

**University of Miami School of Law**  
**Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Symposium**  
**April 3rd, 2009**  
**12:30 – 5:30**

**University of Miami Law School Campus**

**Program Schedule** (*Panel descriptions and speaker information attached*)

12:30 – 1:30 pm: Refreshments and Opening

**1:30 – 2:30 pm: Panel 1:** The Ethical Ramifications of using Primates in Entertainment

2:30 – 2:45 pm: Break

**2:45 – 3:45 pm: Panel 2:** Domestic Animal Law Issues: Smuggling of Exotic Animals and their use in Domestic Entertainment

3:45 – 4:00 pm: Break

**4:00 – 5:00 pm: Panel 3:** Animals in Sports: The Legal Implications associated with Grey Hound Racing and the Campaign to stop the sport

5:00 – 5:30 pm: Question and Answer Session

**Program Description**

**Ethics Justification:**

Ethical considerations abound in the representation of client's who are involved in Animal Law Litigation. Depending on which side the lawyer represents, concerns about the lawyers competence, his/her role as an advisor, and the ever present concern of client confidentiality. Competence, construed broadly, can be a very difficult achievement in this form of litigation. When dealing with Florida's animal cruelty statute, the animal's species often dictates compliance with the law.

As Florida law states,

(1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.

Moreover ethical concerns of confidentiality are implicated when the lawyer knows animals to be confined in questionable housing during the duration of his clients lawsuit. As the Professional Rules of Ethics state:

(b) When Lawyer Must Reveal Information. A lawyer shall reveal such information to the extent the lawyer reasonably believes necessary:

- (1) to prevent a client from committing a crime; or
- (2) to prevent a death or substantial bodily harm to another.