

Off the Leash

Who better, I wondered, to write the guest editor's column for the December ARIZONA ATTORNEY?

Once I discovered that the cover story was on animal law, I was all over the idea like fur on dog. After all, who has the pedigree, shall we say, to examine the subject in detail? My human? Certainly you jest! (The Editor calls himself my "master," but I'll leave aside personal affronts for now.)

No, this is the place for some comments from a four-legged advocate.

Those people in the Animal Law Section sound like pretty good humans. And it's about time there was a focus on laws that affect dogs, fish, horses, cows, lions—maybe even cats.

Why should you care? Well, remember, science shows that you share 96 percent of your DNA with chimpanzees. And believe me, the chimpanzees are just as dismayed as you are. But I digress.

You also should care because we've become more a part of your lives than ever before. And I don't just mean what you call "companion animals." What you think of as "wilderness" is now closer than ever, as you build homes and businesses. And there's animals in them that hills.

But you lawyers are going to hear from more and more of your fellow humans who want something for their pets—usually financial and familial security. But you may even have clients at the short end of animal cruelty statutes ("Bad human! Bad!"). Or clients

caught transporting wild reptiles. Or those denied access to a business because they have an assistive animal.

Or even clients fighting over communicating canines—what you all call "barking dogs."

And how much do you know about the laws governing racehorses, or cattle? Not much, I would guess. And that's where the new section comes in.

Finally, remember to visit your local pound or animal welfare association. That's my old stomping grounds, and they've got a lot of companions wait-



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you. The animals there are smart, too: They not only play games, but they can learn to file, collate, do discovery, or anything your law practice needs. En --- Cleo

ing to meet



2006 CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION

Whatever your practice or experience, you may have an article in you. Share it with us.

We seek submissions that show a different side of our readers' creative lives. The following are some suggested areas in which you may want to write. But don't be limited by this: The Board welcomes submissions that illuminate the world in untried ways.

- Short Fiction
- Photography
- Essays
- Poetry (including haiku and limericks)
- General Humor
- Photo Captions (submit a news photo and your own humorous caption)

As in the past, we seek ideas that are transformative, not merely descriptive; exhilarating solutions, not restated problems. We will publish the winners in Spring 2006.

Send submissions or queries to the editor at Tim.Eigo@staff.azbar.org. Submission Deadline: Jan. 20, 2006



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