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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

# **Nonhuman Rights Project Continues Legal Battle to Free Kiko the Chimpanzee**

*Case Refiled in New York State Supreme Court with 60 Additional Pages of Expert Affidavits, Including Jane Goodall's*

**Who:** Nonhuman Rights Project President Steven M. Wise and the NhRP's legal team are leading the effort to free Kiko, a chimpanzee imprisoned in a cage in a cement storefront in a crowded residential area in Niagara Falls, NY. Supporting the effort with affidavits to the court are the following experts: Jane Goodall, James R. Anderson, Christophe Boesch, Mary Lee Jensvold, William C. McGrew, Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, Jennifer Fugate, James King, Tetsuro Matsuzawa, and Mathias Osvath.

**What:** Persisting with its legal campaign to achieve personhood and the fundamental right to bodily liberty for nonhuman animals, the Nonhuman Rights Project has re-filed its habeas corpus case in the New York County Supreme Court on behalf of Kiko.

**Why:** In 2014, the Third Department ruled that an entity must have the capacity to shoulder duties and responsibilities to be a "person" able to invoke habeas corpus and that chimpanzees lacked that capacity. In this Second Kiko Petition, the NhRP has supplied the Court with approximately sixty additional pages of new affidavits from six of the world's leading primatologists, including Dr. Jane Goodall, on top of the 100 pages of affidavits that were filed in the First Kiko Petition in December 2013. These additional sixty pages of affidavits demonstrate that chimpanzees routinely shoulder duties and responsibilities both within chimpanzee societies and within mixed chimpanzee/human societies. Last July, Justice Barbara Jaffe of the New York County Supreme Court denied the habeas corpus bid of two nine year old chimpanzees, Hercules and Leo, who had been held captive in a Stony Brook campus building for six years where they were forced to endure frequent general anesthesia and experimentation solely because Justice Jaffe believed the Third Department decision bound her. This case has again been assigned to Justice Jaffe. Attorney Wise is hopeful that it will lead to a show cause hearing for Kiko.

**When:** The Nonhuman Rights Project refiled its case on January 7, 2016.

**Where:** New York State Supreme Court, New York County.

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#### **About the Nonhuman Rights Project**

Founded in 1996 by attorney Steven M. Wise, the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP) is the only organization working through the common law to achieve actual *legal* rights for members of species other than our own. Our mission is to change the common law status of at least some nonhuman animals from mere “things,” which lack the capacity to possess any legal right, to “persons,” who possess such fundamental rights as bodily integrity and bodily liberty and those other legal rights to which evolving standards of morality, scientific discovery, and human experience entitle them. Our current plaintiffs are members of species who have been scientifically proven to be self-aware and autonomous: currently, great apes, elephants, dolphins, and whales. We are also working with teams of attorneys on four continents to develop campaigns to achieve legal rights for nonhuman animals that are suited to the respective legal systems of these countries. Our first cases were filed in December of 2013. For more information on the Nonhuman Rights Project, please visit [www.nonhumanrights.org](http://www.nonhumanrights.org) or email us at [media@nonhumanrights.org](mailto:media@nonhumanrights.org).

#### **About NhRP President Steven M. Wise**

Steven M. Wise began his mission to gain rights for nonhuman animals in 1985. 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 and is admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. Professor Wise taught the first class in “Animal Rights Law” at the Harvard Law School and is currently teaching “Animal Rights Jurisprudence” at the Lewis and Clark Law School and Vermont Law School. He is the author of four books: *Rattling the Cage – Toward Legal Rights for Animals*; *Drawing the Line – Science and the Case for Animal Rights*; *Though the Heavens May Fall – The Landmark Trial That Led to the End of Human Slavery*; and *An American Trilogy – Death, Slavery, and Dominion Along the Banks of the Cape Fear River*. His [TED Talk](#) from the TED2015 Conference in Vancouver, Canada was released in May of 2015.