

DOCKET

FALL/WINTER 2010

THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF LAW MAGAZINE

ADVOCACY



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A Voice for Animals



Alice A. (“Allie”) Phillips (’94) is a nationally recognized trainer, book author and media commentator on issues involving animal abuse, the co-occurrence between animal abuse and violence to humans, and other related topics. Since 2003, she has authored more than 45 publications and conducted over 150 training sessions across the United States for prosecutors, judges, and social service professionals. She is a member of the Michigan State Bar Animal Law Section and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Animal Cruelty Advisory Committee.

As an animal advocate, Allie Phillips (’94) has dedicated her career and her life to making the world a kinder, safer place for domesticated animals. Her three adopted cats, and a foster cat from the island of St. Croix, are constant reminders of why she is so driven to protect vulnerable animals.

“Advocacy is speaking for those who can’t speak for themselves,” says Phillips. “Humans love to control animals, and sometimes not for the benefit of the animal, but in a harmful and cruel way. It takes an advocate to speak for those animals, so they can live in a safe environment.”

Phillips’ advocacy work began ten years ago. While working as a prosecutor in Ingham County, Michigan, Phillips volunteered at an animal shelter in Lansing. During that time, she successfully advocated to ban the practice of selling shelter cats and dogs for research, thus jumpstarting a decade-long career in animal advocacy.

From mid-Michigan, Phillips headed to Washington, D.C., where she worked for the child abuse unit of the National

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District Attorneys Association. She led training sessions on animal advocacy, showing the linkage between child abuse and animal abuse. “Many attorneys and prosecutors were totally unaware that those who are cruel to animals are often cruel to people,” says Phillips.

She continued advocating for the protection of animals and children at her next job with the American Humane Association (AHA), working to change public policy in state and federal agencies and to educate people on being kinder to animals. She founded the Pets and Women’s Shelters (PAWS®) program which encourages domestic violence shelters to allow families to bring their pets with them when escaping an abusive home.

Today, Phillips is managing her own professional projects as a nationally recognized speaker and author. She is promoting her first book, *How Shelter Pets are Brokered for Experimentation*, and finishing a second book on animal advocacy.

Phillips credits her UDM Law education, and its many opportunities for public speaking, trial practice, and trial advocacy, for preparing her to become a prosecutor. She says that prosecutors are the ultimate attorneys for the protection of animals, so training in this area was a good fit for her aspirations.

While Phillips’ career accomplishments have created a rich, full life, she still finds time to volunteer at King Street Cats, a no kill, free roaming cat orphanage in Alexandria, Virginia, and as vice president of No Paws Left Behind, an organization that helps pets abandoned in foreclosed homes.

“As an advocate, I speak from a genuine position, from a place of truth, in spite of opposition,” says Phillips. “I’ve had a lot of push back against me doing this, but I know this is the right thing to do.” ■