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Speech by Dean Mary Kay Kane

Mary Kay Kane

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Julian Levi Memorial

Speech by Dean Mary Kay Kane*

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I'm Dean Mary Kay Kane and, on behalf of the College, want to welcome everyone today to this special service remembering and honoring our esteemed colleague and friend, Julian Levi. We are particularly pleased to have with us this afternoon Julian's family: his wife Marge, his daughter Kay L. Pick, and his son William G. Levi, as well as so many of their friends, Julian's former students, and a wide array of individuals who have had the opportunity to work with Julian here in California since he began his second career as a 65 Club faculty member at Hastings back in 1978.

Indeed, the wide and varied experiences and connections with Julian that are represented by the people in this room today reveal very dramatically one of the central and special features of Julian's life. Julian was always conquering new worlds and, most often, leading the

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way for the rest of us. To speak of Julian's 65 Club membership as a second career is no exaggeration when you realize that we had the benefits of having Julian as our colleague for 18 years. For those who are unfamiliar with our 65 Club history, our 65 Club faculty members are individuals who, when others were ready to retire, said they wanted to keep going full-speed ahead and who thus departed from their original institutions and traveled to Hastings where they continued to contribute to legal education and to generations of students their time, talent, and insights. Julian Levi epitomized that model.

Indeed, Julian went further than conquering Hastings—he took on the state and local government. And I note that this was no mean feat, even for someone who triumphed over Chicago politics to help reshape that city's planning and redevelopment. Julian recognized the educational benefit to our students of learning about and being involved in law reform, as well as the critical importance of creating a legal research resource to help the State executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Thus, he created the idea of our Public Law Research Institute and, working directly with Dean Prunty, lobbied to get funding for it from Sacramento. That Institute is a truly enduring legacy for Hastings and for the State of California and it will permanently be recognized as Julian Levi's creation. If that weren't enough, Julian worked with various people here in the City on different redevelopment problems (or, as I am sure he would put it, "redevelopment opportunities"), giving freely of his expertise from his Chicago experience. And in recent years he served the State as the Director of the California State Library Foundation, helping the State grapple with the problems of technology as it impacts the library world. Further displaying his truly generous spirit, he also worked with people at Stanford University and UCSF Medical Center to help them develop programs or projects to benefit research in the medical field. All of this while carrying on a full-time teaching load.

In sum, Julian was a man with unlimited curiosity, giving unstintingly and unselfishly of his time and talent and with a practical ability to get things done and make things happen in ways that most of us could only hope to imagine.

As you would expect from even this brief description, Hastings was a major beneficiary of his special talents. As Dean, I can personally say, and I know my predecessors would agree, Julian was always one of the first to help out, to see new ways that this institution could improve or be benefited and to make it happen.

We can all be very proud that Julian believed in us and made us a part of his life and mission. There is no doubt that we benefited immeasurably, as has every institution with which he has been associated. And, for myself, I can only say that I am most grateful to have been not only a colleague but a friend, for he taught me by his example and his indomitable spirit that “nothing is impossible and to always keep trying.” A motto I intend to adhere to.

Speech by Dean Leo P. Martinez*

Julian Levi was a remarkable man. I still am shocked that he is not here. I will miss his savvy lawyering. I will miss his devotion to the adage that “old age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill.” I will even miss his fondness for constant references to his beloved University of Chicago.

In my view one of the best measures of an individual is accessibility to all notwithstanding considerable accomplishment. It is that quality of Julian Levi that I will miss the most. While he was comfortable in corporate boardrooms, he was also a friend to common people and he was devoted to their causes. I remember a dinner in Santa Fe with him in the summer of 1995 and the fond greeting given by the staff of the restaurant, including the table clearers, to a customer who was clearly also a friend.

Julian’s accomplishment is easy to chronicle. His passing was noted throughout the country. Long obituaries appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle,¹ the Kansas City Star,² the Los Angeles Times,³ the New York Times,⁴ the Washington Post,⁵ and Denver’s Rocky Mountain News,⁶ to name just a few. One of them I believe best captures Julian’s spirit and his legacy.

