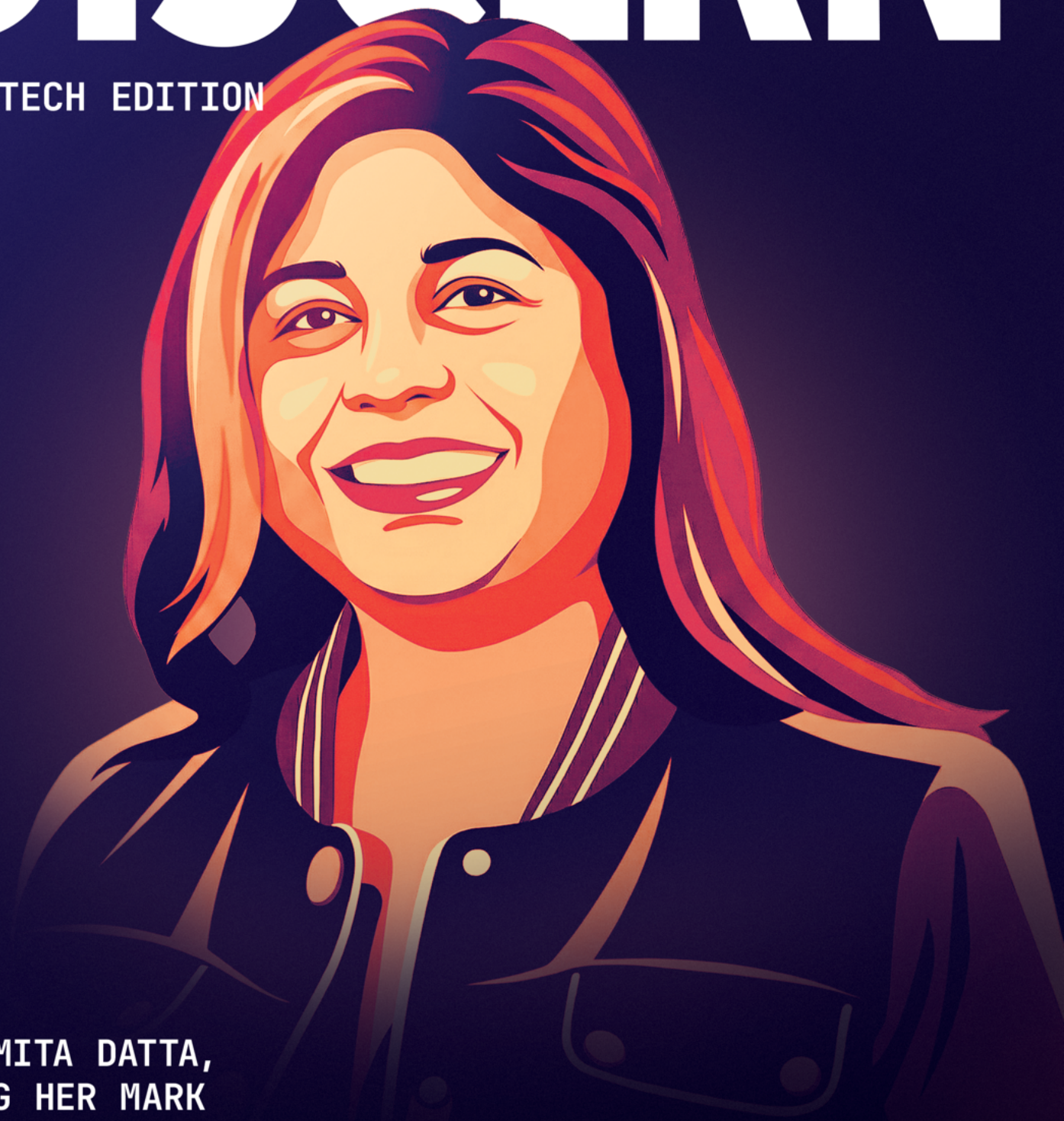


THE MAGAZINE OF SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

DISCERN

HIGH TECH EDITION



8

**MADHUMITA DATTA,
MAKING HER MARK**

*The Datta Center
for High Tech Law*

FALL 2026

Photo Credit: Miguel Ozuna

Discern

Fall 2026

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Santa Clara University School of Law is dedicated to educating lawyers who lead with a commitment to excellence, ethics, and social justice. Santa Clara Law offers students an academically rigorous program that includes certificates in High Tech Law, International Law, Public Interest and Social Justice Law, Privacy Law, and Sports Law, as well as numerous graduate and joint degree options. Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Santa Clara Law is nationally distinguished for its faculty engagement, preparation for practice, and top-ranked programs in intellectual property. For more information, visit www.law.scu.edu.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Law Advancement, Alumni Relations, & Communications Office by phone at 408-551-1748; email lawmedia@scu.edu or visit law.scu.edu/alumni. You can also write to Law Advancement, Alumni Relations, & Communications, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053. The diverse opinions expressed in DISCERN magazine do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or the official policy of Santa Clara University. Copyright 2026 by Santa Clara University. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

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Cover Story

Madhumita Datta, Making Her Mark

Datta's unconventional path from engineer to attorney is helping shape the future of high tech law.

Written By Pamela Nonga Ngue

A Letter From the Dean



Welcome to our High Tech Law Edition of DISCERN!

I am thrilled to introduce a special High Tech Law Edition of DISCERN magazine, a new publication designed to showcase how Santa Clara University School of Law is educating, leading, challenging, collaborating, and innovating at the intersection of technology and law.

In this issue, we share our profound gratitude to Mita Datta, who made a transformative gift to the now-named Datta Center for High Tech Law, advancing our distinctive mission and empowering our faculty and staff-educators to shape the ever-evolving technological landscape.

You will discover how high tech law has been integrated into the courses available to our entire student population, as well as the specialized courses we offer to students who have chosen high tech as their area of focus.

Our high tech law program, which includes intellectual property, privacy, internet law, communications, sports, and artificial intelligence is consistently ranked #4 in the country and is helmed by the world's leading scholars and policy makers.

Our Tech Edge J.D., which combines legal, business and technology education with hands-on skills training and individualized mentorship, fosters the development of knowledge, values, and vital competencies, and leads to remarkable outcomes for students who become leaders in the field and achieve careers of prominence and purpose.

The high tech law program also is distinctive in its alignment with our Jesuit values, which call us to innovate for the greater good and to collaborate in designing human-centered uses for emerging technology and human-centered solutions to the world's most vexing problems.

Supporting this scholarship is our community of alumni like Mita Datta, who have used their Santa Clara Law education to design legal outcomes for tech companies, inventors and innovators, entrepreneurs, sports teams, and more.

This work is also made possible thanks to our phenomenal educators, who equip our students with critical knowledge in the classroom and conduct research to advance the field. We are overjoyed that superstar professors Megan Crane, Erika Douglas, Brandon Honoré, Sejal Patel, and Tania Valdez have recently joined our renowned faculty; their expertise in trademarks, copyright, criminal defense, immigration, and property law has enriched all of our law school offerings and our entire community.

We also remember the late Professors Emeriti Allen Hammond and Richard Berg, beloved members of our law school community, wonderful teachers, scholars, public servants, mentors, colleagues, and friends. Professor Hammond's scholarship, focused on access and fairness in the media, remains particularly relevant in today's discourse and exemplifies his ability to think far into the future. Professor Berg's investments in our public interest law programs continue to provide our students with invaluable hands-on experience year after year.

This special, high tech law edition of DISCERN captures the innovative, ambitious, forward-thinking, and engaged spirit of Santa Clara Law and the vision for the future we are co-creating as a community of students, scholars, administrators, educators, alumni, university colleagues, and industry partners.

With warm regards and tremendous gratitude

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Kaufman".

Michael Kaufman

A photograph of three people standing in front of a modern building with large glass windows. On the left is a man with glasses, wearing a blue pinstripe suit and a blue patterned tie. In the center is a woman with curly hair and glasses, wearing a red blazer over a black top. On the right is a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a black blazer over a red top. They are all smiling at the camera.

The Datta Center for High Tech Law at Santa Clara University School of Law

A LEGACY OF INNOVATION IN THE HEART OF SILICON VALLEY

Left to right: Ed Lee, Zahr Said, Emily Burns

BY JOANNA JUSTUS

Founded in 1998, Santa Clara Law's High Tech Law program was established as the High Tech Law Institute, focused on the intersection of law and technology. Today, it is known as the Datta Center for High Tech Law, reflecting both its enduring legacy and its continued evolution.

Situated in the heart of Silicon Valley, the Datta Center was founded to meet a growing demand for lawyers fluent in technology. Since

then, it has led national conversations on intellectual property, privacy, cybersecurity, and emerging tech, bringing together influential judges, policymakers, scholars, and industry leaders. Its scholarship has shaped courts and legislatures, and its alumni now serve as general counsel, founders, policymakers, and top practitioners at some of the world's most innovative companies.

