

Noon Time Legal Seminar, Tuesday, June 19, 2018

12:00-1:00 pm \$30 Attorneys (MCLE); \$15 Public

Nevada County Superior Court, Law Library, 201 Church Street, Nevada City

Does Fido have Standing? Laws Pertaining to Pets, Livestock, & Animals

Presented by Fran Cole, Attorney

Open to attorneys and the general public. Attorneys will receive one hour of MCLE credit. To enroll, please call 530-265-7161 or email Law.Library@nccourt.net. Arrive by 11:45 a.m. to complete registration.

Laws relating to animals evolve as social attitudes change. Animal laws focus on the behavior of humans rather than the biological reality of animals, and the outcomes of judicial decisions are largely determined by the human connection rather than the impact on the affected animal. For example, you can legally kill a healthy wild mouse in a trap, but arbitrary killing of a pet mouse may be animal abuse. Animal law covers many diverse areas of the law, including contracts, criminal law, torts, property, constitutional law, commercial law, wills and trusts, domestic relations, environmental law, evidence, patent and even tax law. In April of 2018, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit overturned a lower court ruling that a monkey who had taken a selfie had standing because it was the author and owner of the photographs and had suffered concrete and particularized economic harms. As scientists increasingly find that non-human animals have consciousness, should that ethically be taken into consideration?

About Fran Cole

Fran Cole, a partner in Diamond, Baker, Mitchell, LLP, is a business transactions attorney, with over thirty years of experience negotiating, preparing and managing contracts and financing structures for individuals, corporations, joint ventures, partnerships and other types of organizations. She has practiced business law in-house and in law firms. Fran advises clients in corporate governance, capital and business formation, leases, mergers and business acquisitions, business litigation, due diligence, commercial transactions, securities law compliance, investment management and other areas of regulatory law.

Fran also serves our community by advising a number of local nonprofits as their legal counsel and serving on several boards of directors. She is a ranch woman and animal lover and was the second dog walker volunteer at the Sammie's Friends Nevada County Animal Shelter. She rides and shows Tennessee Walking Horses with her daughters and fights against abuse of that breed by unscrupulous trainers. Fran is also an accomplished accordion player.