and for the future of animal well-being.”

Mission: Empowering & defending animal advocates through activist defense, affirmative litigation, & training law students to join & transform the field of animal law.

Training Law Students

- Research and writing
- Substantive motions
- Investigation
- Trial preparation
- Legislative drafting

“A different type of law school class”

The clinical portion of the AALDP is to provide students with the opportunity to actively work on live cases and transform their abstract education into first-hand experience.

“I’ve read about this type of lawyering in books and seen it in movies but never did I think I would have the opportunity to work alongside lawyers doing such transformative legal work while I was in law school.” – Former student





Our work

- Activist criminal defense
- Civil defense
- Anti-SLAPP
- Speech-protective litigation
- Amicus support
- Open Records Act litigation
- Legislative and Policy Work



Vox

The fight against factory farming is winning criminal trials

Two activists were just acquitted for taking factory-farmed chickens worth \$16.

By Marina Bolotnikova | Mar 21, 2023, 7:30am EDT



“A different kind of animal law”

Vox

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Simply defined, animal law is the combination of statutory and case law that relates to or has an impact on nonhuman animals. It encompasses companion animals and wildlife and animals used in entertainment, research and ones raised for food.

Animal law permeates and affects most traditional areas of the law – including tort, contract, criminal, constitutional, family, environmental, administrative, and trust law.

Protest movements could be more effective than the best charities. To do as much good as possible with limited resources, funders should look to woefully underfunded protest movements.

- James Ozden, social movement researcher, author at Stanford Social Innovation Review, and founder of Social Change Lab





Defending Principles

- Intersection of association, free speech, and liability
- Expanding transparency



“A different kind of lawyering”



ANIMALS

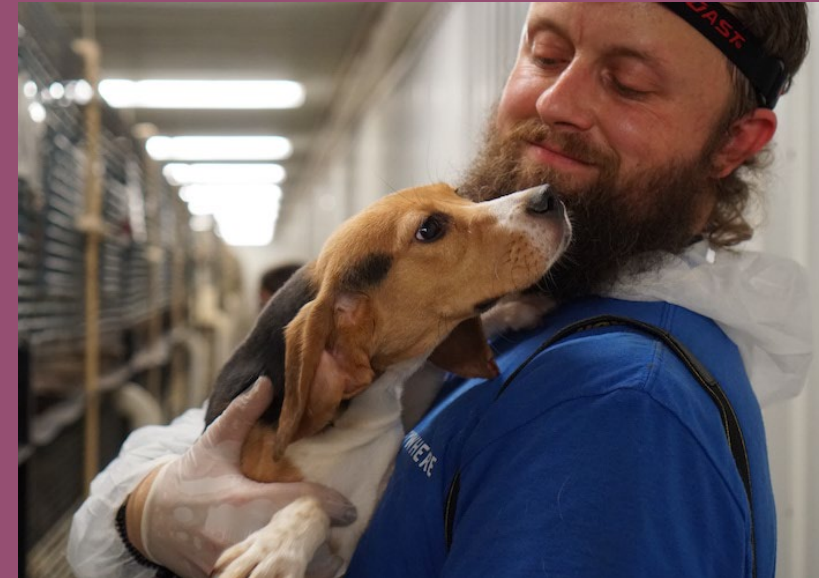
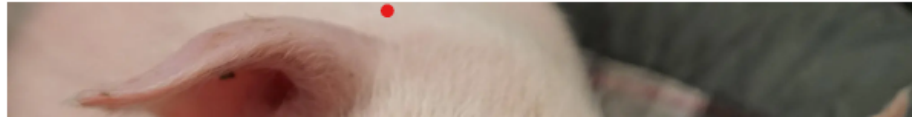
Activists call it rescue. Farms call it stealing. What is 'open rescue'?

A new generation of animal welfare activists argue that U.S. state bystander laws give them the right to save animals in distress—including those in factory farms.

OPINION
GUEST ESSAY

I Did Not Steal Two Piglets. I Saved Them. A Jury Agreed.

Oct. 18, 2022





**DEFENDANT'S MOTION IN LIMINE RELATED TO AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES
SUPPORTING RESCUE OF ANIMALS IN HARM**

Defendant, Paul Picklesimer, respectfully requests the Court to issue an order allowing Defendant to introduce defense of others, coercion, and necessity at trial.

Animals, especially dogs, are not mere things or objects: many are autonomous, cognitively complex, and sentient beings worthy of recognition and legal protections. The research is increasingly conclusive: nonhuman animals can feel, and suffer, and in fact have brains that function very similarly to our own. Bekoff, Marc, *Scientists Conclude Nonhuman Animals are Conscious Beings*, PSYCHOLOGY TODAY (Aug. 10, 2012) In 2013, a group of leading scientists signed the *Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness*, which explained that “non-human animals have the neuroanatomical, neurochemical, and neurophysiological substrates of conscious states along with the capacity to exhibit intentional behaviors.”¹⁶

To respond generally, the present motions are disturbing attempts by the defendant to convert this criminal proceeding into an illegal and shameful publicity event. This is not a public hearing without rules where parties can invent legal mechanisms to publicize their general grievances against other persons or commercial entities. This is a criminal action where the defendant is accused of serious crimes. What concerns the State is that nothing filed bears any legal or factual relationship to this case.