Over four decades, the Datta Center has not only kept pace with technological change, but it has helped define the legal frameworks that guide it.

Leadership & Staff: The People Behind the Mission

At the core of the Datta Center's success is a deeply committed team. Faculty Co-Director Professor Brian Love is a nationally recognized scholar in intellectual property and patent law. His research focuses on patent litigation, innovation policy, and empirical legal studies, and his work is widely cited by courts and policymakers. Professor Love brings rigorous academic insight and strategic vision to the Datta Center, helping shape its research agenda and national impact.

Faculty Co-Director Eric Goldman is a leading authority on internet law, privacy, and technology regulation. Known for his influential scholarship and leadership in the legal issues surrounding online platforms and free speech, Professor Goldman plays a central role in convening cutting-edge conversations at the intersection of law and technology. His deep engagement with industry, courts, and global scholars ensures that the Datta Center remains at the forefront of rapidly evolving legal debates.

Managing Director Joanna M. Justus provides strategic leadership and vision, overseeing programming, partnerships, and the Datta Center's expansive portfolio of initiatives. Her work strengthens ties between the law school and leaders across Silicon Valley and beyond, ensuring the Datta Center stays responsive to the profession's evolving needs.

Program Manager Dorice McDonnell has been a cornerstone of Santa Clara Law's high tech law community for more than 22 years. With deep institutional knowledge and unwavering dedication, Dorice has supported generations of students, faculty, and alumni. From coordinating conferences and student initiatives to managing day-to-day operations, her impact is woven into the very fabric of the Datta Center.

The Datta Center's team drives its intellectual leadership, shaping conferences, academic initiatives, and long-term strategy, while cultivating not just programs, but a vibrant and connected community.



Left to Right: Guests with Laura Lee Norris, Celia Lewis, and Tyler Ochoa

High Tech Law Faculty

Santa Clara Law's High Tech Law faculty is one of the largest and most specialized in the country. With full-time and adjunct professors deeply engaged in technology-focused scholarship and practice, the school offers an expansive curriculum spanning intellectual property, privacy, cybersecurity, AI governance, and more.

Students can choose from a broad array of technology-related courses ranging from foundational IP classes to cutting-edge seminars exploring emerging technologies. Distinctive offerings include specialized courses that reflect the school's Silicon Valley location, such as technology transactions, privacy engineering, AI and the law, and international IP strategy.

Faculty members are not only scholars but also practitioners, advisors, and thought leaders who regularly collaborate with industry and government. Their presence ensures that classroom learning is grounded in real-world innovation.

Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic (ELC)

The Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic (ELC) provides students with hands-on experience advising startups and early-stage companies, particularly within the Silicon Valley innovation ecosystem. Working under faculty supervision, students assist clients with key transactional matters such as business entity formation, seed-stage financing, founder agreements, operational contracts, employment or independent contractor agreements, intellectual property licensing, and website terms of service or privacy policies. Through direct client engagement and practical projects, students develop real-world legal and business skills while helping entrepreneurs navigate the legal challenges of launching and growing innovative companies.



Left to Right: Eric Goldman, Ricardo Larrea Diaz

Certificate Programs

The Datta Center for High Tech Law offers structured pathways for students seeking to specialize and distinguish themselves in a competitive market.

HIGH TECH LAW CERTIFICATE

The High Tech Law Certificate is a signature credential recognizing students who pursue concentrated study in intellectual property and technology-related subjects. Designed for those seeking to excel at the intersection of law and innovation, this certificate allows students to tailor their coursework to develop deep expertise that aligns with the evolving needs of the profession. Students complete a foundational core and have the option to choose one of three specialized tracks: Intellectual Property, International, or Corporate. Each track is built around targeted courses and practical experiences that prepare graduates for leadership roles in technology-driven legal fields.

SPECIALIZATIONS

- **Intellectual Property** – Focused coursework in IP law, including classes such as patent prosecution, IP litigation, and technology licensing that deepen expertise in rights, protection, and enforcement.
- **International** – Combines high tech law with global legal perspectives through courses like International IP and International Business Transactions, as well as a summer abroad experience.
- **Corporate** – Blends technology law with business and transactional foundations, including subjects such as venture capital, legal issues for startups, and securities regulation.
- **Artificial Intelligence** – Explores the legal, ethical, and regulatory dimensions of AI through specialized coursework such as AI Governance and Contemporary Issues with AI, preparing students to advise on emerging technologies, compliance, risk management, and responsible innovation.

This structure equips students with both breadth and specialization, ensuring they graduate with the skills and insight needed to thrive in leading firms, companies, and policy arenas.

TECH EDGE J.D. CERTIFICATE

The Tech Edge J.D. Certificate helps students combine legal expertise with technical understanding. The program focuses on practical skills and technological literacy, teaching students to interpret complex technical concepts and provide clear legal guidance. Graduates learn to work effectively with engineers, product teams, and business leaders, preparing them for careers in technology companies, startups, and other fast-paced, innovation-driven environments.

SPORTS LAW CERTIFICATE

The Sports Law Certificate prepares students for careers in the sports industry through focused study of the legal and business issues shaping modern athletics. Students explore areas such as athlete representation, labor and employment, antitrust, contracts, and intellectual property while completing interdisciplinary coursework across sports, business, and technology law. The program also includes a substantial research and writing project on a sports law topic, allowing students to deepen their expertise and contribute to scholarship in the field. Graduates are prepared to pursue opportunities with teams, leagues, agencies, law firms, and collegiate athletics programs.

PRIVACY LAW CERTIFICATE

The Privacy Law Certificate prepares students to work in one of the fastest-growing areas of law. The program covers domestic and international data protection rules, cybersecurity, regulatory compliance, and risk management. Students gain practical skills to address privacy challenges, advise organizations, and navigate emerging issues in data use and digital rights. Graduates are equipped to guide companies, contribute to policy discussions, and take on leadership roles in a data-driven world.





Chiefs in Intellectual Property (ChIPs) at Santa Clara Law

Students engaged in intellectual property and technology law at Santa Clara Law have numerous opportunities to get involved through student organizations, including the Blockchain & Compliance Legal Society, ChIPs at Santa Clara Law, Internet Law Student Organization (ILSO), Law & Business Society, Privacy Law Student Organization (PLSO), Society for Artificial Intelligence and Law (SAIL), Society for Interactive Entertainment and Gaming Law (SIEGL), Sports and Entertainment Law Society (SELS), Student Intellectual Property Law Association (SIPLA), and the High Tech Law Journal (HTLJ). These groups bring students together to build skills, network, and shape the future of law in a technology-driven world.

A Gathering Place for the Global High Tech Law Community

Throughout the year, the Datta Center hosts conferences, symposia, alumni gatherings, and collaborative workshops that bring together thought leaders from across the globe. From in-depth academic conferences on intellectual property to practitioner roundtables and alumni receptions, these events draw participants from across the country and around the world. They are recognized for their rigor, relevance, and the unique opportunity they provide for students, faculty, alumni, and industry leaders to connect, exchange ideas, and advance the field of technology law.

A Continuing Legacy

For nearly four decades, beginning as the High Tech Law Institute and evolving into the Datta Center for High Tech Law, this program at Santa Clara Law has stood at the intersection of law and innovation. It has educated thousands of lawyers, convened global leaders, and influenced the legal frameworks that govern our digital world.

With dedicated leadership, a deeply experienced staff, an expansive faculty, specialized certificates, engaged student organizations, and a thriving alumni network, the Datta Center remains not just a program, but a community.

As technology continues to transform society, the Datta Center for High Tech Law continues to prepare the lawyers who will guide that transformation thoughtfully, ethically, and boldly.

International Intellectual Property Opportunities

GERMANY (MUNICH)

The Spring Break program in Munich offers students the opportunity to study European patent law while experiencing the heart of Europe's innovation and patent ecosystem. The program includes academic instruction alongside visits to key institutions such as the European Patent Office and other leading IP organizations, giving students firsthand exposure to how intellectual property is examined, litigated, and managed in Europe.

JAPAN (TOKYO)

The Tokyo summer program introduces students to Japanese law and the broader legal and business environment in Asia. Coursework focuses on topics such as Japanese business law and intellectual property, while optional externships with law firms and legal organizations in Tokyo or Seoul allow students to gain practical experience working in an international setting.

SWITZERLAND (GENEVA)

The Geneva summer program provides a global perspective on international law and intellectual property. Students take courses in areas such as public international law, international intellectual property, and human rights while engaging with international institutions located in Geneva, including the United Nations and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Madhumita Datta, Making Her Mark.

DATTA'S UNCONVENTIONAL PATH FROM ENGINEER TO ATTORNEY
IS HELPING SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HIGH TECH LAW.

