

The Hamilton Law Association JOURNAL

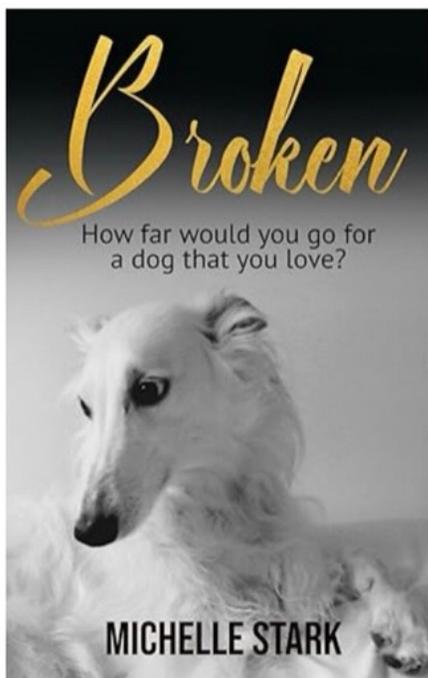
Vol. 35 • Issue 1

February 2025



Broken: How Far Would You Go for a Dog That You Love?

Michelle Stark



As a former President of the Hamilton Law Association (2012–2013), I am delighted to reconnect and share an exciting development in my career journey. After many years practicing law in Hamilton, I recently published my debut memoir, *Broken* (Fire Ant Press), which explores my transition from a demanding legal profession to advocating for animal welfare.

The memoir chronicles my experience caring for a dog with significant health challenges, which led me to investigate the world of purebred dog breeding. The narrative is deeply personal yet rooted in research, blending themes of resilience, compassion, and the pursuit of truth. Rather than comforting readers, *Broken* challenges them to reflect critically on where we get our dogs from, and whether the law

can be used to change the broken system.

The skills I honed as a lawyer—advocacy, critical analysis, and persuasive communication—proved invaluable in crafting this story. Although I stepped away from legal practice, the principles I embraced within the profession continue to guide my work as a writer and advocate.

I believe the story may resonate with legal professionals who value ethical advocacy and perseverance.

Today, I reside on a small farm in rural Hamilton with my husband, Tim, and our beloved animals. Writing has become an unexpected yet deeply fulfilling second career, one shaped by my foundation in law. ■