



April 23, 2024

Dear Friends,

Have you experienced any glimmers today? A glimmer is a small, seemingly ordinary moment in our lives that brings a rush of joy, peace, and connection. You can seek out these glimmers or stumble upon them, but they are always all around us.



Lately, I've found my days are filled with glimmer moments—watching students, faculty, and staff-educators share their favorite photos of their pets as they waited for the caricature artists on Day of Giving, stepping onto Panetta Plaza to embrace the warm weather or to marvel at the solar eclipse through shared glasses, a heart-warming good morning from our beloved Carmo at the Sidebar Cafe, being offered a rice krispie treat from our student leaders in the atrium, and even the spark of

anticipation in the countenance of our admitted students and their loved ones as they entered Charney Hall for the first time to begin their law school journey with us. As we move towards the end of the semester and with finals on the horizon, I invite you all to keep an eye out for these moments and embrace them when they happen!

Another glimmer moment was the joy of seeing our beloved faculty member, Professor Margalynne Armstrong, receive the honor of the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Law Students of African Descent. Professor Armstrong was selected for this award for "being a driving force in the pursuit of justice and equality." She certainly exemplifies the Santa Clara teacher-scholar model through her academic accomplishments and her deep connectedness to our students and law school community, and she was among the first generation of teachers to boldly incorporate Critical Race Theory in her scholarship and teaching on housing, racial discrimination, and constitutional law. Beyond her stellar academic achievements, she has dedicated her time and expertise to advocate for others and to serve communities in need.



As the award recipient, Professor Armstrong was invited to deliver a keynote address. Not surprisingly, Professor Armstrong took the opportunity to focus on the students by connecting her own personal experience and professional history to the challenges that today's students face, reminding them that our country depends on their willingness to learn, to fight, and to advocate in the face of fear that truth and knowledge will weaken the soul of our country. I am in awe of Professor Armstrong, and I am so proud to be able to witness her remarkable contributions to our students, law school, and community. I hope you will join me in extending a warm congratulations to Professor Armstrong for this richly deserved award and recognition.

We also shared so many glimmer moments throughout the Santa Clara University 2024 Day of Giving, where Broncos, from near and far, came together to celebrate, serve, and support a community we are so proud to call home. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we raised an incredible \$550,000 in just 24 hours to support our students.



Last week, the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics joined the law school in sponsoring a distinguished panel of experts, Tristia Bauman (Law Foundation of Silicon Valley), Paul Boden (Western Regional Advocacy Project), and Jeff Selbin (Berkeley Law), for a discussion about the potential implications for the unhoused members of our community if the US Supreme Court decides that cities can criminalize sleeping in public when adequate shelter is unavailable. Thank you to the Markkula Center for allowing us to be a part of such an important event.

I was also overjoyed to see so many students, alumni, faculty, and staff-educators step up over the weekend to welcome our admitted candidates and their guests to the law school. In true Santa Clara fashion, our dedicated team brought their enthusiasm and introduced our admitted candidates to the special community here at Santa Clara Law—one that is deeply committed to their life-long success, fulfillment, and well being.



I want to close with a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for engaging enthusiastically with the ABA and AALS site team during their recent re-accreditation visit. Your meaningful participation was appreciated by the site visit team, who was awestruck by our palpable sense of community here at Santa Clara Law. This sense of community is at the very heart of our mission to provide our students with a transformative learning experience that is built on an ethic of loving kindness. Thank you to each and every one of you for serving our students, our community, and each other in this very special way. I want to especially thank David Yosifon who guided the self-study process with his thoughtful leadership, accompanied in no small part by the entire Self-Study Committee—Whit Alexander, Devin Kinyon, Sandee Magliozzi, Deborah Moss-West, Mary Procaccio-Flowers,

John Schunk, David Sloss, Allison Tirres, Ben Martin, Laura Norris, Karin Cogbill, and Ralph Dimarucut—as well as Noelia McKeever, Lisa McMahon, and Kristen Forrester.

We are just weeks away from our next series of community gatherings during Law Commencement week. I look forward to honoring our graduates for completing their law school journey and reminding them that they will always be accompanied by a strong community of support as they study for the bar exam and pursue career opportunities that will challenge and inspire them.

With warm regards and tremendous gratitude for the countless glimmer moments that we share,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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