HOWARD S. AND
ALIDA S. CHARNEY
HALL OF LAW

Written by Pamela Nonga Ngue

For Madhumita “Mita” Datta, J.D. '16, the journey to becoming a patent attorney in Silicon Valley was not a straight line, but rather a series of intentional shifts guided by deep-seated respect for education. Born and raised in a university town in eastern India to two biology professors, Dr. Madhuri Datta and Dr. Sunil Datta, Datta grew up in an environment where academic pursuit was normalized. This upbringing laid the foundation for a career that would eventually span two continents, two doctorate degrees, a transformative experience at Santa Clara University School of Law, and a thriving career in patent law.

A STEM FOUNDATION

Datta initially followed in her parents' footsteps and developed an interest in STEM. She recalls scheduled power cuts during her childhood in her small town being an opportunity to brainstorm, learn, and bond with her family. “Me, my father, my mother, my siblings, we would just roam around the streets near our house, and my dad would talk about stars, constellations, physics, and my mom would talk about biology or sing songs,” says Datta. While she earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park, her teachers always noticed she had a propensity for language—something that would come into play later on in her career.

Datta obtained her very own patent while at UMD and became a patent agent by passing the patent bar exam, practicing for eight years while raising her son. However, her ambition to discover where her talents would get her led her to law school at age 40. While she always loved technology, she was drawn by the opportunity to see exciting, cutting-edge technology through a different lens—the legal lens—and to help others, including under-resourced solo inventors, legally protect their ideas.

THE BIG PIVOT

Transitioning from engineering to law was, what Datta describes as, a “rude surprise” during her first semester at Santa Clara Law. Despite her high academic standing in engineering, she found the rigor and writing style of law school to be a transition that

required a shift in mindset. For example, engineers often rely on approximation as part of the job, while lawyers are trained to focus on accuracy.

“You know, I questioned my prudence many a time during law school. Especially because I was older and pretty successful in my career as a patent agent already. I thought, ‘I shouldn’t have done this to myself,’” Datta candidly recalls.

But over time, as she got settled into the new environment, things got easier. She says the

law school did everything possible to make the process enjoyable and that generally, grades tend to improve in the last two years compared to the first year of school.

Today, Datta has found the balance between her engineering past and her legal present. She continues to utilize her engineering background extensively in her patent law practice, noting that she often uses her technical knowledge more than her legal knowledge to better serve her engineer clients. Before obtaining her law degree, she differentiated herself as a patent agent



Mita Datta, 2016 Santa Clara Law Commencement



Left to Right: Mita Datta and Michael Kaufman



Dr. Madhuri Datta, Dartmouth University 1967, mother of Mita Datta

“Every profession is powered by what is in the backend, and the backend is essentially high tech.”

MADHUMITA DATTA

by leaning into the technical aspects of her clients’ inventions. Now, her writing and advocacy style has changed to strategically achieve better legal outcomes.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Datta made many contributions during and after her time at Santa Clara Law, championing diversity and accessibility. As a South Asian woman of color who was often the only woman in her graduate labs, Datta credits Santa Clara Law for providing a safe space where people of different backgrounds could connect over a shared vision. She also acknowledges the importance of representation: “I know that I’ll probably inspire a lot more South Asian and/or women attorneys [through my work].” In 2025, Datta received the Rising Star Award for furthering inclusive excellence at Santa Clara Law, mentoring aspiring professionals and participating in patent-focused pro bono initiatives. In 2026, the South Asian Bar Association chose Datta to receive the community impact award.

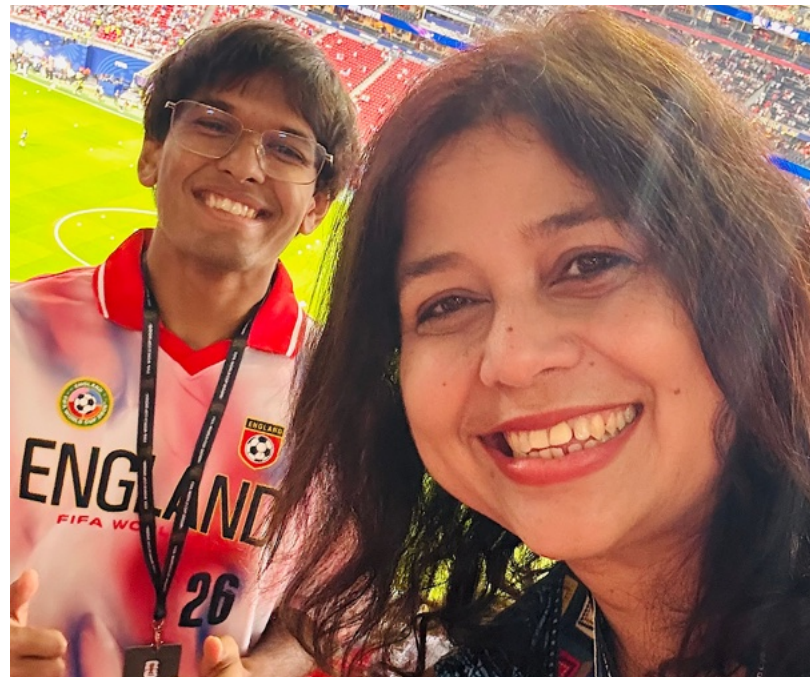
A CALL TO GIVE BACK

Earlier this year, Datta made a transformative endowment to the High Tech Law Institute, now named the Datta Center for High Tech Law. Datta’s decision to give back is rooted in her belief that education is an important vehicle for positive social impact. Having lost both her parents—her mother to cancer and her father to diabetes complications—she chose to make a gift in their honor, recognizing the environment of learning they provided for her.

With Datta’s generous gift, the Datta Center for High Tech Law will continue its mission to educate and prepare students to lead at the intersection of law, technology, business, and society. Since its founding in 1998, it has offered a variety of programs covering privacy, entrepreneurship, business, intellectual property, sports law, and more, while connecting students to a powerhouse network of legal professionals.

“Every profession is powered by what is in the backend, and the backend is essentially high tech. For example, a transcription tool

Mita's parents, Left to Right: Dr. Sunil Datta and Dr. Madhuri Datta



Mita and son Jyotishko Koley enjoying World Cup Soccer

used by a doctor, a risk assessment tool used by a social worker, a strength training algorithm used by an athlete, a sound mixer used by a musician—I can go on and on,” says Datta. “We should think of high tech law as not only applicable to creating semiconductor chips or computer programs, but also in terms of what those high tech products are enabling. Contributing to the Center is probably going to lead to impact in all the fields that I have cared about.”

She is a vocal advocate for alumni engagement, encouraging younger graduates to exercise their “donor muscle” through time, energy, or mentorship, even if they are not yet in a position to donate monetarily. For her, giving back to the law school is a way to acknowledge the transformative experience she had as a student and to ignite the next generation of legal minds.

A DIFFERENT COURT

Datta describes herself as having a “renaissance mind” and enjoys many passions and hobbies, one of them being tennis. She grew up watching tennis with her dad and played casually before her son was

born. Datta decided to pick up the sport again later in life as part of a health-related lifestyle change. Despite being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 2021 and being told by doctors she should quit the sport, she negotiated a path to stay active by switching to competitive doubles. Her resilience paid off: She eventually won back-to-back national championships as part of two mixed doubles teams and one women’s team. Datta credits playing competitive tennis for making her a better lawyer by teaching her to adapt to change and develop new skills.

REWRITING YOUR STORY

Mita Datta’s story is a testament to the fact that it is never too late to start a new profession, and it is never too early to make a meaningful impact through your time, talent and treasure. By combining her technical expertise, her commitment to mentorship and philanthropy, and her legal experience, she continues to shape the future of high tech law while honoring the educational values instilled in her from childhood.

Datta Center for High Tech Law Faculty

MEET OUR PROFESSORS



BRIAN LOVE

Professor Love is the Co-Director of the Datta Center for High Tech Law and a Professor of Law. He writes and teaches about patent law, intellectual property, remedies, and civil litigation more generally. His research on these topics appears in both peer-reviewed economics journals and student-edited law reviews, including the *Journal of Law & Economics*, *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, *Stanford Law Review*, and *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*. Before entering academia, Professor Love practiced law as a special counsel with Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati and as an associate with Fish & Richardson. He also served as a law clerk to the Hon. Dorothy W. Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Hon. David C. Godbey of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL

Professor Sandoval is the Director of the Hammond Broadband and Infrastructure Institute and a tenured SCU Law Professor. Her research and publications analyze telecommunications, Internet access and equity, antitrust, energy, and contract law. President Joe Biden, California Governors Jerry Brown and Gray Davis, and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairmen Reed Hundt and William Kennard appointed her to senior government leadership positions. She served as a Board Member of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, Commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission; Undersecretary of California's Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency; Director of the FCC Office of Communications Business Opportunities; and was a law clerk for Ninth Circuit Judge Dorothy W. Nelson. She was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and SCU's 2010 Public Interest and Social Justice Achievement Award.



ED LEE

Professor Lee is a legal scholar whose research focuses on the ways in which the internet, disruptive technologies, and globalization challenge existing legal paradigms. He teaches copyright law, design law, international intellectual property law, and torts, and has co-authored casebooks in the latter three subjects. He founded ChatGPTiseatingtheworld.com, where he analyzes AI controversies, especially copyright litigation.

