



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

August 17, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

Last week we came together as a community to celebrate Santa Clara Law's Convocation, the beginning of our academic year. I found it to be a profoundly moving occasion. This was my first convocation as Dean of the law school; the beautiful images will forever remain among my fondest memories. We gathered in the Mission Gardens just three months after celebrating Commencement on the same beautiful grounds, capturing the full life cycle of a Santa Clara Law education. Most importantly, we were able to gather together again in person, as one community joined together by our mission to care deeply for each other and to pursue the future of justice. Keeping the health and safety of our community top of mind while restoring the wonderful, essential elements of our in-person educational experience is a testament to all of those who worked so hard and thoughtfully to help make our return to campus possible.



With classes starting yesterday, I am mindful of the well of emotions that many of our students may be experiencing. From 1L's feeling excited to get to work to 2L's pondering which journals, moot court, or experiential learning opportunities to pursue, to 3L's looking forward to solidifying their post-graduation employment plans, we have all been there.

And so too have Santa Clara Law's nearly 13,000 living alumni, many of who live and work in Northern California. Our loyal and engaged alumni are one of Santa Clara Law's greatest distinctive strengths. Having a network of active, professionally successful, and committed alumni in Silicon Valley and the greater San Francisco Bay Area provides our students with a tremendous advantage over peer institutions. Not only are the vast majority of our graduates living and practicing in the region, but this region also boasts the most robust and diverse economy in the world.

As we return to campus, we look forward to a host of formal and informal events designed to strengthen our community within the Law School. Please take note of the Coffee Chats in Charney organized by our Office of Student Affairs. These informal gatherings are designed to allow students to interact with student groups and the Law School's administrative team. They are held from Noon - 1 pm and 5-6 pm in the Charney Hall Atrium. If you're unable to stop by today, I hope that you will find an opportunity to join us on September 14th or October 14th at the same time.

My best wishes for your ongoing academic success and well-being throughout the current semester.

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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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