



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

October 12, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

The coolness of fall has finally descended upon us. Although the seasons may change across the Mission Campus, our mission remains the same. As a community and as a family, we are called to come together with care and compassion for one another in the worthy pursuit of *cura personalis*, educating the whole person.

Last Friday, we celebrated Santa Clara Law Reunion and welcomed over 150 alumni and their guests back to campus, including two who were celebrating their 50th reunion and were inducted into our esteemed Ruffo Society. Many of them had never seen Charney Hall. Most had not been on campus since prior to the pandemic. There was a universal feeling of being “reconnected” with one another and with the Law School. The authentic sense of community I felt among the students, staff, faculty and alumni was palpable. It was an incredible evening! In many ways, it felt like a family reunion, and why shouldn’t it? We are a family.



As a family, we often grapple with complex and challenging issues. Sometimes these issues provoke spirited debates and hurtful language that can strain even the closest of our relationships. Last week, I circulated a message denouncing offensive speech and harmful conduct of any kind, and encouraging us all to use our “precious words [the lawyer’s wand] not as tools of defamation, hate, trauma, and oppression, but as instruments of kindness and healing, justice and reconciliation.” Although I know that there is always more work to do, I am heartened that so many of you have shared with me your renewed commitment to really listen to each other and to lift each other up with acts of loving kindness.

Later this week, we will be holding our first Staff Town Hall of the academic year. With our return to Charney Hall this semester, the importance of collaboration across units and dialogue becomes paramount. For law students, I want to highlight the distinguished legal scholars in residence who generously give of their time and expertise in order to mentor and advise our current law students. Retired California Supreme Court justice, Justice Edward Panelli, BS ‘53, JD ‘55 and retired Alameda County Judge and current Chair of Santa Clara University’s Board of Regents, Judge Risë Pichon BS ‘73, JD ‘76 maintain weekly office hours in the Atrium so that we may drop-in and get their thoughts

on a wide range of topics that are likely of interest to law students. Justice Panelli is available to meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and on Fridays by appointment; Judge Pichon is available to meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. I encourage you to get to know them and draw upon their wealth of knowledge and experience

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Kaufman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to the left of the first few letters.

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)
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