EMILY BURNS

Professor Burns is Co-Director of the Tech Edge J.D. Program, Assistant Director of the Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic, and an Assistant Clinical Professor of Law. A dedicated educator and true trademark geek at heart, Professor Burns has practiced intellectual property and tech law for over 20 years, at Cooley LLP then at YouTube, and has taught various IP-related courses for over 15 years at Santa Clara Law and UC Law San Francisco. She has been a proud mentor for the Santa Clara Law Tech Edge J.D. Program since its inception as well as for law students and early career attorneys who are underrepresented in the tech and legal industries.

**ERIC GOLDMAN**

Professor Goldman is the Associate Dean for Research and a Professor of Law. He also co-directs the school's Datta Center for High Tech Law (DCHTL) and co-supervises the school's Privacy Law Certificate. Professor Goldman previously served as general counsel in Silicon Valley and maintains a long-running legal blog that tracks tech policy and litigation. *Managing IP* magazine has twice named him to a shortlist of North American "IP Thought Leaders," and he has been named an "IP Vanguard" by the California State Bar's IP Section.

KERRY MACINTOSH

Professor Macintosh is the Inez Mabie Distinguished Professor of Law. She has published extensively in the fields of biotechnology, electronic commerce, commercial law, and contracts. Prior to joining the Santa Clara University School of Law faculty in 1990, she taught at the University of Colorado, and she also served as a visiting professor at the University of Texas, the University of Michigan, Stanford University, and Hastings College of the Law. She previously clerked for Judge Cecil Poole of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and for Justices Brachtenback and Dimmick of the Washington State Supreme Court.

**LAURA NORRIS**

Professor Norris is the Associate Dean of Innovation, Director of the Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic (ELC), Co-Director of the Tech Edge J.D. Program, and a Clinical Professor of Law. She applies design thinking to legal education, focusing on career coaching, experiential learning, and diversity in innovation. Professor Norris co-authored the 2021 Diversity in Innovation Best Practices Guide for in-house attorneys and IP managers, is a ChIPs board member and helped found Silicon Valley ChIPs and served as VP Legal Affairs at Cypress, giving her industry insight. She was the founder of ELC and teaches business law courses such as 1L Contracts and Business Organizations.



LEONARD LUN (JD/MBA '00)

Professor Lun is the Director of Employer Relations in SCU Law's Office of Career Management. He teaches Sports Law and is the Director of the law school's Sports Law Certificate program. A licensed FIFA Football Agent, he is the Founder & Principal of Upper V Athlete Management, an agency specializing in the representation of professional soccer players. He began his career with the San Jose CyberRays of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) where he managed the team's corporate partnerships and went on to work for the Sacramento Kings of the National Basketball Association (NBA). Professor Lun has also held marketing and legal positions with the San Francisco 49ers, the Walt Disney Company, and Westfield, LLC.

STEPHEN F. DIAMOND

Professor Diamond is an Associate Professor of Law, and he teaches courses on business law, securities law, corporate finance, corporate governance, human rights, labor rights and the global economy. His research focuses on the legal and political institutions that shape global capitalism and the response of workers to that system. Professor Diamond's recent papers have examined corporate governance, market structure, shareholder activism and insider trading. He is the co-editor of *Human Rights, Labor Rights and International Trade*, recognized as a standard text in international human rights law. Professor Diamond has frequently advised boards of directors, activist investors, labor unions, pension funds and entrepreneurs on a wide range of business and governance issues, and he has a long history of engagement with the labor movement.



SUE GUAN

Professor Guan is the Albert J. Ruffo Associate Professor of Law at Santa Clara University School of Law. Her current research focuses on "finfluencers" and information in stock markets, financial misconduct, securities regulation, and market microstructure. Professor Guan's recent scholarship has appeared in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review Online*, the *Harvard Business Law Review*, and the *Boston College Law Review*. Prior to joining Santa Clara University School of Law, Professor Guan was the Post-Doctoral Research Scholar in the Program in the Law and Economics of Capital Markets at Columbia Law School & Columbia Business School. Prior to entering academia, she was in private practice at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, where she focused on complex commercial matters, including multiple benchmark-related antitrust class actions.

TYLER T. OCHOA

Professor Ochoa is a recognized expert in copyright law and rights of publicity. He joined the Santa Clara University School of Law faculty in 2003, and he served as Academic Director of the High Technology Law Institute for the 2005-2006 academic year. Prior to joining Santa Clara Law, Professor Ochoa served as a professor and co-director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law at Whittier Law School. He has also served as a clerk for the Honorable Cecil F. Poole of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and as an associate with the law firm of Brown & Bain in Palo Alto, California, where he specialized in copyright and trade secret litigation involving computer software. He is also a two-time *Jeopardy!* champion and a champion on *Win Ben Stein's Money*.





ZAHR SAID

Professor Said teaches intellectual property law, IP remedies, and tort law. Said has published a free, open-access casebook, now in its second edition, that reorients the teaching of tort law around issues of race, gender, class, ability, and other sociological factors. Her research focuses on copyright law and interpretive issues as well as exploring remedies and the role of the jury in civil litigation. She is currently working on a book on generative AI and legal education.

Affiliated Faculty



IRINA RAICU

Irina Raicu is the Director of the Internet Ethics program at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. She is a certified information privacy professional, and her work addresses a wide variety of topics, from online privacy to social media's impact on society, from the digital divide to the ethics of encryption, and the many ethical issues associated with artificial intelligence. Raicu was a member of the Partnership on AI's first working group on Fair, Transparent, and Accountable AI, and she served as a member of the initial cohort of the city of San Jose's privacy advisory task force.

CHRISTIAN HELMERS

Professor Helmers is a professor of economics at the Santa Clara University Leavey School of Business. His research focuses on innovation, law, and economics—in particular intellectual property.



A Warm Welcome

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR FACULTY



Brandon Honoré

Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Honoré uses empirical legal methods to develop novel solutions to complex problems in urban development and land use governance. His work sits at the intersection of geographic analysis and institutional design in state and local administration. Prior to joining Santa Clara University School of Law, Professor Honoré was an American Bar Foundation Doctoral Fellow in Law and Social Science. From 2014 to 2018, he was Legislative Assistant and then Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro, Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Education, and Related Agencies in Washington, D.C. Professor Honoré holds a J.D. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University, where he was a Graduate Fellow in Legal Studies and an instructor for the Northwestern Prison Education Program.



Erika Douglas

Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Douglas is co-supervisor of Santa Clara Law's Privacy Law Certificate, and her scholarship focuses on the interactions between antitrust, data privacy, and regulation. Prior to joining Santa Clara Law, she taught at Temple University, Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia and represented Fortune 100 technology companies from the Silicon Valley office of Covington & Burling LLP. Professor Douglas was recently awarded the Jerry S. Cohen Award for Antitrust Scholarship, Best Publication of 2025 on Antitrust in Regulated Industries for her article Antitrust Abandonment. Professor Douglas holds an LL.M. from Stanford University, where she was awarded the John Hart Ely Prize for writing on intermediary liability. She also holds a J.D. and Honors in Business Administration from University of Western Ontario.



Sejal Patel

Senior Fellow

Sejal H. Patel joined the Santa Clara Law faculty in Fall 2026 as a Senior Fellow. She has been practicing law for over 25 years, starting her career in the Attorney General Honors Program in the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division/ Fraud Section and as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Domestic Violence and Sex Offense Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Columbia. Sejal handled many felony and misdemeanor matters from the early investigatory stages through grand jury, pretrial motions, trials, and sentencing. She then moved to San Francisco and worked in the White Collar and Investigations unit at Pillsbury. Sejal holds a J.D. from Northwestern Law School, an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School, and a B.A. from Trinity University.



Megan Crane

Legal Director of NCIP and Clinical Professor of Law

Professor Crane has a background in capital defense, wrongful conviction litigation, and juvenile justice, and she teaches the Northern California Innocence Project Clinic. Prior to joining Santa Clara, Professor Crane taught a Wrongful Conviction Clinic at Washington University School of Law and at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. She has been an active litigator for two decades, focusing on post-conviction defense in cases of wrongful conviction, the death penalty, and youth sentenced to extreme sentencing, as well as civil rights litigation aimed at reform of the criminal legal system and mass incarceration. Professor Crane graduated from the University of Michigan School of Law, where she served as a Notes Editor for the *Journal of Law Reform*. She received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University.



Tania Valdez

Alfred J. Ruffo Assistant Professor of Law

Professor Valdez is dedicated to the study and practice of immigration law, and her research highlights the inadequacies of protections for noncitizens in immigration enforcement, most recently focusing on the unique experiences of people with disabilities. Prior to joining Santa Clara Law, Professor Valdez was an Associate Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School. She also previously served as a Visiting Assistant Professor and Director of the Immigration Law and Policy Clinic (ILPC) at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where Professor Valdez supervised law students appearing before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, and the immigration agencies. Professor Valdez holds an LL.M. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and a B.A. from Colorado State University.

