

Allison:

Thank you for speaking with me and Natalie this week.

We emphasize that we are a new kind of civil rights organization. We spent more than 30,000 hours over 17 years (from 1996 to 2013) preparing a complex litigation strategy for breaking through the "legal wall" that, at this moment, separates all human "persons" from all nonhuman "things" (this does not include the thousands of hours it took me to research and write numerous law review articles and four books). As a result of our tens of thousands of hours of preparation, our litigation is professional and respected - irrespective of whether people agree with us - for its thoroughness, practicality, and creativity.

The reason we spent so much time focusing on the problem of nonhuman animal thinghood is because "things" lack the capacity for any legal rights, while legal "persons" have the capacity for an infinite number of legal rights. That is why no nonhuman animal, anywhere, has or will ever have even his or her most fundamental interests adequately protected so long as he or she remains a "thing" and not a "person." As we begin to win legal personhood for any nonhuman animal under any legal cause of action, we will litigate to increase the number of species of nonhuman animals that can be characterized as "persons" and to increase the number and kinds of legal rights that a species member has against human beings.

We are unlike any organization you have ever evaluated. We expressly disavow interest in animal welfare and animal protection. We do not believe that the plural of animal welfare is animal rights and, as I recently wrote in *Foreign Policy*, we believe that welfare and rights lack the same theoretical basis or history. We greatly respect the work of animal welfare and animal protection organizations and find it both important and valuable. But we view their work as a necessary current measure that will be required to continue until legal rights for nonhuman animals can be established.

The Nonhuman Rights Project has, and always has had, a single goal: to attain legal personhood and fundamental legal rights for as many nonhuman animals as we can. All our activities are directed towards litigating cases to that specific narrow end. Every employee and volunteer for the Nonhuman Rights Project therefore spends 100% of his or her time working directly in the capacity of a legal professional towards the specific narrow goal of breaking through that "legal wall" and achieving legal personhood for nonhuman animals, in the United States and around the world, as soon and as broadly as possible, in support of these legal professionals by curating our website and Facebook page, by engaging in public relations or fundraising, or by managing the affairs of the organization.

The results to date can be found on our website, <http://www.nonhumanrightsproject.org>, where one may find every document that has been filed by anyone on any of our lawsuits, as well as my blog, and news we consider important. We suggest you view the [14 minute TED Talk](#) on the work of the Nonhuman Rights Project I gave in March of 2015, which has been viewed more than 750,000 times since May, 2015. We suggest you read [Charles Siebert's reporting](#) on the Nonhuman Rights Project, which appeared as the cover story of the Sunday New York Times Magazine on April 27, 2014.

We also remind you that the distinguished documentary film-makers, D.A. Pennebaker (the only documentary filmmaker to win an Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement; he won in 2013, after he began working on our documentary) and Chris Hegedus have been shooting a film about the work of the Nonhuman Rights Project since 2011. It has been sold to HBO, the BBC, and numerous other foreign film organizations, will begin appearing in late 2015 or early 2016, and is being submitted for consideration to be

shown at Sundance. We expect this film to provide a further national and international impetus to ongoing discussions of our work.

Media by the hundreds around the world already understand what we are doing and why and routinely report on it. This media includes not major general television and radio network in the United States, Europe, and other countries, but media that focuses on such seemingly disparate and more narrow subjects as law, art, philosophy, culture, science, fashion, and foreign policy. Our litigation has catalyzed, and will continue to catalyze, an ongoing and increasingly sophisticated national and worldwide debate about which nonhuman animals should have what legal rights.

The Nonhuman Rights Project was an entirely volunteer organization for its first 15 years (from 1996 until 2011). In 2011, the NhRP hired its first staffer. Though I was the founder of the Nonhuman Rights Project, I did not take a salary until 2014. Since the NhRP filed its first habeas corpus lawsuits on behalf of chimpanzees in December, 2013, donations have risen. We are have therefore begin to hire as many lawyers and supporting staff as we can prudently plan to retain.

Please tell us if there is anything further we can tell you or provide you to assist in your evaluation.

Thank you.

Steve Wise, President

Steven M. Wise, Esq.