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1. Aurilio Rojas, *Julian Levi*, S.F. CHRON. , Oct. 18, 1996, at A23.
2. KANSAS CITY STAR, Oct. 20, 1996, at B7.
3. L.A. TIMES, Oct. 20, 1996, at B3.
4. N.Y. TIMES, Oct. 19, 1996, at 52.
5. WASH. POST, Oct. 20, 1996, at B4.
6. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Oct. 21, 1996, at 6B.

The Chicago Tribune reported that Mayor Richard M. Daley said of Julian the obvious. Mayor Daley described Julian as a person of integrity who was both dynamic and committed.⁷ Many of us would be more than happy with a eulogy that ended with that. But you realize, as did Mayor Daley that this description alone did not capture Julian. So Mayor Daley went on to describe Julian's almost single-handed economic and racial stabilization of the University of Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. Mayor Daley said of that accomplishment what I believe is the essence of the man we honor today. Mayor Daley said: "[Julian] had nothing to gain from what he did for the city and its university. He did it because it was good and because he could make it work." Julian's life was marked with this selfless devotion to public service and he accomplished that to which I can only aspire.

His Hyde Park odyssey is but one example of this remarkable man's life. In 1975, when I was just entering law school, he wrote a tax article in the journal, *Law & Contemporary Problems*. In the article he talked not about using or exploiting the Internal Revenue Code for personal gain or for the benefit of his clients.⁸ No, his purpose was higher and in the article he talked of the effect of the tax laws in financing education and the need to encourage private support for education.⁹ In arguing for preservation of the charitable deduction for the benefit of higher education he said: "The euphony of the tax theologian in search of equity may well be abstractly pleasing but destruction and injury to colleges and universities, even if conducted in the name of populism or anti-elitism, would be devastating to the quality of national life."¹⁰

In the same vein, he was among the first to argue for accountability in higher education in an anthology on women in education. He wrote:

[Higher education] must say to supporters and detractors alike that the enterprise of higher education itself is an act of faith, not a guaranty. No college or university can contract with anyone that on graduation day it will deliver an output . . . of certified educated bodies. . . . The accounting then required [of higher education] is far

7. Kenan Heise, *Julian H. Levi*, CHI. TRIB., Oct. 18, 1996, at 12.

8. Julian H. Levi, *Financing Education and the Effect of the Tax Laws*, 39 *Law & Contemp. Probs.* 75 (1975).

9. *Id.*

10. *Id.* at 116.

more rigorous: loyalty to a mission provided by a generous past and fidelity to a demanding future.¹¹

While accountability necessarily included finances, accountability in Julian's vision also unquestionably dealt with education's need to account for broad representation in its ranks—a sharp contrast to the attitude that shows too much prominence today.

I could go on. I could tell of the countless hours that he spent with students, of his participation on the faculty appointments committee that for better or worse hired me to join this faculty, of the life he brought to the otherwise staid field of corporate law, of his incredible generosity to a wide variety of institutions, or of the role he had in starting Hastings' Public Law Research Institute. Unfortunately, if I went down that path you would listen to me for hours.

Instead I will tell you that our last conversation some weeks before his death dealt with his thanking me for the smallest kindnesses you can imagine. If in exchange he was part of my education I got the far better of the deal. I end with what will be my lasting picture of him. I hear him telling me, "Leo, at Hastings you should, like I did at the University of Chicago, use your talents for good because it's the right thing to do." Julian, I was blessed to have you be a part of my life and my education. I and we can never repay you for all you have done for us and this institution. Thanks and bless you, Julian.

Speech by Dr. Jack Barchas*

Julian Levi brought so much to the lives of others and to institutions that it is hard to imagine a world without his immediate presence.

You know of Julian's stunning impact on Chicago and the University of Chicago, his love of the university system of California and of this dynamic institution—from which my brother was a graduate—as well as his concerns for UCSF. And you know of his impacts on national and California politics and San Francisco. You also know his

11. Julian H. Levi, *Issues of Accountability*, in *WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION* 282, 305 (W. Furniss & P. Graham eds., 1974).

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pride and respect for the Hastings students; the reports they prepared and the legislation they influenced. But let me illustrate Julian's gifts by describing his humanity and effectiveness in a few other spheres that touched on me and my family.

