

# EXHIBIT 23



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Date: December 11, 2003

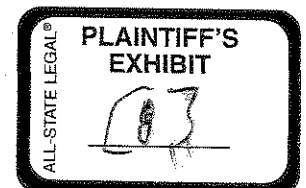
### GRANT/FUNDING PROPOSAL

The Wildlife Advocacy Project is a non-profit organization assisting national and grass-roots organizations in achieving long-term protection of wildlife and the environment, and in stopping the abuse and exploitation of animals held in captivity. The Project is seeking \$10,000 to help fund an on-going grass-roots media campaign to educate the public about what goes on behind the scenes of the Ringling Bros. circus with respect to endangered Asian elephants. We have an extremely fortuitous situation right now, having formed an alliance with a former elephant handler for Ringling, Tom Rider, who has first-hand knowledge of how the elephants are chained all day long and beaten with bull-hooks as part of their "training." Mr. Rider worked for Ringling for 2 ½ years as a "barn man" caring for the elephants. He quit the circus when he could no longer tolerate the way the elephants are treated, and he has been speaking out on this issue ever since.

Mr. Rider has video footage and photographs of animals being mistreated. In addition, he has joined the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("ASPCA"), the Fund for Animals ("FFA"), and the Animal Welfare Institute ("AWI"), in bringing a lawsuit under the Endangered Species Act to halt Ringling's illegal treatment of this endangered species. In February, 2003, a unanimous 3-judge panel for the United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia held that the plaintiffs had "standing" to bring the case, which is now currently going forward in the federal district court for the District of Columbia. The ASPCA, FFA, and AWI also recently released a voluminous report, based on hundreds of records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, concerning Ringling's mistreatment of elephants, particularly baby elephants, and the federal government's complicity in allowing such mistreatment to continue. "Government Sanctioned Abuse: How the United States Department of Agriculture Allows Ringling Brothers Circus to Systematically Mistreat Elephants." A copy is available directly from the Wildlife Advocacy Project or on the web, at:

<http://www.fund.org/library/documentViewer.asp?ID=1130&table=documents>

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With some very minimal grass-roots support, Mr. Rider has been touring the country for the past two years, staying just ahead of Ringling, doing media interviews and television spots on the subject, and assisting grass-roots groups in educating the public about the issue. He has been able to generate important local media coverage of this situation. Attached is a partial list of media and grass roots events that Mr. Rider has helped generate recently, and copies of some articles. Also enclosed is a videotape of a very recent NBC piece that ran in New Hampshire on October 30, 2003. Mr. Rider is a very impressive and articulate speaker and, because he is a former Ringling employee, he brings instant credibility to his campaign. He has no funds of his own and is not employed by any group.

Particularly because Ringling Bros. spends an enormous amount of money on public relations to convince the public that not only does it treat its elephants well, but its commercial exploitation of the animals benefits "conservation" of the endangered Asian elephant in the wild, the Wildlife Advocacy Project would very much like to assist Mr. Rider in his efforts to educate the public about what really goes on behind the scenes.

The Wildlife Advocacy Project is a C-3 organization and, therefore, all contributions are tax deductible. The Project was founded by Katherine Meyer and Eric Glitzenstein of the lawfirm, Meyer & Glitzenstein, which represents many national and grass-roots environmental and animal protection groups. See [Http:// www.meyerglitz.com./](http://www.meyerglitz.com/)

The \$10,000 requested would fund this public education effort for the year 2004. Funds would be spent principally on transportation, lodging, meals, phone expenses, and other administrative and out-of-pocket costs for Mr. Rider to continue these efforts.

**Tom Rider's Media/Grass-Roots Campaign**  
(Activities 2003)

7/16/03 - LA Media: Los Angeles - Fox News network, filmed at LA Coliseum - [circus in town]  
- KCAL (Channel 9); Telamundo (Spanish station) - all 3 did interviews;

7/17/03 - spoke to Long Beach City Council - [RB in Long Beach] - covered by local Long  
Beach paper

7/23/03 - San Diego - attended protest at Arena with activists from SD;

8/13/03 - Reno, Nevada - [with Campaign for Cruelty Free Circuses] filmed RB hooking the  
elephants; helped students with protest; filmed loading of elephants on trains;

8/22/03 - San Francisco - interviewed by CBS (Channel 5); attended protests at Oakland Arena  
and filmed RB; Interviewed by - Santa Meteo Times;

9/4/03 - Peoria, Ill. [circus there] - interviewed by Channel 25 (NBC); WRAU - Channel 19;

9/22 - 10/31 - New Haven, CT - (for next month - working Boston, Manchester NH, Harrisburg,  
Pa, Bridgeport Ct, Hartford, Ct):

Manchester, NH: Linda Dionne, "New Hampshire Animal Rights"

9/23/03 - did cable show ; aired repeatedly for next 30 days [local public access channel - sent to  
Derry, NH];

Bridgeport, Ct - one-hour live talk radio show - "Citizen Smith" - AMWICC (Ken Smith) - lots  
of call-ins ; worked with local group, Compassion In Entertainment;

10/27-28/03 - Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: working with the Lehigh Valley Animal Rights  
Coalition - featured speaker at Capital Rotunda for rally (copies of photos enclosed)

10/30/03 - Manchester, New Hampshire, Exclusive NBC Report (videotape enclosed).

11/21/03 - Huntsville, Alabama: ABC Television Report. [website]