

10-19-2015

The Legal Battle on Personhood Debate

Steve Wise

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Bob Kohn

Fellow at the Center for the Study of Great Ideas

Joseph Richard Hurt

Moderator, Lecturer and Professor of Law, FAMU College of Law

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THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY &
STUDENT ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

PRESENTS

THE LEGAL
BATTLE ON

PERSONHOOD

DEBATE



VS.



Steve Wise

President

Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc.

Bob Kohn

Fellow at the Center for
the Study of Great Ideas

A MUST SEE EVENT OF LEGAL HEAVYWEIGHTS!!!

October 19, 2015

12:15 p.m. in Room 253

hosted by



The Federalist Society
for Law & Public Policy Studies





Personhood Debate

Florida A&M University
College of Law
Orlando, Florida
Room 253
Monday October 19, 2015
12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

The Federalist Society and SALDF
Personhood Debate
Monday, October 19, 2015

12:15 p.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Randall S. Abate, Professor of Law and
Director, Center for International Law and Justice
Florida A&M College of Law

12:20 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Introduction of the Debate Format

Professor Joseph Richard Hurt, Moderator
Florida A&M College of Law

12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Debate

1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Questions from the audience

1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Refreshments served

Co-sponsored by:



DEBATERS:

Bob Kohn



Bob Kohn is an attorney, entrepreneur, and high tech investor. He has filed several amicus curiae briefs in opposition to the Nonhuman Rights Project's recent efforts to have chimpanzees recognized as legal persons by our federal courts.

Kohn was founder of EMusic.com (formerly NASDAQ: EMUS), the pioneering music download service, and is the author of *Kohn On Music Licensing*, an 1,800-page legal treatise which USA Today termed "the bible on legal issues in the music world." Prior to that he was general counsel of Borland Software Corp. (NASDAQ: BORL) and an associate counsel at Law Offices of Milton A. "Mickey" Rudin, attorney for Frank Sinatra, Cher, Liza Minnelli, Warner Bros. Music, 20th Century Fox, and others. Kohn is the co-inventor on a patent covering a web-based royalty system and user interface.

Kohn is currently enrolled in the Masters in Law (LL.M.) program at Columbia Law School. He is also a Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Great Ideas, a non-profit foundation dedicated to the promulgation of the lifelong work of the American philosopher Mortimer J. Adler. Kohn's essay, "Mind and Brain: The Genius of Fortune," was selected in 1994 by Dr. Adler as the winner of an essay contest sponsored by the Encyclopedia Britannica. Kohn lives in Manhattan and blogs at www.Theoria.com, where copies of his amicus briefs may be found.

Steven M. Wise



Steven M. Wise is President of the Nonhuman Rights Project, Inc. He holds a J.D. from Boston University Law School and a B.S. in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary. He has practiced animal protection law for 35 years throughout the United States. He teaches “Animal Rights Jurisprudence” at Vermont and Lewis and Clark Law Schools, and at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He also has taught “Animal Rights Law” at Harvard, University of Miami, St. Thomas, and John Marshall Law Schools.

He is the author of four books: *Rattling the Cage – Toward Legal Rights for Animals* (2000), *Drawing the Line – Science and the Case for Animal Rights* (2003), *Though the Heavens May Fall – The Landmark Trial That Led to the End of Human Slavery* (2005), and *An American Trilogy – Death, Slavery, and Dominion Along the Banks of the Cape Fear River* (2009). He is currently working on a fifth book about the Nonhuman Rights Project.

Wise's 30 years of preparation and the work of the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP) began drawing worldwide media attention when they sought three Orders to Show Cause under New York State's Habeas Corpus statute and common law on behalf of four imprisoned chimpanzees, Tommy, Kiko, Hercules, and Leo. Supporting each case were 100 pages of affidavits submitted by seven of the most respected chimpanzee researchers in the world. Each case was dismissed on a different ground. The NhRP re-filed Hercules and Leo's case and, for the first time, gained standing to sue directly on behalf of injured nonhuman animals, among other successes. The NhRP will soon be re-filing Tommy's and Kiko's cases to obtain orders discharging them from imprisonment. Supporting each case will be 50 additional pages of affidavits. The NhRP will seek a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of several elephants in the coming months.

Wise has authored numerous law review, encyclopedia, and popular articles. His work for the legal rights of nonhuman animals was highlighted on Dateline NBC and was the subject of the documentary, *A Legal Person*. His work and the work of the Nonhuman Rights Project have been featured on the cover of the Sunday New York Times Magazine and in hundreds of other publications worldwide. The NhRP is the subject of an upcoming HBO documentary entitled *Unlocking the Cage*, by Academy Award winner D.A. Pennebaker and his wife, fellow film-maker and Academy Award nominee Chris Hegedus. Wise regularly travels the world lecturing on animal rights jurisprudence and the Nonhuman Rights Project, and is a frequent guest on television and radio discussing animal rights law and the Nonhuman Rights Project.

MODERATOR:

Professor Joseph Richard Hurt



Professor Joseph Richard Hurt's career in legal education spans over 30 years, and includes deanships at three law schools and teaching appointments at six schools. He started his career at Mississippi College School of Law, where he was a member of the faculty for more than 21 years. During this time, he also served as Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean, and Dean for seven years. Under Professor Hurt's leadership, the law school broadened its applicant pool, and gained regional and national recognition through the publications of its faculty, the performance of its students at appellate and trial inter-school competitions, and the prestigious placement of its graduates, particularly in judicial clerkships. Following his deanship at Mississippi College, he served as Deputy Consultant on Legal Education to the American Bar Association in the Office of the Consultant that oversees the Accreditation Project for the ABA.

With his background in the law school accreditation process, Professor Hurt led two of Florida's new law schools, Florida Coastal in Jacksonville and Barry in Orlando through the full ABA accreditation process as dean. Additionally, he has successfully provided guidance as an outside consultant to three other law schools either seeking ABA accreditation or dealing with issues of compliance with accreditation standards.

Professor Hurt's service to the legal profession has extended beyond the academy including his membership on and chairing of the Mississippi Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Rules and numerous leadership positions in local, state, and national bar associations. His contributions to the profession were recognized when he was named the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Mississippi and later received the Mississippi Supreme Court's Chief Justice Award.

Professor Hurt earned his undergraduate degree from Mississippi College, a master's degree in History, a J.D. from Baylor University, and an LL.M. from Yale University. At FAMU, he teaches Constitutional Law, Professional Responsibility, an Executive Powers Constitutional Law seminar, and Federal Courts.