In 2014, major activities for the Animal Law Caucus (ALC) included hosting a guest speaker at the ALC business meeting in San Antonio; outreach at the AALL Annual Meeting; and ongoing development of the ALC website. The ALC Officers for 2013/2014 were Vicki Steiner, President; Stefanie Pearlman, Vice President/President-Elect; Shaun Esposito, Secretary; Kate Fitz, Member-at-Large; and Harriet Zook, Webmaster.

Much of the work in promoting the principles and mission of the Animal Law Caucus is accomplished through the ALC Committees. That includes the work of the Bylaws Committee, the Education Committee, the Legislative Committee, and the Nominations Committee. Activities for each committee are set forth below.

The 2014 ALC Business Meeting was held on July 13, 2014 at the AALL Annual Meeting. Outgoing President Vicki Steiner extends her sincerest gratitude to Vice President/President-Elect Stefanie Pearlman for presiding over the meeting in her absence. Under Stefanie’s excellent guidance, the ALC enlisted new volunteers for service on the Education, Bylaws, and Legislative Committees. The ALC also increased its membership, which, as of the date of this report, stands at 96 members.

The Bylaws Committee was comprised of Michele Thomas, Chair; Casey Duncan; and Lynne Hartke. The committee posted the ALC Bylaws to the membership for ratification. The Bylaws were amended to conform to AALL Caucus Guidelines in 2013, were approved through an online member survey, and became effective as of July 23, 2013. For the 2014/2015 term, the Bylaws Committee will be comprised of Lynne Hartke, Chair; Casey Duncan; Taryn Rucinski; and Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson.

The Education Committee was comprised of Stacey Gordon, Chair; Patrick Butler; Susan deMaine; and Vicki Steiner. The committee selected the topic of legislative advocacy on animal protection issues for its agenda for the year. At the ALC Program and Business Meeting on July 13, 2014, San Antonio attorney Robyn Katz spoke about her legislative advocacy in Texas, including her work to pass bills to regulate commercial breeders (which includes provisions that are among the strongest in the U.S. to address problems with puppy mills) and to include companion animals in protective orders. Her discussion energized and empowered attendees interested in working on animal protection legislation in their own states. The ALC’s Program featuring Ms. Katz was featured in The Daily Hub.

For the 2014/2015 term, the Education Committee will be comprised of Stacey Gordon, Chair; Patrick Butler; Susan deMaine; Casey Duncan; Michele Finerty; and Shaun Esposito.

The Legislative Committee was formed in January of 2013 to keep ALC members apprised of current legislative activity for both state and federal legislation. The committee was comprised of Jaye Barlous, Chair; Casey Duncan; Shaun Esposito; Stacey Gordon; Leslie Bass LaCount;
and Elisabeth McKechnie. The Committee shares information concerning bill statuses and other legislative activity concerning animal law on the ALC website and discussion forum.

For the 2014/2015 term, the Legislative Committee will be comprised of Melissa Serfass, Chair; Jaye Barlous; Shaun Esposito; Stacey Gordon; Leslie Bass LaCount; and Elisabeth McKechnie.

The 2013 Nominations Committee was comprised of members Mary Rumsey; Daniel R. Campbell; Marjorie Crawford; and Deborah Norwood. Vicki Steiner joined the committee in 2014 as its Chair. The committee created a slate of candidates for ALC offices for the April 2013 election. Stefanie Pearlman was elected as Vice President/President Elect and Shaun Esposito was elected to the position of Secretary. Kate Fitz continued as Member-at-Large. The current board has identified its slate of candidates for the office of Vice President/President-Elect and Member-at-Large for 2014/2015 and will be holding its election shortly after the submission of this report.

For the 2014/2015 term, the Nominations Committee will be comprised of Vicki Steiner, Chair; Marjorie Crawford; Deborah Norwood; and Mary Rumsey.

ALC Website: In 2013, Harriet Zook, Webmaster, added two new sections to the ALC website. The Legislative Committee’s links to initiatives on Animal Law and the Picture of the Month, selected from photographs submitted by from ALC members. Former ALC President Michele Finerty continued overseeing the In Your Own Words column, which highlighted ALC members describing in their own words their developing interest in animal welfare and their activities. For the 2014/2015 term, Shaun Esposito will assume the role of Webmaster and the In Your Own Words column will be edited by member Sharon Nelson. Anticipated new features will include a feature on the Humane Society of the United States and American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals’ Lobby Days, which will be written by Michele Finerty.

CONELL Marketplace: The ALC participated at the CONELL Marketplace for the second year at the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting. ALC members staffed the table, distributed ALC flyers and brochures, and answered CONELL participant questions.

Activities Table: Jaye Barlous, Stefanie Pearlman, and Melissa Serfass organized the ALC Activities Area Table at the 2014 Annual Meeting, with the assistance of other members who contributed literature and items for a raffle and volunteered their time to sit at the table. Based on the experience of the previous year, the ALC streamlined its processes of organizing the table and removing the items following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Steiner

President, 2013-2014