



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

April 26, 2022

Dear Friends,

One of our greatest distinctive strengths is our student-centered community, knit closely together by our commitment to educational excellence, our ethic of loving-kindness, and our dedication to professionalism. As students, faculty, and administrators in this professional environment, we are all obligated to treat each other with dignity, civility, respect, courtesy, cultural competency, goodwill, and compassion. Professionalism is not a switch that can be turned off and on; rather it is a way of being in the world. It must guide all of our words and deeds—not just after graduation, but after convocation; not just in our classrooms, but in our common rooms; and not just in our in-person encounters, but on email, zoom, and social media.



The still-evolving pandemic has brought many of us a sense of loss, remoteness, isolation, and even anger that threatens to rent our communal fabric. Nonetheless, even in the midst of our challenges, including those surrounding the recent student bar association election, most of our students have continued to act with professionalism and respect for their peers, administrators, and faculty. Congratulations to all of the students who have been elected to serve as leaders in the law school's student bar association and in all of our wonderful student organizations. I look forward to partnering with you in the coming year, and I am also excited to work together with those students who did not prevail in this particular election cycle, but who nonetheless have stepped forward to offer their precious time and great talent on behalf of our law school.

When our students choose to use their voices and actions as instruments of professionalism, justice, peace, kindness, and reconciliation, they incarnate our shared Santa Clara law school values. They are role models of professionalism for all to follow. On Monday, April 18th, for example, our NCIP legal team, including our students led by [Professor Linda Starr](#) and [Professor Paige Kaneb](#), obtained the reversal and dismissal of all charges for their client, Joaquin Ciria, who spent 32 years incarcerated for a murder he did not commit. [Click here](#) to read the press release and see the announcement. We applaud NCIP's fierce determination and unwavering faith in their client's innocence. Their work exemplifies the use of professional habits of mind and heart in the pursuit of justice.

On Friday, April 15th, **Janelle Barbier JD '23**, and **Matthew Lem JD '23** argued in the final round at the national rounds of competition in the AIPLA Giles S. Rich Moot Court Tournament and won! They argued before a Federal Circuit panel of Judges Taranto, Dyk, and Bryson. They were supported by a team of coaches, faculty, and the HMCE Director and competition manager **Michael Wang JD '22**. [Click here](#) to learn more about their successful run in the competition.

Our faculty also model professional habits of mind and heart in their dedicated teaching and their publication of impactful scholarly works. Our Acting President and former Dean of the Law School, Lisa Kloppenberg, released an awe-inspiring book last month entitled, ["The Best Beloved Thing is Justice: The Life of Dorothy Wright"](#)

[Nelson](#)” (Oxford University Press). Yesterday, as part of the Santa Clara Law–Stanford Law Conflict Resolution Workshop, co-hosted by The Santa Clara Law Women & Law Association and Women of Stanford Law, we honored her compelling history of Judge Nelson’s contributions to the legal profession, gender equity, and conflict resolution. The hybrid event received widespread praise, serving as a testament to Judge Nelson’s illustrious career, Lisa Kloppenberg’s beautiful and powerful scholarly work, and the panelists’ accomplished professional backgrounds.

We also celebrated the publication of Professor David Sloss’ monumental new book, “[Tyrants on Twitter: Protecting Democracies from Information Warfare](#)”. It offers the first detailed analysis of how Chinese and Russian agents weaponize Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube to subvert the liberal international order. The book calls for cooperation among democratic governments to create a new transnational system for regulating social media to protect Western democracies from information warfare.

As we head into the exam period and beyond, let us keep close to our hearts the title of Acting President Kloppenberg’s book: the “best beloved thing” is indeed justice! Please keep your spirits high, please treat each other with the utmost professionalism and loving-kindness, and please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your remarkable, collective accomplishments over the past challenging year.

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

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

Dean and Professor of Law