
November 27, 2018

Miosotti Tenecora
Delegate of Diversity & Inclusion
ABA Law Student Division
312 N. Clark Street, 18th Floor
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Ms. Tenecora,

I would like to thank the ABA Law Student Division again for providing the generous grant of \$250 for the Temple Student Animal Legal Defense Fund's New Leash On Life presentation. The event was a huge success and helped to raise awareness not only of SALDF and New Leash On Life's missions, but also the opportunities provided by the ABA Law Student Division.

Norberto "Rob" Rosa, Associate Vice President of New Leash On Life, gave an informative and riveting presentation about his own incarceration and the program he now runs. In addition to years spent in and out of juvenile detention, Mr. Rosa spent 12 years as an inmate in Graterford State Correctional Institution. During his presentation, he told the story of how he started using and dealing drugs as a pre-teen and his future looked bleak. He was told by two state judges that he was beyond reform. While incarcerated in Graterford, he continued to deal drugs and lead a violent life until he was accepted into the prison's animal care program.

Mr. Rosa explained that because of mandatory minimums, state prisoners in Pennsylvania have little motivation to participate in education, training, and other rehabilitative programs. After being paroled, Mr. Rosa was able to find work in various animal rescues that helped him keep his life on track. This reality inspired Mr. Rosa to work with a new program called New Leash On Life to create a curriculum that would do more than just use prisons as foster homes for animals the way the state program was run.

New Leash On Life is a restorative justice program in which participants are chosen by the prison social workers when they are deemed eligible for early release. In addition to the animal-related skills of training, handling, veterinary technician training, and first aid, participants are given career and emotional counseling, financial management training, and other life skills workshops. Participants are also given a 6-week paid internship at a city shelter and a

graduation ceremony where numerous judges and the Mayor of Philadelphia have come to support them.

The recidivism rate for inmates who participate in the New Leash On Life program is less than a third of the statewide rate. Graduates of the program have gone on to have successful careers as animal law enforcement officers, shelter managers, veterinary technicians, and rescue workers. For many of these participants, this is the first time they have been given responsibility for another living being and through that, they find their calling. Mr. Rosa hopes to expand the program to other prison systems and jurisdictions.

We had an excellent turnout for Mr. Rosa's presentation. Many of the 30 attendees approached me after the event to say what a great program New Leash On Life is and expressed interest in doing a more in-depth project with them next semester. Everyone was also very impressed with Mr. Rosa's presentation and his personal story. I even had a few attendees tell me that the presentation inspired them to take the Animal Law class that is being offered next semester and one who will be fundraising to sponsor an inmate's training for New Leash On Life. Due to Mr. Rosa's presentation, one of our SALDF board members has offered to assist New Leash On Life's efforts to expand into Delaware.

The total cost for this event was \$400, \$150 of which is being paid by the Temple Law Student Bar Association. There was no charge and therefore no revenue for this event.

Thank you again for the generous grant for this event. This is the first year at Temple Law for the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund and we have had an extremely promising first semester. We hope to offer more programming like this that will raise awareness about animal law and the role of animals in our legal system.

Sincerely,

Katherine Orr

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Presents:

New Leash On Life

“Everyone deserves a second chance”



Vice President and former inmate Rob Rosa will be speaking about NLOL’s work improving the life of inmates and saving the lives of dogs.

Monday, November 19

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Klein Hall Room 1C

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