

# *Domestic Violence Awareness Month Kickoff CLE:* **The Connection Between Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty**

Presented by Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, in coordination with the Capital District Women's Bar Association, The Legal Project, Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, NYS Animal Protection Federation, Albany Law School, Albany County Bar Association, the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, Empire Justice Center, and New York State Bar Association.

**NO FEE**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

**3.0 MCLE credits available: 2.0 Professional and 1.0 credits of Ethics**

*MCLE credits provided by Empire Justice Center*

**Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

New York State Bar Association Center  
1 Elk Street, Albany, NY

Among both animal rights advocates and those committed to protecting people from violence in the home, there is a growing awareness of the connection between animal abuse and domestic violence. Animal abuse is often a predicator and an indicator crime for domestic violence, elder abuse and child maltreatment. One recent study found that 71% of pet guardians entering a domestic violence shelter told of an abuser who had harmed or killed a family pet, frequently as a method of exerting control—a cruel demonstration of “what could happen” to the person.

**The Connection Between Domestic Violence and Animal Cruelty** will address how to recognize the continuum of criminal conduct against animals and people, and will identify the appropriate organizational resources.

#### **Who should attend:**

This program will be geared to attorneys, both from a defense and a prosecutorial perspective, but will also be broadly designed to be useful to law students, law enforcement personnel, and those in the domestic violence and animal abuse communities.

#### **Speakers include:**

- **Jed Painter**, Counsel to the Nassau District Attorney
- **Stacy Wolf, Esq.**, Senior Vice President, Anti-Cruelty Group, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- **Gwen Wright**, Executive Director of NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

#### **Additional panelists include:**

- **Christine Mott, Esq.**, Member and Past Chair, Animal Law Committee of the NYC Bar Association; Member, NYS Council of the Humane Society of the US
- **Libby Post**, Executive Director of NYS Animal Protection Federation
- **Brad Shear**, Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society

**Seminar will be moderated by the Honorable Rachel Kretser, Chair of the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee.**

*Registration is available through the Albany County Bar Association:*

[www.albanycountybar.com/DVandAnimalCrueltyCLE](http://www.albanycountybar.com/DVandAnimalCrueltyCLE) If you have questions regarding the program content, please contact Lisa Frisch, Executive Director, The Legal Project, by email at: [lfrisch@legalproject.org](mailto:lfrisch@legalproject.org).