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**BOOK RELEASE**

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**NEW BOOK FOCUSES ON EMERGING AREA OF ANIMAL LAW**

CHICAGO, May 29, 2009 – “Animal law” is emerging as a field of law that encompasses a wide-ranging variety of legal disciplines. Today more and more lawyers are entering into this field, and practitioners increasingly encounter cases that deal with issues related to animals. Law schools are adding programs that address the growing area and apply existing legal principles to issues involving animals.

The American Bar Association’s Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section has released a new book, *Litigating Animal Law Disputes: A Complete Guide for Lawyers*, a comprehensive guide for lawyers unfamiliar with the various laws that make up the field of animal law. The book is the practitioner’s complete guide to handling animal law cases, and also serves as a reliable primer for law students studying these issues.

The book covers every major aspect of private civil and criminal litigation of animal law disputes in the areas of tort, contract, property, insurance, and criminal law. In its fifteen chapters, readers will find valuable information and case law dealing with topics such as personal injury and negligence; disputes over animal possession; wills and trusts involving animals; veterinary malpractice; insurance litigation; federal law and constitutional rights; animal ownership and land use rights; and criminal cases.

Also included in the book is a chapter covering practical matters for lawyers handling animal cases, including fee agreements, discovery techniques, preparing the client, settlements and collecting judgments. The book also provides sample litigation documents, such as pleadings, discovery materials, expert information, and more.

The book is edited by two of the top lawyers in the animal law field. Julie I. Fershtman, Farmington Hills, Mich., is a practicing lawyer at the firm of Zausmer, Kaufman, August and Caldwell P.C. and is a published author and noted speaker since 1993. Joan E. Schaffner, a noted speaker and author on animal law, is an associate professor of law at George Washington University Law School, Washington, D. C., and is director and co-founder of the GW Animal Law Program.

The book is the brainchild of Barbara Gislason of Minneapolis, the founder of the TIPS Animal Law Committee. Gislason envisioned the committee as a home for a national forum to develop policies addressing animal law and a clearinghouse for the examination and discussion of issues surrounding this burgeoning field. Founded in 2004, the committee has taken the lead in focusing national attention on a variety of issues and has been active in numerous ABA working groups focusing on animals and related issues.

The ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section unites plaintiffs' and defense attorneys, insurance professionals, and corporate counsel to advance the civil justice system. TIPS is a national source of expertise in tort trial and insurance practice and brings lawyers together to share information and speak out on issues of importance. The section, with more than 32,000 members, has 34 general committees that focus on substantive and procedural matters in areas across the broad spectrum of civil law and practice. For more information about the section visit the TIPS Web site, [www.abanet.org/tips](http://www.abanet.org/tips). The Animal Law Committee's Web site can be found at [www.abanet.org/tips/animal](http://www.abanet.org/tips/animal).

With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional membership organization in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

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