I finally got to meet Duke, a three-year-old Yellow Lab, at my office after working on his case for six months. My client’s ex-boyfriend was ordered to deliver him to my office. We won full custody of Duke for our client who clearly was the day-to-day manager of the dog. After having an informal agreement with her ex-boyfriend to share custody, he decided to keep him permanently and refused, for over 250 days, to share. My client began mildly by asking for shared custody and he refused. He even offered her $7,000 for the dog. She refused. After months of preparation we presented evidence and testimony to show that she was truly the majority caretaker of Duke even though her ex paid the $400 purchase price. Conventional wisdom is that he who paid for the pet owns the pet. Nothing about the way we practice pet law is conventional.