

Email sent Friday, June 18, 2021
From Dean Scott Brown
To all students, faculty, and staff

Dear students, faculty, and staff of New England Law,

Tomorrow is Juneteenth, a day which commemorates the effective end of slavery in the United States. It is also known as Freedom Day. Massachusetts [recently declared](#) it a state holiday, and on Thursday, President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law to make it a federal holiday. Although nothing can make up for the countless horrific acts in our country's history, it's about time we officially recognize this important day.

As a law school, we are committed to fostering a community of respect amongst all individuals, to expanding access to the legal profession for historically underrepresented groups of people, and to embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion through continuous initiatives to improve. This is not a simple task; it is an ongoing mission that as students, faculty, and staff of New England Law, we all must embody. I am proud of everything the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force has accomplished in its first year; you can look forward to receiving a full report outlining those items as well as future goals in the coming weeks. You can also visit the Diversity & Inclusion pages on the [Intranet](#) to learn more about our activities this year. Importantly, we remain committed to the good work that we have started, and we will continue to listen, learn, and move forward together.

As we head into the weekend, I encourage you all to educate yourselves on the meaning and history of Juneteenth – America's 12th federal holiday. The Boston Globe has shared a list of [local events](#) to celebrate. I also hope you will join me in taking time to reflect on how we can continue to fight inequity and celebrate diversity.

Scott P. Brown
President and Dean