

March 3 – Pre-Conference Workshop
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

From Crime Scene to Courtroom

This is a workshop geared toward animal control officers, humane officers and veterinarians, on the forensics of a neglect/cruelty investigation as well as courtroom demeanor.

Karen Halligan, DVM

Dr. Halligan is the Director of Veterinary Services at spcaLA. She is an expert in animal-cruelty, having prepared over 100 cases for trial as well as testifying as an expert witness. Additionally, she has presented lectures to law enforcement on the successful use of forensics in animal cruelty prosecution. She is the author of Doc Halligan's What Every Pet Owner Should Know: Prescriptions for Happy, Healthy Cats and Dogs, and has written numerous articles.

Madeline Bernstein, Esq.

Ms. Bernstein is president of spcaLA and serves on the board of directors of the State Humane Association of California. She graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Faculty of Law and Jurisprudence, and is a member of the California Bar Association. Ms. Bernstein has also been an adjunct professor teaching employment, labor, evidence and criminal law at La Verne University College of Law and an arbitrator through the American Arbitration Association.

Don Cocek, Esq.

Mr. Cocek has been with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office since 1986. In his assignment, he is responsible for the prosecution of a variety of cases, including: animal cruelty and animal neglect cases, environmental protection cases involving endangered and protected species, illegal importation and possession of prohibited species, consumer protection cases involving unlicensed persons acting as veterinarians, and health code, building code, and fire code violations involving hoarders and "pack rat" properties.