



Sturm College of Law
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

February 25, 2026

Suriya Khan
Fair Start Movement
suriya@fairstartmovement.org

Re: Sturm College of Law Animal Law Program

Dear Ms. Khan:

I write in response to your letter of February 11 seeking information relating to the Animal Law Program at the Sturm College of Law.

As set forth on the [website](#) of the Animal Law Program and in its 2024-25 Annual Report, a copy of which accompanies this letter, the Animal Law Program supports a robust slate of activities, including, without limitation, scholarly research, affiliated faculty, a public event series, a certificate program, courses and externships, and the Animal Activist Legal Defense Project. Among other recent initiatives, the Program has launched the Animal Law Scholarship Digest, which tracks emerging trends and debates across animal law and related disciplines; led the development of a comprehensive Animal Law Research Guide for students, practitioners, and advocates; hosted an Evening Speaker Series and a set of Lunchtime Career and Advocacy Talks featuring leading scholars, litigators, and advocates; provided summer fellowships to support students working in the fields of animal advocacy, policy, and litigation; advised alumni pursuing careers in animal rights, wildlife protection, and companion animal law; submitted comments that helped secure stronger protections in Colorado for captive snakes; and provided written testimony in Massachusetts supporting legislation to ban octopus farming.

We disagree with the characterization of the Fair Start Movement (made in its press release of February 11) that it has submitted an “institutional complaint” to the Sturm College of Law on the basis, among others, that your organization has no standing to issue such a “complaint.” We also disagree with many of the statements and assertions in your letter. With respect to your inquiry, it is not the practice of the University of Denver to share information relating to funders, funding agreements, or fund-related administration with unaffiliated third parties.

Sincerely,

Bruce P. Smith
Dean
Sturm College of Law