Julian's ability to mobilize resources and involve others is a source of myth and legend and, also, reality. I saw it in his concerns for biomedical research. I spent twenty-five years as a faculty member at Stanford and am now Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center where I have responsibility for the Payne Whitney Clinic. Because of Julian Levi, Stanford University agreed to undertake a major capital campaign for the field of psychiatry—known as the Pritzker Challenge after the great philanthropic family that provided both the inspiration and the key gift.

Such a fund-raising effort had never been attempted before in the field of psychiatry. Prior to this effort, psychiatry was seen as a field in which such fund-raising would be impossible. Julian proposed the effort. He had faith that severe mental illness should be the recipient of philanthropy in much the way that is true for heart disease or cancer. He saw this as a key to scientific progress and the elimination of stigma toward the mentally ill.

Julian gave life to the concept of the fund drive. In remarkable discussions, he convinced a skeptical university president that it would be possible. He recognized how it should be accomplished. He sold the idea that it would work and that many people would join to make it a success. The effort took several years. It was totally successful.

Julian was involved in every stage. The result of his efforts included the endowment of a major neurobiological research laboratory, the Nancy Pritzker Laboratory, the creation of an endowed mental health clinical research center, several endowed chairs, and support for students and trainees. Because these interacting activities are endowed, they will be significant in perpetuity. The fund drive that Julian Levi conceptualized has been a model for other institutions and its success helped to change the concept of psychiatry as a science.

Julian did not talk about his key role, did not tell others what he had set in motion, did not claim credit—indeed I doubt if many, or even any, of you knew of his activity in this area. But it revealed so many aspects of his character. He was a strategist for good causes. He was happy to do things that others thought were impossible. He could analyze every aspect of an issue and was delighted to find solutions that worked—usually that worked for all involved. He enjoyed everyone—including his opponents. He listened. Even with difficult

problems, I never saw Julian morose. He was a happy problem solver! He understood precisely the steps that were needed and who would do what. I will never forget the smile on his face and the twinkle in his eye when he would say to someone: "I need your help." Inevitably, they too came to the cause and wanted to help.

In a quite different vein, I saw still other aspects of Julian in his influence on my son, Isaac Doherty. Isaac was an early teenager when he met Julian. He was enthralled by Julian and his stories of the law and its intersections with politics, economics, and business. Of course, Isaac—who before that was headed to biology and medicine—went to law school at Chicago and is in business consulting! What I remember was Julian's ability to relate to a young person with intensity, kindness, and a recognition of opportunity. He could take a long term interest. He was an exciting mentor. A Pied Piper that a parent could trust.

My late wife, Patricia, was dying of a brain tumor over many years that we knew the Levis. For Pat and myself, Julian was the ultimate friend. He understood human processes and the seasons of life. He had a warmth beyond measure, a curiosity about everything, and a laugh that made any difficulty seem tolerable. Times spent with Julian and Marjorie were some of the very happiest that Pat had in her final years. Pat always loved it when we were going up to see the Levis! As a couple, Julian and Marjorie gave an encompassing positive sense to others—despite disabilities—and they did so with intelligence and integrity in the process.

Julian and I had only one bit of unfinished business. He knew of my respect, appreciation, and affection. But, I deeply regret that—because he was ill when we were last in San Francisco—it was not possible for Julian to have met Rosemary Stevens, to whom I am now married. Julian had been so gracious during some very dark days that I wanted him to meet the source of so much of the current joy in my life. I know Julian and Rosemary would have liked one another.

Julian's life was full in every way, not least in terms of those he loved. His pride in his children, Kay and Bill, and grandchildren was reflected in the last discussion that we had—just a few weeks before he died. As was true in so many of our talks over the years, he described their latest activities in full detail. Julian was married to *the* woman that he loved. The wonderful story of their romance, through the decades of fifty-eight years, could warm any heart.

It has been noted by a sage that the ultimate is to be fortunate and happy in love and in work. That was Julian Levi! What a won-

derful combination! He believed and acted as though the world is real and that individuals through their values, altruism, goodness, relationships, and sense of justice can make a difference. In situation after situation, Julian Levi made a magnificent difference.

Thank you, Julian.

And, thank you, Marj.