SLAPP Suits







WINNING The case Against Cruelty

Anti-SLAPP



- **California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.16**: The Legislature finds and declares that there has been a disturbing increase in lawsuits brought primarily to chill the valid exercise of the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and petition for the redress of grievances. The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the public interest to encourage continued participation in matters of public significance, and that this participation should not be chilled through abuse of the judicial process.
- **Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code § 27.002**: The purpose of this chapter is to encourage and safeguard the constitutional rights of persons to petition, speak freely, associate freely, and otherwise participate in government to the maximum extent permitted by law and, at the same time, protect the rights of a person to file meritorious lawsuits for demonstrable injury.



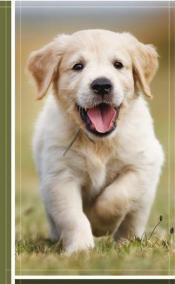
Anti-SLAPP Two-Step





Step 1: Does the cause of action arise from protected activity?

Step 2: Is the plaintiff nevertheless likely to succeed on the merits?



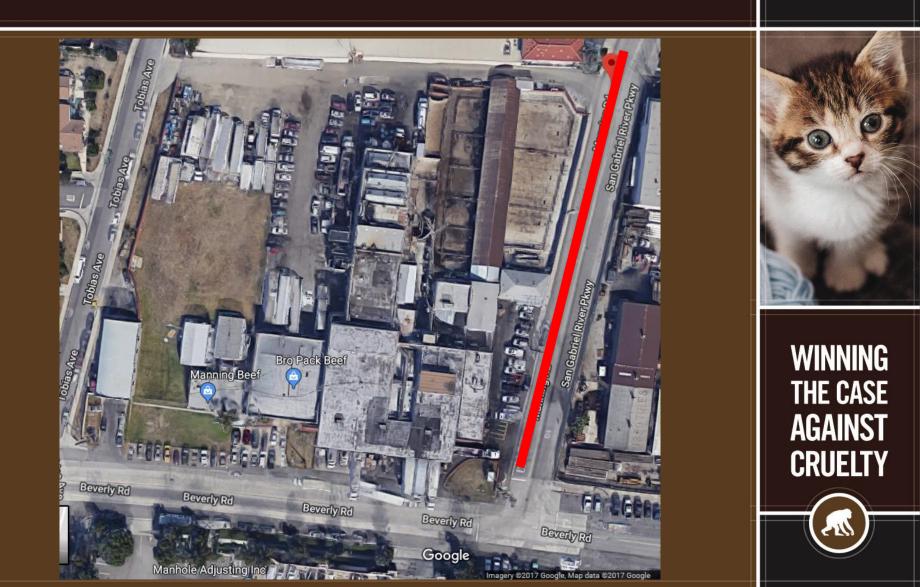
Manning Beef v. Los Angeles Cow Save





Manning Beef v. Los Angeles Cow Save

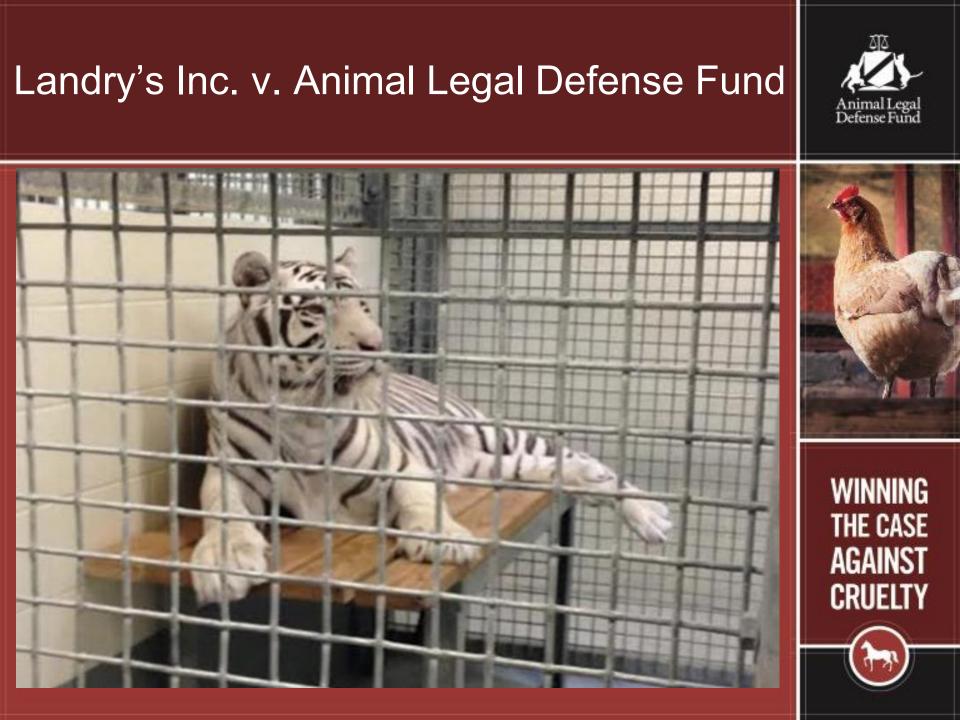




Landry's Inc. v. Animal Legal Defense Fund









525 East Cotati Avenue, Cotati, California 94931 T 707.795.2533 F 707.795.7280

September 19, 2016

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Houston Aquarium, Inc. d/b/a Downtown Aquarium 1510 West Loop S. Houston, TX 77027-9505

Landry's, Inc. 1510 West Loop S. Houston, TX 77027-9505 cc: Hon. Sally J U.S. Departn 1849 C Stree Washington,

gton, Posted on September 19, 2016

Violations

cc: Daniel M. A U.S. Fish and 1849 C Stree Washington, For immediate release:

Sue for Endangered Species Act

<u>RE:</u> Notice of Intent to Sue for Violations of Section <u>Species Act for the harm and harassment of</u> *tigris*) at the Downtown Acuarium in Houston

tigris) at the Downtown Aquarium, in Houston,

Dear Houston Aquarium, Inc. and Landry's, Inc.:

This letter serves as 60 days' notice under the E1 ("ESA") citizen suit provision, 16 U.S.C. § 1540(g). On beh Defense Fund ("ALDF") and Cheryl Conley, represented by we notify you of our intent to sue the Houston Aquarium, other related entities and individuals (collectively, "L4 improper care and holding conditions of four white t Downtown Aquarium in Houston, Texas. For twelve years these tigers of access to sunlight, fresh air, natural appropriate environmental enrichment. These conditions vi