Santa Clara Law Commencement 2026!





Sports Law

SANTA CLARA LAW SPORTS LAW CONFERENCE 2026

BY JASON LEE

The sports industry has expanded rapidly in recent years, and legal work within it has grown more complex alongside it. From Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) in college athletics, to players' unions, to agencies, J.D. graduates and attorneys in the sports industry enjoy a broad range of employment opportunities.

Santa Clara Law continues to invest in sports law education through its Sports Law Certificate, which is designed to guide students through the many legal disciplines that intersect with sports, including business, contracts, labor and employment, antitrust, intellectual property, and athlete representation.

Additionally, Santa Clara University School of Law and its Office of Career Management hosted its Annual Sports Law Conference presented by Habbas Law for a third consecutive year this past March, drawing law students from across California alongside attorneys and executives from around the nation. The event brought together aspiring sports lawyers and seasoned industry professionals for a day of panels, networking, and career building opportunities, a reflection of the conference's growing national reputation.

The day featured five panels covering how to break into sports law, diversity and inclusive excellence and the evolving sports fan, the rise of women's sports, and the legal landscape surrounding artificial intelligence, data, and privacy. The speaker lineup featured some of the most prominent

general counsels and executives in the sports industry, including leaders from the Golden State Warriors, Seattle Seahawks, San Jose Sharks, National Hockey League, PGA Tour, Minnesota Vikings, Professional Women's Hockey League, Bay FC, Angel City FC, Red Bull, Major League Soccer, and AEG Global Partnerships.

Over lunch, keynote speaker Shayne Skov delivered a standout address on resilience and purpose. A Bay Area native who starred as a linebacker at Stanford University and went on to play for the San Francisco 49ers, New Orleans Saints, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Skov channeled the adversity of an injury-shortened NFL career into a path through McKinsey & Company and eventually back to Stanford as Executive Associate Athletics Director of Strategy. His remarks offered a unique perspective on navigating challenges and finding purpose, leaving a lasting impression on a room full of law students charting their own paths.

For attendees, the value of the day extended well beyond the panels. "Attending the Sports Law Conference was a highlight of my year," said student Shelby Velasco. "It was an incredible opportunity to connect with leaders in the sports and entertainment space and hear how they approach their work. I am already looking forward to next year."

The sentiment was mutual among practitioners. "I cannot thank you enough for inviting me to be a panelist," said Marykaren Ripple, Associate Counsel of Business Affairs (Data Privacy) at Major League Soccer. "The panels, participants,

SCU staff, and the students were great and so very informative. I had a lovely time and managed to learn quite a bit." Santa Clara Law alumnus Brian Yam, J.D. '18 and Chief Operating Officer at Somnology added that "Professor Lun did an outstanding job bringing together leaders across the sports world" and called the conference "incredibly insightful."

The conference was organized by Santa Clara Law's Office of Career Management and Leonard Lun, J.D./MBA '00, Sports Law Professor and Director of the school's Sports Law Certificate Program. A big thank you to Omar Habbas, J.D. '85 and Habbas Law for continuing to sponsor and support the conference since its inception in 2024 and to Mary Volmer and the Sport at the Service of Humanity Initiative (SSHI) for a grant which helped make the event a success. With each passing year, the Santa Clara Law Sports Law Conference continues to grow in students, practitioners, and national attention.



Right Image, from Left to Right:
Jason Lee, Catherine Chow, Leonard Lun



Below, from left to right: Alexander Schenck, Dee Santrach,
Andrew Strader, Andrew Engstrom



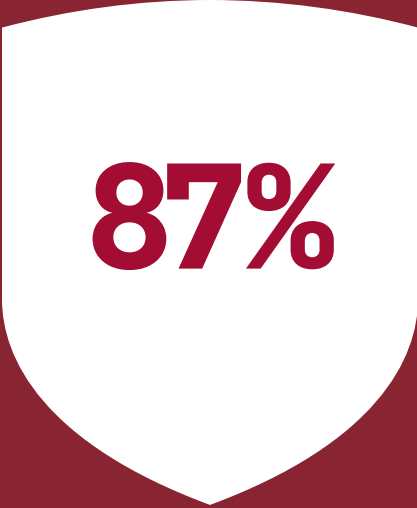
Above, from left to right: Omar Habbas and Leonard Lun



Left image, from left to right:
William Kimber, Brian Yam, Jason Lee

By The Numbers

SANTA CLARA LAW'S MOMENTUM, IMPACT, AND NATIONAL DISTINCTION



87%

87% first time California
Bar passage, up 24%
in two years



90%

90% employment at 10
months after graduation,
up 12% in two years

Rankings

#1

#1 provider in the country
for ABA accredited
international study abroad
programs

#3

#3 in the country in
median mid-career salary
of graduates 10 years from
graduation by PayScale

#4

Ranked #4 IP program by
US News

#10

#10 in the country for
social justice program by
National Jurist

#14

#14 in country in median
salary for graduates 3-5
years after graduation by
PayScale

#15

#15 in the country for our
Flex part time JD program
by *US News*

#6

Most Beautiful Campus in the Country by
Travel & Leisure Magazine

The Evolution of IP

LEGAL EXPERTS EXPLORE THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

BY PAMELA NONGA NGUE

The Datta Center for High Tech Law (DCHTL) kicked off 2026 with a convening of legal scholars, jurists, practitioners, and Santa Clara Law faculty and students to celebrate the career of Judge William H. Alsup, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of California, and to discuss the past, present, and future of U.S. intellectual property law. Themed “How It Started, How It’s Going”, the conference examined seismic shifts in intellectual property law over the last several decades, drawing inspiration from the fact that 2026 marked 80 years of the Lanham Act, 50 years of the Copyright Act of 1976, 15 years of the America Invents Act, and 10 years of the Defend Trade Secrets Act. Attendees gathered at Charney Hall from all over the United States (and beyond) for thought-provoking panel discussions, shared insights, and networking around a field that is evolving quickly and posing both challenges and opportunities to the legal community.

A “LEGENDARY” CAREER ON THE BENCH

The conference's centerpiece was celebrating the 26 years of distinguished public service of Judge William H. Alsup, U.S. District Court Judge for the Northern District of California, through a fireside chat with Paul Grewal, Chief Legal Officer of Coinbase and former U.S. Magistrate Judge. Dean Michael Kaufman aptly introduced Judge Alsup as someone who “incarnates our mission of leading our students from knowledge to wisdom” and as an “incredibly revered jurist and brilliant intellect.” Professor Ed

Lee followed with the succinct declaration that “Judge Alsup is, in a word: ‘legendary.’”

The conversation began by looking back on Judge Alsup’s early years in Jackson, Mississippi during Jim Crow and exploring how this environment and time period served as a catalyst for his lifelong pursuit of justice. In high school, he began to question the system of segregation that ran counter to the values he’d been raised on at home. In college, he joined the Civil Rights Movement and fought to bring the first African American speaker to Mississippi State University. Judge Alsup went on to receive his Master of Public Policy and Juris Doctorate from Harvard University and to clerk for United States Supreme Court Justice William Douglas.

Grewal and Judge Alsup also discussed some of the landmark cases he has presided over, including *Oracle v. Google*, which the judge called out as particularly notable. Despite being reversed twice by the Federal Circuit, Judge Alsup’s rulings on fair use were eventually upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. “I was so convinced I was right,” Judge Alsup remarked, noting that being vindicated by the Supreme Court after multiple reversals doesn’t happen too often.

Another case that stands out to the judge was from 2018, when President Donald J. Trump decided to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Lawsuits followed immediately, and one, brought by the University of California, landed on Judge Alsup’s desk. He described the urgency of the moment and recalled being confronted with hundreds of citations and facts that may or may not

have been supported by the record. Judge Alsup suspected that the case would reach the Supreme Court (it did) and wanted to have an opinion that would be upheld by the Court. He concluded that a decision on the narrowest possible grounds would appeal most to the Chief Justice, a move that was sustained in a 5-4 Supreme Court decision.

The judge saved his sharpest words for the current state of patent law, suggesting it is plagued by stonewalling and obstructionist tactics. “I am positive 40% [of patents] should never have been granted,” Judge Alsup declared, arguing that many are issued because “the wool is pulled over the eyes of the examiner.” He warned that this system hurts competition and innovation by allowing invalid patents to extract high royalties from real innovators. To fix the system, Judge Alsup proposed restricting damages to the true value of a patent’s contribution rather than a percentage of a total product’s price.

As he prepares to step away from the bench, Judge Alsup admitted he will miss the back-and-forth of oral arguments and witnessing good lawyers perform. When asked what he plans to do with his newfound free time, the judge offered a characteristically practical answer: “Clean out the basement.”

