

FRIDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY TODAY

Questions and Comments

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**THE NEW LAWYER SUPPLEMENT**

May 21, 2013

November 16, 2012

## Commencement 2013: California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye

UC Irvine School of Law and USC Gould School of Law

May 11, 2013 and May 17, 2013



"I ask you especially to test the unspoken rules that permeate the legal profession. And by that, I mean the traditions of promotion and meritocracy and patrilineal positions. There was a time in my career when I was on my trajectory, and I wanted a family. And I knew from my peers and my competitors in business and law that that was probably going to be considered off the beaten path. ...You have to choose what's right for you even though it may not look like what's right for everyone else and what's been traditionally right. (For me, I went into deep cover - Brownies, Girl Scouts, class mom, volleyball mom, baseball mom, basketball mom.) And forgo all legal fraternities and organizations and dinners and galas for several years. And then, try to make a comeback. ... It's possible, but you need the balance. And the balance ultimately comes down to a decision you make about yourself and what you need at the time."

[Video of the full speech](#)

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