In an effort to correct these violations of federal law v Senior Attorney Carney Anne Nasser met with counsel for 2016. Ms. Nasser offered to rehome the tigers Marina, N reputable, accredited sanctuaries where ALDF has secured Landry's. This offer still is open and will remain open for date of this notice. If Landry's declines ALDF's offer and unlawful actions, we will file suit in federal district court un

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Natalia Lima, Animal Legal Defense Fund, nlima@aldf.org, 201-679-7088

Landry's Inc. is Served Notice of Intent to

HOUSTON - Today, Houston's

Downtown Aquarium and Landry's Inc. were served with a notice of intent to sue for violations of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The notice, served by the Animal Legal Defense Fund and Irvine & Conner PLLC, alleges harm and harassment to a federally listed species: four tigers, who are kept in deplorable conditions at the Aquarium. In the notice, the Animal Legal Defense Fund reiterates its offer to rehome the tigers to a reputable, accredited sanctuary at no cost to Landry's. If Landry's declines this offer, the group will proceed with litigation after 60 days.



In December 2004, Landry's transported four white tigers to its Downtown Aquarium restaurant and amusement park complex in Houston, Texas. For the last 12 years, Landry's has deprived these four tigers—named Nero, Marina, Coral, and Reef—of any access to sunlight, fresh air, or natural surfaces. These speciesinappropriate living conditions violate the ESA, which has protected tigers since 1970.







CAUSE NO. 2016-79698

LANDRY'S INC., AND HOUSTON AQUARIUM, INC.,

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

Plaintiffs,

v.

ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, CARNEY ANNE NASSER, AND CHERYL CONLEY

Defendants.

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

334th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DEFENDANT CHERYL CONLEY'S ANTI-SLAPP MOTION TO DISMISS

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE KIRKLAND:

Defendant Cheryl Conley files this Anti-SLAPP Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' claims against her and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

I. Summary

 Cheryl Conley seeks redress for Plaintiffs' shameful use of the judicial system to suppress Conley's first-amendment right to criticize Plaintiffs for their shocking treatment of four rare tigers.

 After her behind-the-scenes tour of the Houston Aquarium exposed the tigers' pitiful existence, Conley reached out to the Animal Legal Defense Fund to pursue Endangered Species Act claims against Plaintiffs.

3. At the behest of their billionaire owner, Plaintiffs—bitter from the public's longstanding and well-founded criticism of its tigers' treatment—filed this preemptive