HOW IT STARTED, HOW IT’S GOING, AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Over the course of four panel discussions moderated by Santa Clara Law professors Tyler Ochoa, Brian Love, Zahr Said, and Edward Lee, experts explored the moments in history that have shaped

today's intellectual property landscape and predicted what is in store for the future.

In the first panel discussion, Professor Christine Farley of American University's Washington College of Law detailed the 25-year struggle to pass the 1946 Lanham Act. Professor Sharon Sandeen of Mitchell Hamline School of Law covered how the common law of trade secrecy was impacted by the adoption of the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (UTSA) and later the Defend Trade Secrets Act (DTSA). Professor Saurabh Vishnubhakat of Cardozo School of Law presented a dual history of the adjudicative power and political accountability of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Professor Alfred C. Yen of Boston College closed out the discussion by discussing how common law rules were codified in the Copyright Act of 1976.

The second panel discussion covered what has gone right in IP law. Professor Jeanne Fromer of New York University Law School pointed out how the 1946 Lanham Act established a system of nationwide registration, helping businesses locate existing trademarks and avoid accidental infringement. Professor Rob Merges of UC Berkeley Law noted that "the volume and velocity of transactions that are based on IP rights has grown amazingly" since the 70s. Professor Rebecca Tushnet of Harvard Law School offered a qualified defense of Section 512 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Finally, Professor Graeme Dinwoodie of Chicago-Kent College of Law highlighted specific success in international law and litigation across multiple continents.

The third panel discussion covered what has gone wrong in IP law. Current IP law is not without its considerations, risks, and shortcomings. One is current efforts to dismantle the USPTO, which Professor Mark Lemley of Stanford Law School warned against, pointing out changes in hiring rules and potential use of AI. Professor Mark McKenna of UCLA argued that evolution in trademark law had created "an unbounded expansion of the concept of source," removing it from its traditional focus on direct competition. Professor Trevor Reed of UC Irvine highlighted the 1976 Copyright Act's "painful silence"



Above: Zahr Said

regarding indigenous creative rights as one of its failures, noting that the law does not account for tribal regulations of traditional knowledge and expression. Professor Pamela Samuelson of UC Berkeley said the system of statutory damages has had a significant negative impact on the law.

In the final panel discussion on the future of IP, Professor BJ Ard of the University of Wisconsin Law School argued that copyright is increasingly used as a proxy for broader policy fights, including labor policy and privacy concerns, and cautioned against over-reliance on copyright law. Professor Colleen Chien of UC Berkeley proposed a shift toward a "human-centered patent system" that takes into account equity and inclusion for innovators. Professor Camilla Hrdy of Rutgers Law assessed that trade secret law continues to be in a state of uncertainty and called on academics

to think and write more deeply about the subject to create more consensus on a fundamental level. Professor Keith Robinson of Wake Forest University explained how AI is challenging the traditional doctrine of conception and that the law would need to evolve to identify human contributions to invention. The panel concluded with remarks from Professor Jennifer Rothman of the University of Pennsylvania on retaining identity rights. "Whatever direction we go, I hope that when it comes to identity rights, we remain focused—particularly in the context of AI—on the person depicted and captured, not on their mere monetization and potential ownership by others," she stated.

The recording of the 2026 IP Conference is available on Santa Clara Law's YouTube channel.

“
Whatever direction we go, I hope that when it comes to identity rights, we remain focused—on the person depicted and captured, not on their mere monetization and potential ownership by others.

JENNIFER ROTHMAN

Santa Clara Law IP Law Conference 2026

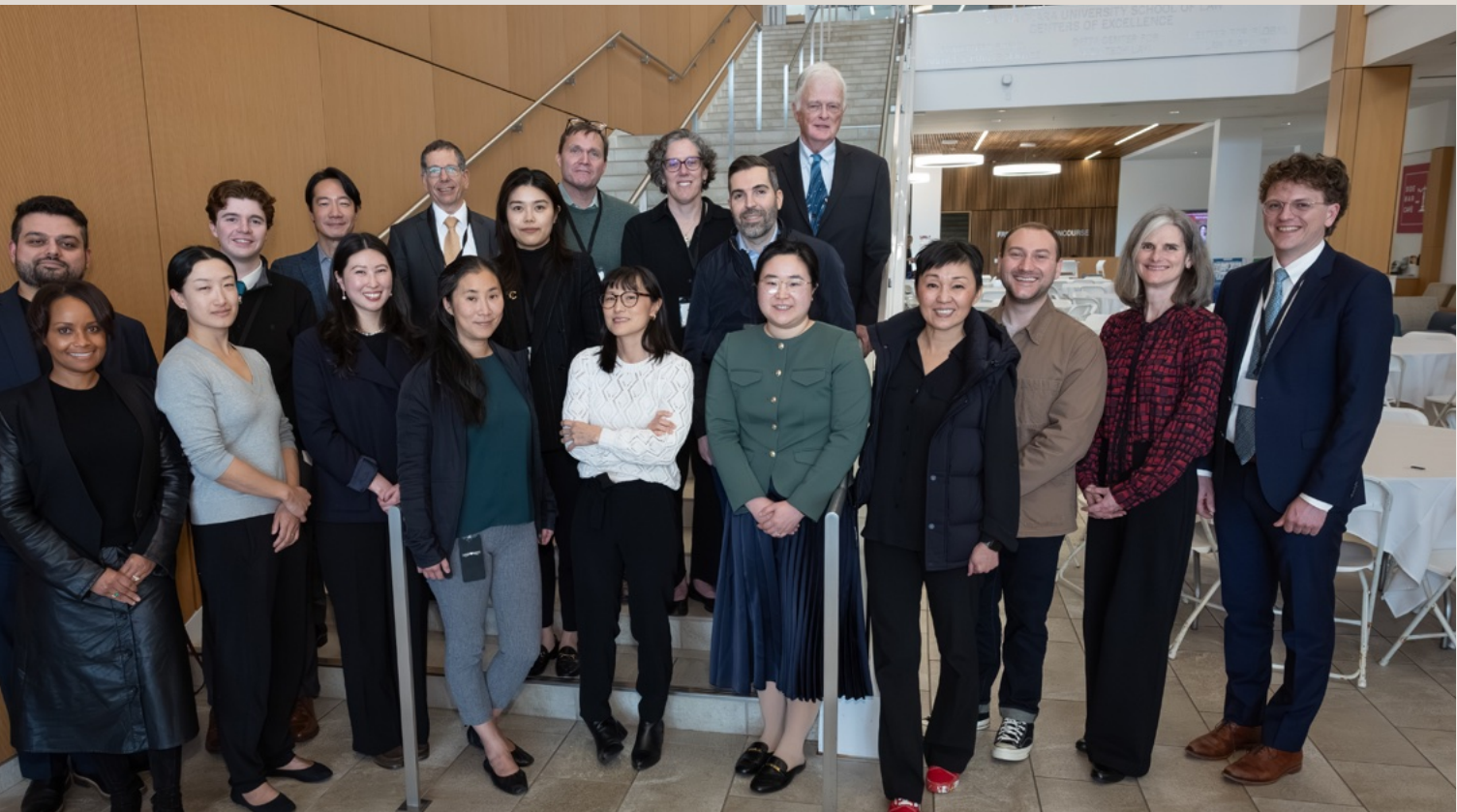
Below: Camilla Hrdy



Below: Mita Datta



Below: Judge William H. Alsup with conference attendees



Left Image: Rebecca Tushnet
Right Image: Brian Love



Innovation at Santa Clara Law

THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AN EVOLVING LEGAL SPACE

BY PAMELA NONGA NGUE AND
LAURA NORRIS

Laura Norris is the Associate Dean of Innovation, Director of the Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic (ELC), Co-Director of the Tech Edge J.D. Program, and a Clinical Professor of Law. She applies design thinking to legal education, focusing on new program development, career coaching, experiential learning, and diversity in innovation. As an advocate for inclusiveness in the legal profession for decades, Dean Norris is a board member of the ChIPs organization, a nonprofit dedicated to the advancement of women, and co-authored the 2021 Diversity in Innovation Best Practices Guide for in-house attorneys and IP managers. Before joining Santa Clara Law she served as VP, Legal Affairs at Cypress Semiconductor, giving her valuable Silicon Valley industry insight to inform her teaching, scholarship, and curricular development. She was the founder of the ELC and teaches business law courses such as 1L Contracts and Business Organizations.

Here, she shares how Santa Clara Law approaches innovation amidst changes in the legal education landscape.

Q . How do you define innovation in the context of legal education and how has that definition evolved since you first stepped into this role?

A . I see this role in innovation as two-fold. One would be looking at what enhancements or changes in legal education can and should be made to ensure that this institution remains relevant and thriving to tomorrow's future attorneys. Second is how we respond to technological innovation that is affecting the practice of law and teaching of law.

Q . Do you think legal education is keeping up with the pace of change in the legal industry?

