



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

September 14, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

In this sacred season of renewal, I wish you and your loved ones L' Shana Tovah--a Happy New Year, brimming with health, joy, and fulfillment!

The new academic year brings the return to our beautiful campus of students enrolled throughout our world-class University. Although the degrees awarded by our individual schools may differ, and the responsibilities among administrators vary, it is clear that we share a belief in our institution's enduring values and a commitment to a common mission that guides our work.



Inspired by our Jesuit, Catholic tradition, our law school's mission emphasizes service to others, particularly those communities that may be underserved or marginalized. We celebrate our diversity (58 percent of our 1L's identify as ethnic minorities) and strive to become more equitable and inclusive as a community. We view the law as a powerful tool in the effort to build a more just and humane world. It is not just through the work of our Center for Social Justice and Public Service, the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, and the Northern California Innocence Project that our timeless commitment to social justice is demonstrated. As capable practitioners, who care deeply for our clients, our communities, and one another, we all have the ability to become lawyers of competence, conscience, and compassion. When we do, I believe that we reveal one of the most distinctive strengths of Santa Clara Law. We not only equip our students to be successful legal professionals, we also empower them to do so with a deeper purpose.

Further reflecting on our own community here in Charney Hall, I have enjoyed the weekly Breakfast & Banter with the Deans series, and hope you have too. I thank those who have organized them as well as those who have attended. They present a wonderful opportunity to get to know this amazing community of scholars and highly recommend you join us this Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Also, if you're looking for an upcoming opportunity to connect with one another virtually, I encourage you to register for the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center's 2021 Celebration, *Community, Commitment & Courage*. This one-hour event on the evening of September 30, will showcase the Center's incredible work, the people behind it, and those who have benefited from it. Please mark your calendars.

With warm regards and immense gratitude,

Michael J. Kaufman (He/Him/His)
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