



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

September 28, 2021

Dear Santa Clara Law Students, Staff, and Faculty,

The arrival of midterms is often met with a sense of disbelief as to the speed with which the semester has progressed. For me, I try to pause, even if only briefly, to reflect on what has been accomplished and rededicate myself to the semester's goals. I am so grateful for the tireless efforts of my fellow deans in the law school, our administrative staff, and our faculty for leading the way in the University's safe return to in-person instruction. I am so impressed with the resilience of our students as they adapt to necessary health and safety protocols and re-adapt to live instruction. We are stronger together and we are stronger in person. Looking forward, I continue to see our Law School playing an integral role in facilitating conversations and restoring community across the entire campus—hallmarks of a Santa Clara education.



As I mention the campus, it is important to recognize how our relationship with a world-class University is also a distinctive strength. Some law schools are not associated with a larger university, some may not be located on a university's main campus, and others still may simply operate semi-autonomously. By contrast, Santa Clara Law is honored to be an important part of Santa Clara University. We offer joint degrees with the Leavey School of Business, promote interdisciplinary study and scholarship in multiple areas, and we share a common educational mission, emphasizing *cura personalis*, social justice, and service to others. The University recently ranked #55 in the country, placing it within the top 15% of all colleges and universities in the United States. This is a testament to many, but not least of which is Acting President, Lisa Kloppenberg, who in fact served as the Dean of the Law School upon her arrival to campus in 2013. Not only do we want to encourage talented undergraduate students to continue their graduate studies with Santa Clara Law, but we also want to be partners in the truest sense of the word, weaving the diverse and colorful fabric of Santa Clara University.

Finally, I am moved by the many efforts being made to build/enhance our vibrant law school community, inside and outside of Charney Hall. In the Grand Atrium, we have begun a project to provide profiles and personalize our faculty, staff, and student groups on the video monitors. We have nearly completed the faculty slides and look forward to adding other members of our community soon. Outside of Charney Hall, a small number of our 3L's joined our External Relations team and me

at an alumni gathering in Alamo—it was the first in-person engagement for the law school since the onset of the pandemic and the group dynamics couldn't have been better. Watching our alumni engage with current students, and vice-versa, reinforced the potential that exists when bringing these types of groups together. To that end, I would like to encourage our faculty and staff to register for our Law Reunion on Friday, October 8, 2021 (a registration link will be sent under separate cover) For our students, we would like to invite about a dozen 3L's to get a perspective on the alumni community that you will soon be joining. If you would like to be considered for this wonderful opportunity, please [complete this questionnaire](#) and our External Relations team will follow up with details for those ultimately invited to attend Law Reunion or other private Santa Clara Law alumni gatherings throughout the year.

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)
Dean and Professor of Law
Santa Clara University School of Law
mjkaufman@scu.edu