A . It's mixed, as different law schools have different attitudes about AI and innovation generally. The current and next generation of students that will be coming through graduate school will have a completely different understanding of the world, because all they've ever known is technology. We as an institution have to be ready for that and know that we're moving at a fast enough pace of change to make sure that we're ready to meet that student where they are. There are various schools across the country — and it doesn't seem to be specifically related to schools that are in high tech locations or have high tech programs — who are really leaning in to make sure they meet those challenges.

Q . How do you apply design thinking at Santa Clara Law?

A . My interest and expertise in design thinking started in 2017 when we were in the process of building the Tech Edge J.D.

Program. I decided I wanted to use design thinking with the Tech Edge J.D. students to do career planning. Then, I slowly started building more design thinking modules in the seminar portion of the Entrepreneurs' Law Clinic on how to use design thinking in counseling startup clients. Now, since I've been in this innovation role since 2024, what I've been doing is facilitating "design sprints" with various groups of people so that they can either envision new things or modify what they're doing.

Q . How do you decide which emerging technologies should be incorporated into the curriculum?

A . There are two guiding outcomes that are very important to our law school. One is to ensure that our students are prepared for the Bar, and second, to ensure that students are able to find work. Is there a technology that is driving a new industry that might hire our grads? That would be a compelling reason to make sure our students understand the legal issues associated with those kinds of technologies. Is the technology driving essential tools and skills that our students need in order to be competitive to get a job? I put AI in both categories.

Q . Recently, law schools' policy on AI has been the subject of discussion and debate. What are the benefits of integrating AI into law school and what concerns do you have?



A. The biggest risk is that students use AI as a shortcut, either to create work product for assessments or shortcut the learning process. It's a drudgery sometimes in your first semester of law school to read cases in this language you don't understand, to be questioned about it by your professor, and to not get all the answers right, but it's part of the learning process. If you use AI to shortcut that process, it's a huge risk, and it's undermining your legal education. Our default policy essentially says that using AI tools for these shortcuts is not allowed, and students should assume they cannot use AI tools to create work product for a class discussion or assessment unless their professor instructs them otherwise. However, AI tools can be very helpful to students in law school, e.g. to enhance understanding, supplement practice testing, and assist in time management. These sorts of uses are generally allowed.

It's important for us to understand that there's an equity issue here as well. If employers expect our law grads to have some baseline AI usage skills, then we want to ensure all of our students—regardless of their focus or concentration in law school—have the access and opportunity to achieve those skills. In addition, our role as a Jesuit law school is to ensure that we also have meaningful discussions around the limitations of AI tools and their ethical use for legal practice.



In Memoriam

REMEMBERED WITH GRATITUDE

By Pamela Nonga Ngue



Allen Hammond

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Professor Emeritus Allen “Al” Hammond IV, a beloved professor at the Santa Clara University School of Law.

Professor Hammond was a communications law expert who joined us as a Professor of Law in 1998. Over the course of his time at Santa Clara Law and beyond, he produced significant amounts of scholarship on public interest and telecommunications, with special focus on access and fairness in the media. He notably commented on the risks of repealing Net Neutrality and its impact on the free flow of information, free speech, and democracy.

Professor Hammond held several leadership positions, including Director of the Broadband Institute of California, Vice Chair of the University Council on Inclusive Excellence, Chair of the Inclusive Excellence Roundtable, and Phil and Bobbie Sanfilippo Chair.

He was known and lauded for his love for teaching, the wisdom he imparted through mentorship, his reserved but witty demeanor, and his affinity for fitness by former students, faculty, and staff alike.

Prior to joining Santa Clara Law, Professor Hammond was a faculty member at Syracuse University College of Law and the New York Law School. He also previously served as an attorney for the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy; a program manager at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; as in-house counsel for WJLA-TV, MCI Communications, and Satellite Business Systems; and as a public interest attorney at the Media Access Project.

Professor Hammond passed away in January 2026. He is survived by his wife Linda Darling-Hammond, the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University, and their three children Kia, Elena, and Sean Darling-Hammond.



Richard Berg

With profound sorrow, we share the passing of Professor Emeritus Richard P. Berg, a beloved professor at the Santa Clara University School of Law.

Professor Berg joined the Santa Clara Law faculty in 1973, and, over the course of the more than 30 years he spent with us, became a vital part of our international, social justice, and public interest law programs. He served as Co-Director of the Singapore-Bangkok summer abroad program and lent his dispute resolution expertise to the American Arbitration Association and Asia Pacific Organization for Mediation.

In 2017, he generously created an endowment program along with his wife to remove financial barriers for students seeking summer internships in the public interest sector. The Richard P. and Madé S. Berg Social Justice and Public Interest Endowment Fund continues to help students annually gain invaluable hands-on experience in areas such as criminal justice, prison reform, poverty law, and civil rights.

Prior to joining Santa Clara Law, Professor Berg was an Associate in Law at the University of California Berkeley School of Law, a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow in Poverty Law, and Staff Counsel and Economic Development Specialist for the National Housing and Economic Development Law Center in Berkeley, California.

He is remembered and admired by faculty, staff, and former students for his dedication to social justice, his advocacy for others, the lasting relationships he cultivated, and his resilience and optimism in the face of difficulty.

Professor Berg passed away in February 2026. He is survived by his wife Madé Berg and their children, Ana and Adam Berg.

John J. Coppinger

As a community, we mourn the loss of John J. Coppinger, J.D. '81. After graduating from Santa Clara Law, John practiced real estate transactional law almost exclusively.

John joined Donahue Fitzgerald, LLP (then Donahue, Gallagher, Thomas & Woods) as an associate in 1984 and became a partner in 1990. He was the firm's long-term Chair of the real estate practice. Prior to that, he was an associate for two years at the Palo Alto firm of Bialson, Bergen and Schwab.

John passed away in July 2026 in Oakland, California after a long battle with prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth A. Harris, J.D. '86 and son, Jack Coppinger.

A memorial mass will be held for John at Mission Santa Clara on November 14, 2026 at 1 pm PST with a reception to follow.



Advancing The Mission of Santa Clara Law

The targeted annual reinvestment of \$2 million for each cohort would have the following cascading, long-term benefits:

- Improve Incoming Student Credentials
- Improve Bar Passage
- Improve Employment Outcomes
- Improve Reputation

Each of these improvements would also dramatically raise the bulk of the newly-reconfigured metrics underlying the law school's US News & World Report ranking!

HOW WE ARE ELEVATING OUR NATIONAL PROMINENCE

We are laser-focused on improving the outcome-predictive credentials of our incoming classes. Our strategy of investment in the achievement and success of our students has long made a difference, but the law school's strategy over the last several years to provide more competitive financial assistance for law students has already begun to show a strong return on investment. As a result of this success of the strategy, the University has made a substantial financial commitment to the Law School. This competitive financial assistance for our students will further the progress. With the University's commitment, coupled with your support, the law school can pursue its strategy to increase incoming student credentials and attract and retain the best and the brightest (regardless of ability to pay), improve bar passage rates, ensure the success of employment outcomes, and continue to improve the law school's national rankings.

THE STRATEGY

The School of Law's Commitment to Competitive Financial Support for Students has a proven strategy that requires **\$2 million each year** in financial assistance from donations for incoming students.

Recognizing that, we have increased admissions selectivity and enrollment yield rates by increasing the size of the scholarship offered as well as the percentage of students receiving scholarships. In doing this, we have improved bar passage, as median LSAT scores are highly correlated with admission selectivity. This is boosting employment outcomes since bar passage is required for a significant percentage of full-time law jobs.

Your philanthropic investment in scholarship assistance at the School of Law has proved our strategy is working! As a result of these improvements, the school is on the trajectory of being a top-tier law school.

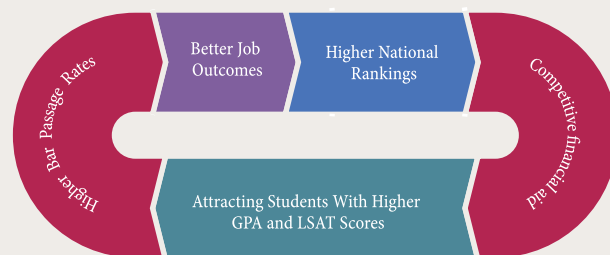
SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

2020 vs. 2026 Incoming Class 75th Percentile Scores:

LSAT 2020 158	— vs —	LSAT 2026 164*
GPA 2020 3.57	— vs —	GPA 2026 3.72*

Highest median LSAT scores in the 116 year old history of the law school!

*Statistics are based on data as of 8/11/2026 and are subject to change prior to the ABA reporting date



Support Scholarships

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

\$1,000,000 — generates —> \$45,000 per year in perpetuity
 \$250,000 — generates —> \$11,250 per year in perpetuity
 \$100,000 — generates —> \$4,500 per year in perpetuity

EXPENDABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

\$64,000 — offsets —> 100% of a student's tuition annually
 \$32,000 — offsets —> 50% of a student's tuition annually
 \$16,000 — offsets —> 25% of a student's tuition annually



Make a gift!

