

Reblaw Conference

Join hundreds of your fellow students from around the country at the 13th Annual Rebellious Lawyering Conference, right here at YLS on February 23-25, 2007. RebLaw is the largest student-run public interest conference in the country. Each year, we bring together practitioners, law students, and community activists to discuss innovative approaches to law and social change. For one weekend, you can put away your textbooks, step out of the daily grind, and think about the possibilities.

We have an exciting lineup of panels this year, on topics ranging from school integration to labor trafficking to anarchist lawyering. Conference attendees will also hear from Matt Coles, director of the ACLU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & AIDS project; Stephen Bright, President, Senior Counsel, and Former Director of the Southern Center for Human Rights and Visiting Lecturer in Law, Yale Law School; Judge Thelton Henderson of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California; and filmmaker Abby Ginzburg. This year's conference will also focus on providing more space for meaningful conversation and sharing of ideas between student participants, so that we use this opportunity not only to learn, but to create a jumping-off point for own advocacy initiatives.

For more information about our speakers and a complete list of this year's panels, check out <http://islandia.law.yale.edu/reblaw/index.html>.

We hope to see you there!

To register: simply go to <http://islandia.law.yale.edu/reblaw/register.htm> and sign up (did we mention it's free?)

Questions about registration? Email aliza.cover@yale.edu

Reblaw Panel Proposal

Panel Title: Factory Farming, Animals, and the Law
Panel Organizer: Gregory Oschwald (gregory.oschwald@yale.edu / 612-270-5696)

Panel Description:

In the past twenty-five years, our treatment towards animals has become an issue of grave moral concern for many people throughout the world. In the United States alone, 10 billion animals are slaughtered for food each year. Although the method of slaughter itself raises some concern, it is the treatment of the animals throughout their lives that is most shocking. For instance, egg-laying hens are crammed six to eight in a barren wire “battery” cage for their entire lives, each bird getting considerably less space than a sheet of paper. The birds are unable to ever dust bathe, stretch their wings, or even see the sun. A typical egg “farm” has over a million birds kept in such conditions, some farms having tens of millions of birds. The European Union is phasing in a ban on such cages and has banned many other such egregious practices. Although the U.S. lags behind, there has been considerable effort in the past several years to pass similar legislation. This effort has culminated in a ban on gestation crates for pigs in Florida, a ban on the sale of foie gras in California and Chicago, and several similar laws. The panel will discuss the legal resources for the protection of farmed animals, the problems with current anti-cruelty statutes, and the future direction of farmed animal protection in the United States.

Panelists:

Paul Shapiro, Manager of the Factory Farming Campaign, Humane Society of the United States

Mr. Shapiro will discuss his extensive research into the modern egg industry and his work in successfully petitioning the Federal Trade Commission to have the deceptive "Animal Care Certified" logo removed from egg cartons nationwide.

Gene Bauston, President and Co-Founder, Farm Sanctuary

Mr. Bauston will discuss his more than twenty years of activism on behalf of animals, including his recent work in banning foie gras in California and Chicago and banning gestation crates for pigs in Florida.

Nancy Perry, J.D., Director of Government Affairs, Humane Society of the United States

Ms. Perry will discuss her experience overseeing federal and state legislative campaigns, litigation, regulatory affairs, and grassroots activities at the Humane Society. She is a board member of the National Center for Animal Law, the co-founder of Lewis & Clark's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, and has published several articles on animal law. Ms. Perry teaches Animal Law at George Washington University School of Law.