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When doing the right thing makes you a criminal

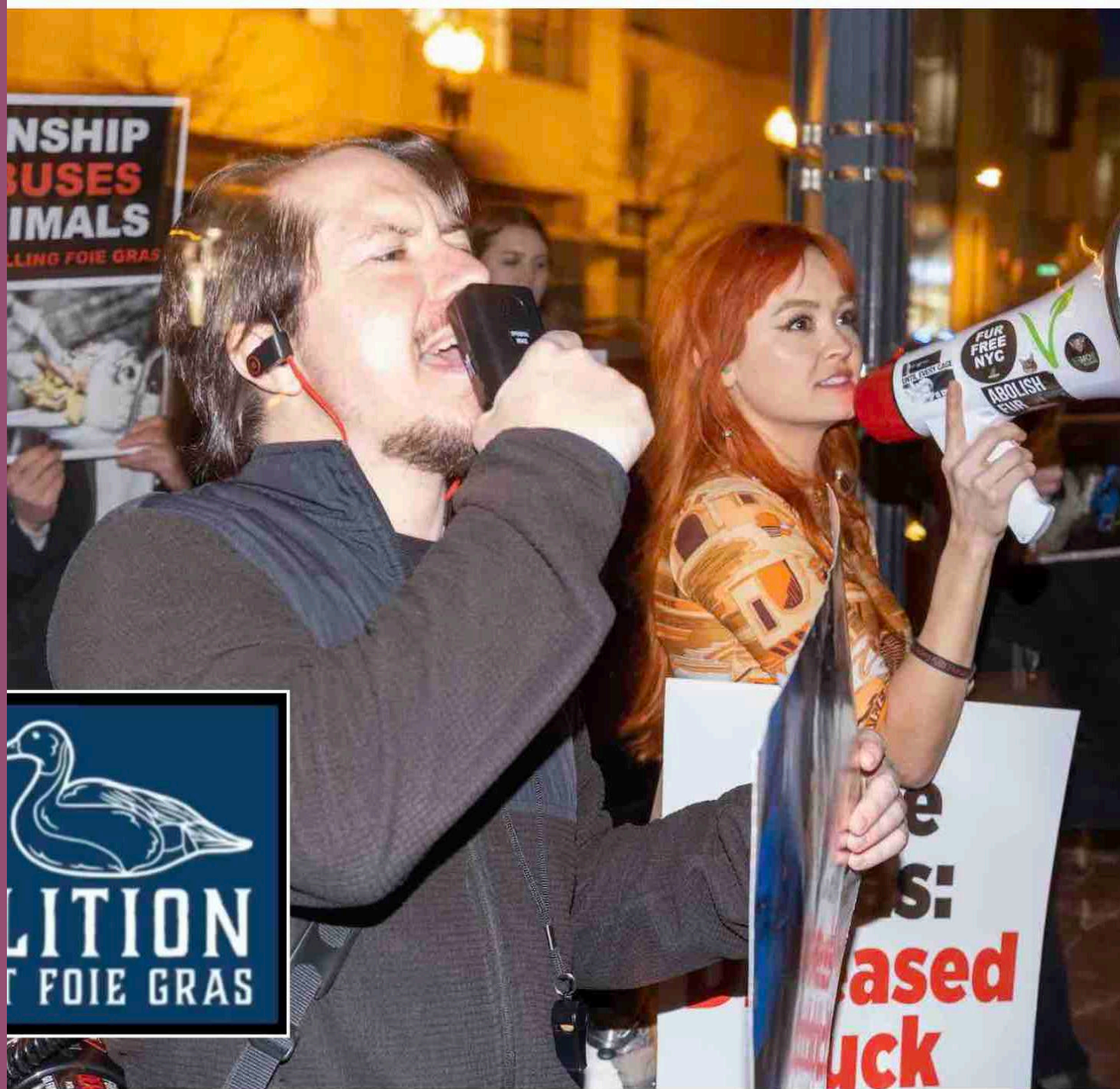
Wayne Hsiung has spent the last half decade rescuing sick, dying animals from factory farms. Now, he's facing prison time of up to 60 years.

By Ezra Klein | @ezraklein | Dec 5, 2019, 11:50am EST

People v. Hsiung, California Court of Appeals

Protest or Stalking?

DC Anti-SLAPP



Justice for Lolita

The Miami Seaquarium goes after a critic



Questions?



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