

Animal Law Committee

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Kimberly Kelly (Course Planner)

Kimberly Kelly earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005, where she majored in English and Political Science. She obtained her law degree from the Charleston School of Law in 2011, where she was president of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. During her law school career, Kimberly interned at The Humane Society of the United States, working in their Animal Protection Litigation Department, assisting with a class action lawsuit against commercial dog breeding operations supplying pet stores. She also interned with The Humane Society Legislative Fund, a lobbying affiliate of The HSUS, working to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal level.

Kimberly is the South Carolina state director for The Humane Society of the United States, and works to pass humane legislation, assists law enforcement with large-scale cruelty seizures, and advises advocates, shelters, and local municipalities on city and county ordinances and best practices for community pet care.

In 2011, she petitioned the Bar to form an Animal Law Committee, which has grown to nearly 50 members. She currently chairs the committee.

Kimberly is a founding member of Unchain Charleston, an all-volunteer group that builds free fences and provides critical services for dogs that live outdoors on chains. She has been published in multiple regional animal welfare and pet-related periodicals.

Mary Ann Hall

Mary Ann Hall is a family court attorney with over nineteen years of experience and observed more cases involving pets. She also breeds, trains, and competes with her Weimeraners in the various performance events.

Mary Ann Hall is an active member of the South Carolina Bar Animal Law Committee and a former Director of South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. She is also a member of the Charleston County Bar, Charleston County Family Bar and has presented at various Continuing Legal Education courses.

Mary Ann became a licensed Veterinary Technician in 1980 and continued on to complete her Bachelors degree in 1990 at SUNY Albany in Albany, New York. In 1993 Mary Ann completed her JD at Albany Law School in Albany, New York.

Mary Ann Hall is now the owner at Mary Ann Hall, P.C.

Robert E. Kass

Bob Kass is a member of the Detroit Law Firm of Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, where he chairs the firm's Tax, Estate Planning & Probate group.

A native Detroiter, he graduated Wayne State University and University of Michigan Law School, both with honors. He received a Fulbright-Swiss University Fellowship to study at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Fluent in French, he began his legal career as an international lawyer in Brussels, Belgium, where he practiced for five years.

He then returned to the United States to pursue advanced studies in taxation at New York University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Taxation.

Bob is a Fellow of the American College of Trusts & Estates Counsel, and is listed in Michigan Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in the American in the field of Trusts & Estates. His practice is concentrated in the areas of estate planning, wealth preservation, and planned charitable giving.

He is committed to educating the public on legal issues related to estate planning, and has co-authored three books: "What Do We Do Now? A Practical Guide to Estate Administration for Widows, Widowers and Heirs," "Who Will Care When You're Not There? Estate Planning for Pet Owners," and "The Executor's Companion: A Practical Guide to Estate Administration."

He has been interviewed on radio across the country, and has appeared on CNN. He is a frequent speaker for the Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, as well as for civic groups and charitable organization. A former member of the Board of Directors of the Planned Giving Round Table of Southeast Michigan, he is a member and former Chair of the Speaker's Bureau of LEAVE A LEGACY Southeast Michigan. He is also a pro-bono professional advisor to numerous local and international charities.

Additional Speakers without submitted biographies:

Kelsey Gilmore-Futeral

Stephan V. Futeral