

2019 ANNUAL  
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THE FLORIDA BAR

The Florida Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee and the  
Animal Law Section present



## 2019 Animal Law Update Thinking Outside the Cage

Friday, June 28, 2019, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**COURSE CLASSIFICATION: INTERMEDIATE**

**Course 2900**

[rllibert@floridabar.org](mailto:rllibert@floridabar.org)

### AGENDA

- 1:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. **Animal Law in 2019: Thinking Outside the Cage**  
*Ralph A. DeMeo, Esq. (Baker Donelson)*
- 1:20 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. **New Florida Animal Laws: Legislative Panel**  
*Florida Legislators*  
*Diana Ferguson, Esq.*  
*Kate MacFall, HSUS*  
*Jen Hobgood, ASPCA*
- 2:10 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. **The Animal Shelter of the Future**  
*Heather Lewis, A1A, Animal Arts*
- 2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. **Local Government Regulation of Animals**  
*Paul Wean, Esq.*
- 3:40 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. **Animals as Property: Are We Ready for a Change?**  
*Marcy LaHart, Esq.*
- 4:10 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **The Positive Impact of Animals on Lawyers' Mental Health and Wellness**  
*Marni Bellavia, Animal Assisted Therapy Program, Humane Society of Broward County*
- 5:00 p.m. **Conclude/Q&A**



## SPEAKERS



**MARNI BELLAVIA,**

Manager, Animal Assisted Therapy Program, Canines for Community Resilience Program and Wags & Tales Reading Program, Humane Society of Broward County 2070 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312, 954-989-3977 HSBC Main Number 954-266-6814

Volunteer mbellavia@hsbroward.com

Website: www.humanebroward.com

### Professional Background:

Marni Bellavia is the Manager of the Animal Assisted Therapy Program. Marni started her career as a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors for 5 years and shortly thereafter became an employee. Marni previously worked as the Director of Technologies for American Express. Marni has been with the HSBC for 20+ years. As part of the staff at the shelter, she has had the opportunity to work with and train a wide variety of dogs of all breeds. It is with this knowledge and other forms of education that has prepared her to excel in the field of Animal Behavior and Animal Assisted Therapy training. Additionally, after the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Marni developed a new community outreach program called Canines for Community Resilience. Canines for Community Resilience (CFCR) dogs are specifically trained to participate in traumatic situations and are proficient in being able to tolerate, adapt and cope with the physical and emotional stress of critical incidents. They are specifically trained to work in unpredictable, fast-paced and frequently-changing environments with various types of people and other dogs. The dog's handler has advanced training in dog behavior, has knowledge of human and animal First Aid, as well as Psychological First Aid and stress management. Marni trains, evaluates and certifies all people and pets interested in volunteering with the Humane Society of Broward County's Animal Assisted Therapy Program.



**RALPH A. DEMEO** is a Shareholder with the Tallahassee office of national law firm Baker Donelson, practicing environmental, land use, administrative, real property, health and safety, and animal law, with emphasis in civil and administrative litigation. He received his B.A. and M.A. with honors from Stetson University and his J.D. with honors from FSU. A frequent author and lecturer, he is past Chair of The Florida Bar Animal Law Section, past Chair of The Florida Bar Environmental and Land Use Law Section, past Chair of The Florida Bar Journal and News

Editorial Board, and past Executive Council Member of The Florida Bar Administrative Law Section. He is listed in Martindale-Hubbell (A/V Preeminent 5.0 2019), Florida Super Lawyers (2019), Chambers USA America's Leading Business Lawyers (Band 1 2019), Who's Who Legal (2019), and Best Lawyers in America (2019).

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**JENNIFER HOBGOOD, PH.D.** is senior director of state legislation for the ASPCA's Government Relations Southeast Region. In this role, she directs the ASPCA's legislative and advocacy initiatives in Florida and Georgia. Prior to joining the ASPCA in 2016, Jennifer worked for twelve years with the Humane Society of the United States, serving as Florida state director and campaign manager.



**PAUL L. WEAN** currently is "of counsel" to Wean & Malchow, P.A., a law firm established in 1995. He is now limiting his practice to mediating disputes for other parties. He spent most of his 40 year career practicing in the area of community association law. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Wean is a former partner in the Massachusetts firm of Shocket & Dockser (1980-1987) and the former managing shareholder of the Central Florida offices of Becker & Poliakoff, P.A. (1987 -1995). He left that law firm to open his own practice in 1995. Educated at Boston University (College of Liberal Arts, B.A. cum laude, 1974) and Western New England College School of Law (Law Review Senior Staff, Juris Doctor, 1978), Mr. Wean has a broad spectrum of practical legal experience. From commercial transactional work to civil litigation, from bankruptcy to representation of community associations, he has successfully represented banks, developers, individuals and businesses. Mr. Wean has hosted a high-level Chinese trade delegation's visit to Central Florida and his handling of litigation at the request of the Anti-Defamation League was featured in a promotional video for that organization. Mr. Wean was admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1978 and in the State of Florida in 1987. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts in Massachusetts and the Middle District of Florida and before the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He has been approved by the Ninth Judicial Circuit to serve as a civil arbitrator and is certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit court civil mediator. He has been a frequent contributor to various publications and has lectured on the national, state and local levels. He has also authored a law review article for Nova University Law Review and for on behalf of the Animal Law Section of the Florida Bar. Since January, 1996 he has served on the Florida Legislative Alliance, a state-wide arm of Community Association Institute with a mission to influence legislation for the benefit of the community association industry. In October, 2005 the Florida Senate appointed Mr. Wean to a two year term on the Advisory Council on Condominiums, created in October, 2004 by Section 718.50151, Florida Statutes. Between In December, 2006 and December 2019 Paul served a total of nine (9) years as a Commissioner on the Orange County Planning and Zoning Commission, including seven (7) years as the Mayor's appointee. Since January, 2011 he has also served seven (7) years as a member of the Orange County Animal Services Advisory Board and where he has worked to have a constructive impact on the humane treatment of animals. In October, 2011 Paul and his wife, Joan,

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started a volunteer organization now called Pawsitive Shelter Photography ("PSP") with a goal of using good photography techniques to show shelter animals to the public as eminently adoptable pets. The project, which currently covers Orange and Osceola Counties' only public high volume, quick-kill shelters, now includes many volunteers including professional and enthusiast photographers in the community. Newspapers, magazines and television news programs have all done stories about the work of PSP and in July, 2015, on behalf of Pawsitive Shelter Photography, the volunteer group they co-founded, Paul and his wife Joan were presented with Orange County's 2015 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award by Mayor Teresa Jacobs. In his semi-retirement, Mr. Wean and his Golden/Irish, Zoey, have formed a therapy dog team providing weekly services at assisted living facilities, hospices and child advocacy centers in the Central Florida area under the auspices of the Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando and Paul has been chosen by Orange County Animal Services to be a volunteer trainer of new dog adopters and their pets in a pilot four week course to assist in getting the owners and pets acclimated to each other. Paul and Joan, live in the Orlando area with their three rescued - adopted dogs.

CLE Credit

General: 5.0 hours