SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

May 17, 2022

Dear Friends,

As we look forward to our Law School's graduation ceremony, I am so grateful for the kindness that you have shown to each other. During yet another extremely challenging year, you have lived out our Jesuit mission of cura personalis—you have brought healing and wholeness to one another.

We all need that healing and wholeness more than ever. We not only continue to face the challenges of a global pandemic, but also the scourge of seemingly endless hate crimes and racial violence. The horrific killing of Black people in Buffalo is only the latest example of our chronic racial terror. As members of this Santa Clara Law community, we join in solidarity with the victims of all such heinous acts of racial violence and hate.

At this law school, our graduates and rising law students have been taught to use their Santa Clara legal education to combat racial terror and to build racial justice. They have not only developed practice-ready skills, but have formed habits of mind and heart that will empower them to serve their clients and communities with competence, conscience, and compassion.

To our graduating students, congratulations on completing your transformative Santa Clara legal education. We wish you good luck in your preparation for the bar exam. We know that as you attain rewarding careers, you will continue to do the hard work of advancing racial and social justice. We are grateful to be welcoming The Honorable Edward J. Davila, United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, to the Mission Campus to receive an honorary degree and deliver this year's commencement address. We are so honored that Judge Davila, who is the immediate past chair of our Law Advisory Board, a prominent member of the judicial community, and a devoted public servant, has accepted our invitation.

To our rising 2L's and 3L's, I commend you on completing another step in the rigorous process of pursuing your professional degree. To my esteemed staff and faculty colleagues, thank you for your steadfast dedication to our students, to Santa Clara Law, and to the entire surrounding community. Our law school has made great strides this year as we continue to rise together to serve our students and our community.

In the words of Mary Church Terrell, the heroic Black educator and daughter of enslaved parents, who worked more than 100 years ago to promote racial and gender equality, each of you has reached out your hands and "lifted" each other up "as you have climbed." I have great faith that as our law school continues to climb "onward and upward," the "buds and blossoms" of our shared goal to build the future of justice will ultimately "burst into fruition."

With warm regards and immense gratitude,