WSBA CLE #27803 WEB



Dog Bite Law Updates: Litigation and Liability

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2026

Approved for 5.5 CLE credits
(4.0 Law and Legal Procedure + 1.0 Other + 0.5 Ethics)
$250 - Animal Law Section Members / New Members*
$275 - Standard & Non-Section Members / Join Section

Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST ONLY

DESCRIPTION

Presented in partnership with the WSBA Animal Law Section

Dog bite claims are unique and can be among the most challenging cases to navigate, all while considering strong emotions. Who are the defendants? What can be evidence? Hear about both civil and criminal case strategies as well as an ethics session.

CO-CHAIRS
Leila Arefi-Pour – *The Law Office of Leila Arefi, Kalama*
Holly Crawford – *Animal Law Offices PLLC, Bellingham*

SCHEDULE

8:10 a.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens

8:25 a.m. > Welcome and Introductions by Program Co-Chairs
- **Leila Arefi-Pour** – *The Law Office of Leila Arefi, Kalama*
- **Holly Crawford** – *Animal Law Offices PLLC, Bellingham*

8:30 a.m. > Doggerel on the Docket: Bites, Frights, and Heavy Paws
75 minutes, 1.25 credits L&LP
This session provides an overview of law and hot topics concerning canine misbehavior in four-dimensional legal space. We will provide primers on civil, administrative, and criminal laws and discuss the temporal relationship among the three. Understand injunctions and contempt proceedings for biting dogs.
- **Adam Karp** – *Animal Law Offices PLLC, Bellingham*
- **Gemma Zanowski** – *Stritmatter Kessler Koehler Moore, Seattle*

9:45 a.m. > Insurance Issues in Animal Law
45 minutes, 0.75 credits L&LP
Hear updates and trends concerning insurance coverage and liability.
- **Lisa Benedetti** – *Stritmatter Kessler Koehler Moore, Seattle*

10:30 a.m. > BREAK

10:45 a.m. > Administrative Litigation
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
A practical overview of appeals from Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) enforcement decisions, focusing on initiating an appeal, preparing for hearing, presenting evidence, and understanding the resulting decision and avenues for review.
- **Cassandra Riles** – *King County Hearing Examiner's Office, Seattle*
- **Devon Shannon** – *King County Hearing Examiner's Office, Seattle*

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SCHEDULE

11:45 a.m. > LUNCH on Your Own

12:30 p.m. > Dog Bites: Analysis, Responsibility and Future Risk
60 minutes, 1.0 credits Other
This session looks at why and how dogs bite, how to evaluate severity objectively, what a reasonable person should expect from a 'reasonable dog', and what a case tells us about future risk.
- **James Crosby M.S., PhD., CBCC-KA** – *Canine Aggression Consulting LLC, Jacksonville, FL*

1:30 p.m. > BREAK

1:45 p.m. > Criminal Litigation
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP
This session covers criminal liability issues related to dog bites in Washington State. The CLE will discuss the relevant criminal laws related to "dangerous dogs," including when it elevates from a civil penalty to a potential crime. Further, the CLE will discuss potential defenses, including affirmative defenses for "dangerous dogs" crimes. Finally, there will be discussion of other general legal strategies.
- **Edwin Aralica** – *King County Dept. of Public Defense—ACA, Seattle*

2:45 p.m. > Ethics in Animal Law
30 minutes, 0.5 credits Ethics
This segment will cover ethical considerations that may be relevant in the scope and context of animal bite cases. The Rules of Professional Conduct will be referenced and examples will be provided.
- **Leila Arefi-Pour** – *The Law Office of Leila Arefi, Kalama*

3:15 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations

Dog Bite Law Updates: Litigation and Liability

Thursday, December 10, 2026 • #27803 WEB

REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the **registration page**. Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to Washington sales tax law.

If special accommodations are needed, please email **cle@wsba.org** or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

☐ *Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.*

PRICING INFORMATION

☐ **#27803 WEB, attend via webcast, 12/10/26**

- ◯ $250 - Animal Law Section Members (discount applied at checkout)
- ◯ $275 - Standard/Non-Section Members
- ◯ $275 - Join Section [add the related item Animal Law Section Membership ($25) to your cart during check-out and register at the discounted Section price ($250)]
- ◯ $250 - New Members*

**Active members of the Washington State Bar Association will be considered New Members through the calendar end of the tenth year following admittance to practice in the state. The store will automatically discount registration, if applicable, during checkout.*

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