



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

February 24, 2022

Dear Friends,

Signs of spring inspire a spirit of renewal. All around us, beautiful blossoms are emerging from the harsh winter soil. We too have overcome the challenges of yet another Covid winter of illness and uncertainty, and have emerged with a new sense of shared purpose. Let us continue to work together to develop a “growth mindset”—the capacity to understand setbacks and struggles not as failures, but as opportunities for learning and rising.



Under the leadership of Devin Kinyon and Liza-Jane Capatos, our First-Year Fridays series offers our students strategies for achieving success and well-being in law school, including by developing that growth mindset. Last week, with the guidance of our wonderful Equity, Justice, and Engagement Committee, the focus was on ensuring that every member of our law school community feels that they belong here, particularly our first-generation students and those from minoritized communities. The students and faculty who participated shared powerful stories from their own lived experiences and offered advice for overcoming significant obstacles to belonging, including mitigating the imposter syndrome which so many of us feel. If you were unable to participate on Friday, I encourage you to listen to the [recording here](#).

Our community’s spirit of growth and renewal was also evident in our signature Galloway Moot Court Competition. Over the past few weeks, amidst all of their other obligations, 84 first-year students (42 teams) embraced the opportunity to try something new; they took a risk, teamed up with their classmates, and worked very hard to cultivate a new skill-set. Your growth mindset is a source of inspiration for all of us who accompany you on this educational journey. I want to congratulate every one of the participants in Galloway and offer special thanks to Adriana Duffy and all of the faculty, staff, alumni, and volunteer judges who assisted with this year’s competition.

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

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