TAX ID #: 94-1156617

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 Office of Advancement & Alumni Relations
 500 El Camino Real
 Santa Clara, CA 95053-1400

Questions, please contact:

Cheryl Caligaris
 Senior Assistant Dean for Advancement,
 Alumni Relations & Communication
 408-554-5496 | ccaligaris2@scu.edu



Scan the QR code
 to donate today!

Save The Date!

Law Reunion 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR LAW REUNION 2026

Don't Miss The Celebration!

*Friday, October 9th, 2026
6:30pm – 9:30pm*

All alumni are invited! Mix mingle and reconnect with fellow alumni for a night of food, music, and conversation!

Additional Law Reunion Events!

Datta Center For High Tech Law Reunion

*Friday, October 9th, 2026, 4:30pm – 6:30pm
at Charney Hall*

Environmental Law Panel & Reception

*Friday, October 9th, 2026, 4:30pm – 6:30pm
at Charney Hall*

John Paul Stevens Fellowship Reunion

*Thursday, October 8th, 2026, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
Pannetta Plaza at Charney Hall*

Go to <https://law.scu.edu/about/alumni-relations/> to keep up with everything law reunion.



RSVP Here!



*Special Event For The Class Of 2001
Celebrating 25 Years!*

25th Anniversary Celebration Gathering

*Friday, October 9th, 2026
5:30PM – 6:30PM*

Mabie Grand Atrium at Charney Hall
Followed by 25th anniversary pinning ceremony during
law reunion.

Santa Clara Law is looking for class of 2001 alumni
interested in getting involved with reunion planning.
Email: lawalumni@scu.edu



RSVP here to
the 25th anniversary
celebration!



Give now!
Class of 2001
Scholarship Fund!

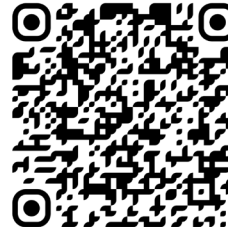
*Special Event For The Class Of 1976
Celebrating 50 Years!*

50th Anniversary Celebration Gathering

*Friday, October 9th, 2026
5:30PM – 6:30PM*

Mabie Grand Atrium at Charney Hall
Followed by 50th anniversary “Ruffo” medaling ceremony
during law reunion.

Santa Clara Law is looking for class of 1976 alumni
interested in getting involved with reunion planning.
Email: lawalumni@scu.edu



RSVP here to
the 50th anniversary
celebration!



Give now!
Class of 1976
Scholarship Fund!



Class Action

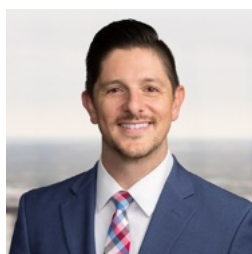
ALUMNI UPDATES



MARY PROCACCIO-FLOWERS
Judge
Santa Clara County Superior Courts



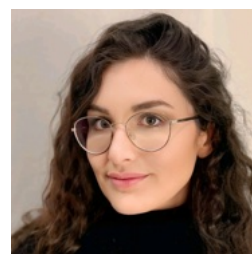
JOSH SEIDENFELD
Partner and Chair Northern California
DLA Piper



BRIAN PETTIS
Vice President
Captrust



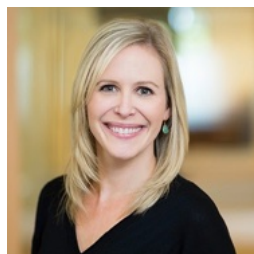
YIFAN MAO
Partner and Patent Attorney
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP



SOFIA HERRERA
Head of Enterprise Cybersecurity
Rivian and Volkswagen Group



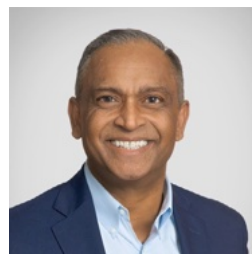
HIN AU
Partner
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati



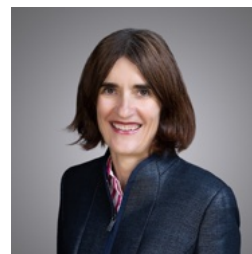
LINDSEY COCHRAN
Senior Corporate & Securities Counsel
Discord



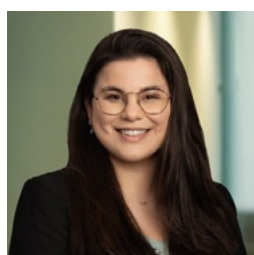
JEFF LOMBARD
Partner
Gibson Dunn



ROY MAHARAJ
Global Licensing Officer
Ericsson



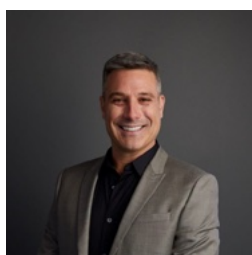
LENA PETROVIC
Partner
Dorsey & Whitney LLP



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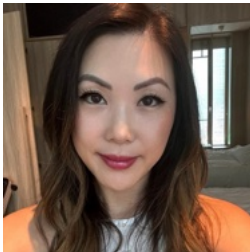
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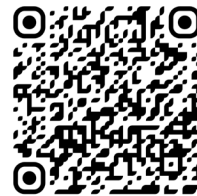
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Closing Argument

THE INTERNET'S EFFECT ON OUR SOCIETY

BY ERIC GOLDMAN

It's a simple question with extraordinary stakes: Does the Internet improve or worsen our society?

No one knows the answer for sure, but that hasn't stopped the media and politicians from relentlessly criticizing the Internet. This has contributed to a broad-based "techlash" of skepticism about, and antipathy towards, the Internet and other technologies. Many people are now convinced that the Internet is profoundly harming our society and breaking down social order.

These criticisms often proceed as if human incivility started with the Internet. But, of course, people have been terrible to each other for millennia. Thus, to fairly assess the Internet's effects, we should establish an "offline baseline" of anti-social behavior. In other words, if the Internet never existed, how much anti-social behavior still would occur in our society? This baseline helps us isolate the incremental new anti-social activity attributable to the Internet.

With an offline baseline established, three metaphors could describe the Internet's effects on our society.

Metaphor #1: The Accelerant. The prevailing view is that the Internet makes people worse, i.e., the Internet turbocharges our inclinations towards anti-social actions. Proponents of this metaphor point to Internet attributes like: a lack of accountability due to online anonymity/pseudonymity; the absence of face-to-face interactions that would otherwise encourage civility; the scale and reach of

social media; and social media services' incentives to profit from outrage and engagement. An accelerant example might be cybermobbing, where users—who may know nothing about each other—coordinate vicious attacks on a person online.

Metaphor #2: The Mirror. The "mirror" metaphor suggests that anti-social behavior on the Internet reflects the offline baseline. In this metaphor, the Internet doesn't manufacture new anti-social behavior; it simply makes disquieting aspects of our society more visible. In other words, the Internet is the messenger, not the cause.

The phenomenon of sex trafficking may illustrate the mirror theory. Sex trafficking long predates the Internet. Does the Internet boost sex trafficking or just make it more visible? Congress tried to curb online sex trafficking in 2018, but that law mostly moved commercial sex promotion back offline (and put sex workers at greater physical risk). Worse, law enforcement and victims' advocates had more difficulty rescuing sex trafficking victims and prosecuting sex trafficking criminals. These outcomes suggest that the Internet mirrored, rather than accelerated, sex trafficking. Congress' efforts made the activity less visible, didn't fix any problems, and perhaps made things worse.

Metaphor #3: The Decelerant. There's a third possible metaphor that usually gets ignored: What if the Internet reduces anti-social behavior?

Here's an example of how that might work. Some social media services use "civility prompts." When the services notice a user posting something incivil, the service

will prompt the author to reconsider the message. Some users blast through the civility prompt, and others view getting the prompt as a badge of honor. However, the prompt causes other users to revise their message to improve its civility; and some users improve their overall civility in future messages, too. I imagine civility prompts like a guardian angel sitting on the user's shoulder, urging them to make good choices. Offline conversations lack civility prompts, so online civility prompts could potentially produce better conversations online.

To be clear, the decelerant metaphor doesn't predict zero anti-social outcomes online, any more than we expect zero anti-social outcomes offline. But it does raise the possibility that thoughtful technological developments and deployment might play a role in improving overall social interactions.

Adopting the right metaphor is essential to good Internet policymaking. When regulators incorrectly assume the accelerant metaphor applies, they overregulate—and make problems worse. This is driving regulators to actively shut down segments of the Internet on the assumption they are protecting us. Instead, if they are getting the metaphors wrong, we're losing our online voices—and an opportunity to make us all better.

About the Author: Professor Eric Goldman is Associate Dean for Research, Co-Director of the Datta Center for High Tech Law, and Co-Supervisor of the Privacy Law Certificate, at Santa Clara University School of Law. This essay previews his forthcoming book, "How the Internet Improves Humanity."



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